GREEDINESS COORDINATED BY MAMA SWORD

Special Thanks to Almighty God.

Father, we bless your name for inspiration given to our beloved sister whom we all celebrate and calls *Mama Sword* to pioneer Readers Round Table Forum. Mother to thousands across the globe.

GREEDINESS

This is the compilation of our discussion that took place on greediness. To discuss this, we started this session with opening prayer as we give thanks to God for His mighty deeds in our midst. All sessions we have had in this forum recorded massive success and we equally gave thanks to God who has made it possible. We bless God for His Spirit among us who is our Dependable Teacher. Remain blessed as you read it.

In discussing this issue the following are OUR AREAS OF FOCUS:

- ❖ What is GREEDINESS?
- What are the types of greediness?
- What is the origin of greediness based on the scriptures?
- What can ignite greed in a man?
- ❖ Who are GREEDINESS attached to?
- Can greed also be said to be selfishness?
- Can a man know God and still be greedy?
- Is greediness a Christian trait?
- ❖ Are there greedy unbelievers?
- Can I minister with greed in my heart?
- What is the opposite of greed?
- What are the causes if greediness?
- What are the criteria that foster greed?
- Is greed an advantageous attribute or disadvantageous?
- Can greed kill a man if yes /no, how?
- Can greed save if yes/no, how?
- How can I notify or identify a person of greed?
- Can greed be an ancestral trait?
- Can greed lead to catastrophic change around you?
- Biblical examples of those who were governed by greed?
- Greed can be contagious or influential?
- How can we be cured from greed as believers?
- Can a man be right with man and God with GREEDINESS as a lifestyle?

- ❖ Is greed a sin?
- Can greediness take you to hell?
- Should GREED become a DOCTRINAL topic to be addressed in churches?
- Can a man love his neighbor as myself and still be greedy?
- Does greed affect a man's behavior?(how?)
- Does your way of life change by GREED?
- Explain the role that greediness plays in ulterior motives?
- How has greediness affected the Church?
- How has greediness affected the relationship between pastors and their members?
- ❖ How can the Church be healed from the lack of trust caused by greediness?
- ❖ What scriptures should we live by as Christians in order for us not be greedy?

WHAT IS GREEDINESS?

Greed is an uncontrolled longing for increase in the acquisition or use: of material gain; or social value, such as status, or power. Greed has been identified as undesirable throughout known human history because it creates behavior-conflict between personal and social goals.

It is inability to manage flesh and what it desires.

Greediness basically is a deposit of the devil to inflate the desires of flesh and wants above any other.

We tend to see that all those who are greedy don't suffer in terms of need but they do in terms of greed.

Greed is acquiring wants continuous and consistently than needed.

Excessive desires of something.

Being greedy means you want more and more of something, especially money. But you can be greedy for just about anything, including food, drink, or fame. Rich people who keep trying to get more and more money are often accused by being greedy. ... A gluttonous person is greedy for food.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF GREEDINESS?

Types of greediness

There are two main types

- 1. Physical greed
- 2. Spiritual greed

This two encapsulate all that pertains to greed humanly possible

Greed for:

- 1. Food
- 2. Money
- 3. Women/men
- 4. Fame etc

Men are greed towards material things but in terms of spirituality they are not.

While others are greedy some seek for power to the extent they seek other helps from diabolical sources.

There are greed for materialism and greed for power.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF GREEDINESS BASED ON THE SCRIPTURES?

Right from scripture greed started from Lucifer the devil apart from pride he wanted the throne of God. And that's why he was sent out of heaven

WHAT CAN IGNITE GREED IN A MAN?

Love of money

Love of materialism

Selfishness

Personal gain.

Lack of contentment

One thing I have seen if you have in your heart a lustful desire towards a thing you automatically obtain the habit to do it and commit it.

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Once we behold or pay total attention to a certain thing, we gradually obtain the ability to commit and do it.

Any Christian that is carnally minded I. E earthly minded is greedy because greed is part of the manifest of flesh. The flesh itself if full of vices including greed.

WHO ARE GREEDINESS ATTACHED TO? THAT IS, WHO ARE MOST LIKELY TO BECOME GREEDY?

A carnal person, those who are not led by the spirit of God, an unregenerate man, a person who is self willed.

Those who are carnally minded and not spiritually minded. The holy spirit quickens our body and helps us act and behave aright according to the will of God

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

You can go to church and still be carnal, going to church does not automatically make you a Christian but becoming a believer does make you "spiritually minded"

Anybody can be greedy. But those who refuse to Love God completely tend to be, because Christianity is all about sacrifice and a person who doesn't love God completely will not be willing to go the way of sacrifice...

CAN GREED ALSO BE SAID TO BE SELFISHNESS?

Yes. If you can be selfish, you can be greedy. Those who are selfish don't exhibit the attribute for others only themselves. They are selfish and not selfless.

Yes! A greedy person does not think of others, rather he/she thinks himself first.

So a greedy person is selfish, self-centered and corny. You will never hear a greedy person say, "I gave..." You will only hear a greedy person say, "someone gave me..."

