

**Reflecting the Principle through Self Evaluation**  
**Life Principle #16**

*Whatever you acquire outside of God's will eventually turns to ashes.*

- What do you desire?
  - Are these desires for things that bring only momentary fulfillment and immediate gratification?
  - Are you rebelling against God to fulfill this desire? Even if the desire is pure, sometimes we rebel to obtain the desire. For example, we desire companionship. So we participate in sinful acts with others because we want their companionship.
- Is the immediate gratification of your transgression against God so enjoyable that you have no desire to obey God?
- Has your life been reduced to ashes? Perhaps the devastation is obvious to everyone. Or maybe the fires of sin have burned in a less visible way, leaving mostly internal damage. Our heavenly Father can bring restoration, no matter how severe the destruction is. Come to your senses, admit you have wandered away from His will, and turn back to God. Let Him demonstrate His amazing mercy in a personal way.

**God may allow us to enjoy  
the pleasures of sin for a little while.**

- Why is rebellion enjoyable?
  - It momentarily fulfills a desire.
  - The fact that sin is forbidden can increase its appeal.
  - Transgression typically offers immediate gratification.
  - Disobedience is pleasurable in some ways, for a short time (Heb. 11:25).
- Why do we disobey God's will for our lives?
  - Satan encourages us to focus on immediate desires.
  - We forget about the blessings we already enjoy.
  - We fail to consider the consequences of wrong choices.

**God warns us that what we acquire  
outside of His will turns to ashes.**

- When a house burns down, nothing is left but ashes—insubstantial fragments of what was. Spiritually speaking, ashes are the remains of disobedience and rebellion.
- Sin may look appealing, but it leads to destruction (see Numbers 32:23). People may be able to cover up the external consequences of sin. But unless they turn from it, their wrongdoings will eventually destroy them..