

## Greed

Greed is a noun that describes something that can ruin a nation, a kingdom, an empire, and a person. Its power is almost unbelievable. When greed has a person it will not let go without a fight. By definition greed means: A selfish desire for more than one needs or deserves. Sometimes greed is called the love of money. The Bible warns against the love of money. Jesus said in the gospel of Matthew: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). Money is one of the truest measures of one’s spiritual maturity.

Please do not take me wrong. I am not saying that being rich or having a great deal of money is sinful; because some of the great men of the Old Testament such as Abraham, Job, and Solomon were extremely wealthy. However, their wealth never led them to greed.

There are things more valuable and precious than great wealth. Paul when writing to Timothy said: “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” Do you understand now? Greed can destroy the wonder of life. Godliness produces contentment and spiritual riches which make up the wonder of life. The Greek philosopher Epicurus said, “Add not to man’s possessions but take away from his desires.” Agur in his prayer prayed: “Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain” (Proverbs 30:8-9). Agur was deeply concerned about contentment and character. He wanted nothing that would rob him of contentment and character.

A godly person is motivated not by greed but by the love of God. He seeks the highest of all contentment, a complete trust in an all-sufficient God.

Scripture: King James Version: I Timothy 6:6-19; Psalm 63:1-5.

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