

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Greed**

"Greed's worst point is its ingratitude." – Seneca the Younger

"Greed is not a financial issue. It's a heart issue." – Andy Stanley

"He who is greedy is always in want." – Horace

"Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction." – Erich Fromm

"As long as greed is stronger than compassion, there will always be suffering." – Rusty Eric

Greed is, "A selfish and excessive desire for more of something (such as money) than is needed; motivated by naked ambition" (Merriam-Webster).

It is scary when hearts are consumed with the lust of always wanting more. We usually do associate this with money, but it certainly is not limited to it.

The Bible does make reference to greed, to one being greedy, and one having the spirit of greediness. It is interesting among the synonyms to find the concept of insatiability. This kind of person is never satisfied, for they are always wanting more.

Would it surprise you that even wealthy people succumb to greed? The poor man dreams, if I only had a million dollars, and the millionaire might dream, if I only had a billion dollars. This is why the curse of greed is insatiable.

Jesus said the Pharisees were full of greed and wickedness (Luke 11:39). The apostle Paul admonished, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10). Paul even wrote of Gentiles, of the world, who worked, "all uncleanness with greediness" (Eph. 4:19).

The Proverb writer gave the strong warning, "So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners" (Prov. 1:19). And again, "He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house..." (Prov. 15:27).

It was Paul in his writings that gave the best answer to greed. "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Phil. 4:11). This is probably one of the greatest challenges that each one of us faces. For it is hard to be content when we see others prosper. It is hard to be content when the proverbial well runs dry of money.

We need to be reminded that greed is a sentiment not to be found among Christians. If only we would realize that if we harbor greed it only serves to hurt ourselves, and those close to us.