'Seeking' is different from 'desiring'

Questioner: Can you please explain the difference between seeking and desiring, in terms of enlightenment or self-realization?

Sadhguru: When it comes to enlightenment, the distinction between seeking and desiring is very important in the sense that you can only desire that which you know. You cannot desire that which you do not know; though you donot have it, you still know it.

But when you use the word 'seeking,' it always comes from 'you do not know' which is why you are seeking to know. Seeking comes from a certain state of innocence, a certain void from which you want to come out.

Desiring comes with a foregone conclusion, 'This is how it is going to be when I get it.' You have already created the object and are trying to reach toward it. But with seeking, you have not created the object yet. You do not know what it is; you are just finding your way.

It is a huge difference. If you have already created the object, it is something you have created and are trying to get. But seeking is just a searching - you donot know what it is, you are just seeking.

If you desire, you have already made a conclusion about what it could be; and that conclusion is not it. So when it comes to enlightenment, you can only seek.

- Sadhguru