

# Stew Pot: May

## Stew On This...

There's a difference between Pepsi and Coke. (*If you've heard someone say there isn't... WARNING: They. Are. Lying.*) There's a definite difference between these two bubbly beverages just like there's a difference between Skyline and Gold Star, sleet and hail, crocodiles and alligators. They may be subtle - but the differences are there.

Now, stop me if you've heard this one but, there's also a difference between our wants and our needs. (What? Mom? Is that you?) Yup. There are things we 100% absolutely, positively, say we can't live without. And then there are our needs.

**Let's play a game.** I'm going to list some items and you decide if they are wants or needs...

Round 1	Food	Water	Shelter	Clothing
<i>it's okay... yes – these can be needs</i>				
Round 2	3 meals a day	Cold and Hot Water	Home with Indoor Plumbing	more than 2 pairs of shoes
<i>guessing we're still on the "needs" side of things</i>				
Round 3	3 meals a day with snacks in between and the occasional multi-course meal	Cold and Hot and Clean Water (for pools, hot tubs, and water balloon fights, too)	Separate Bedrooms for everyone in your home & extra space for storing stuff, too	At least 2 outfits to wear daily and multiple sets of pajamas
<i>uh oh... have we switched to some wants?</i>				
Round 4	So much food, we throw it away	So much water, our grass has a daily shower, too	So much housing, we can invite guests over and still have rooms we don't use	So many clothes, we separate them by season and store the ones we don't wear
<i>i hope we're teetering in the "wants" column now</i>				

Do you know what I think is the craziest part of this little game? We haven't even talked about having cars or pets or vacations or electronics or even soap yet! Haven't even skimmed the surface of hobbies or sports or musical instruments or, let's face it, all the furniture and decorations we (want or need?) to make our houses homes.

**Hear this:** Jesus says in Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear..." because your Heavenly Father will provide.

Jesus then goes on to tell a story in chapter 13 about a seed that fell among weeds. He said this seed was like a person who hears God's word but lets "weeds of worry invade their life and illusions of getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard" (verse 22). Oh! and then He says "and nothing comes of it".

Wow. **Do we want nothing to come of our knowledge of the Lord, Jesus Christ?** Do we want to hear His word, yet continue living in such a way that there's no difference? I don't want that. In fact - I know I need differently. I know I need to pray, need to be present with God, need to serve and give and bare witness for Him if my life is ever going to be as full as I really want it to be. And praise be to God that what *He wants* is to show me how.

- The Stewardship Team