"NO" Many people have been discussing how selfishness leads to greed, or that being greedy is part of being selfish. "No, Greed" and "selfishness" are not the same things. Greed is a feeling for materialistic "things". Selfishness is a feeling for oneself.

Greediness mean: having or showing an intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth or power.

Selfishness mean: lacking consideration for others; concerned chiefly with one's own personal profit or pleasure.

CAN A MAN KNOW GOD AND STILL BE GREEDY?

No. If a man is greedy we can say he hasn't truly known the Lord.

Remember Jesus was tempted all round and his response was pleasing God and not flesh /self.

Jesus prayed and said "may this cup pass over me not my will but your will be done"

God's will is paramount and it gives and does not take. If a man or woman fully knows God, greed will die naturally.

Of course yes! In 2 Kings 5:20-27. The story of Gehazi point to this question, but it is one which happens thousands of times every day, and in the lives of believers to one degree or another. It is a story that stands in strong contrast with the preceding passage where we saw Naaman healed of leprosy as he turned to God in simple faith. But here we see Gehazi struck with leprosy because he turned away from God to blur the truth of the free nature of salvation. Remember, the story is introduced with Gehazi being described as "the servant of Elisha, the man of God." Here is one of the things that makes this story so sad, and at the same time a warning to each of us. He was not a man without opportunities. As a servant of Elisha, he was also a student of Elisha. He had the privilege of knowing this great man of God. He had the example of Elisha's life and the message of his lips as a tremendous source of instruction, challenge, learning, and motivation for godliness and a life of service. Yet he failed to capitalize and grow through this privilege. So one can know God and still be walking in greediness.

A man who knows God but is not walking in the spirit will fulfil the lust of the flesh - Greed is one of them

Jesus - Christ is our only model, if you say you are a son of God and you are led by God then you must fulfill and do his will.

There is no way you will be led by God and be greedy.

If greed persist at any point in time you haven't been led by God but been led by your EMOTIONS or flesh as whole at that certain time.

The greed in our church today is alarming yes, they know God, he used them at a point, and he called them, anointed them and sent them. Judas Iscariot knew the Lord personally yet he fell greedy. Greed like every other sin is a spirit that possess person.

We should not forget that the man of God is a 'work in progress'. If greed is his weak point, he may skip if he has not mastered it. We should not be quick to class a man as greedy because of a momentary fall.

IS GREEDINESS A CHRISTIAN (CHRIST LIKE /GODLY) TRAIT?

Absolutely no, God wouldn't lead you so you can sin against him. The bible says "a friend with the world is enmity with God". So it's not a trait of God but that of flesh and the devil.

Greed can never be associated with our God. No, it's not part of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

ARE THERE GREEDY UNBELIEVERS?

Unbelievers have greed as part of their normal life. I will rather say (though painfully) that there are greedy believers (Greed is outside the Christian code of conduct). King Ahab was unbelievers killing who killed Naboth because of greed and covetousness. It's natural to them.

CAN I MINISTER WITH GREED IN MY HEART?

Yes! Greed means unbridled appetite and desires. Paul warned Timothy against such men. ...'Their belly is their God...'

2 Tim 3:2 tells the story"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,"

WHAT IS THE OPPOSITE OF GREED?

Contentment is the opposite of greed and the senior brother is also called sacrificial living.

This encapsulates all. LOVE, because for you not to be greedy requires you live in love, sacrificial, moderate in your dealings. So "love" best explains the opposite of "greediness".

Opposite of Greediness

- 1. Generosity
- 2. Benevolent

- 3. Big-heartedly
- 4. Unselfishly
- 5. Open-handedly
- 6. Munificently.
- 7. Charitably.
- 8. Liberally.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES IF GREEDINESS?

Lack of love

Feelings of hurt

SPIRIT of retaliation

Self centered etc

The causes of this are the worksof the flesh. Having not mortify the flesh but instead indulge it, satisfy it and feed it

Galatians 5:16, 19-21

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

What causes this? To a certain extent greed is individual survival instinct. Beyond that point, certain people have learned that others are less valuable, educated or somehow sharing a status that dictates their reduced importance. Usually this is dependent on the level of relationship and the level of empathy of the individual in relation to the others.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIAS THAT FOSTER GREED?

Basically! Allowing wrong and carnal thoughts

Keeping wrong companies

Listening and digesting wrong doctrines

Self centeredness

Thinking of one alone

Fear of unknown

Lack of the love of God etc

If a man guards his heart diligently Greed would find it hard to persist. The Bible says guard your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.

GREEDINESS is a big issue of life and not even a small one.

Greed is not merely caring about money and possessions, but caring too much about oneself. The greedy person is too attached to his things and his money, and he desires more money and more things in an excessive way.

IS GREED AN ADVANTAGEOUS ATTRIBUTE OR DISADVANTAGEOUS?

Greed is also an inner condition; it can be expressed in many of the choices that the greedy person makes.

Big disadvantages but the carrier of this spirit is SPIRITUALLY blind by personal desires.

To a greedy person, is an advantage but to a person who is contented, is it a disadvantage.

It's so disadvantageous in many areas. Many greedy people drive are always what they could gain or what they could gain not considering what come after the gain.

If people think consequences before actions many would express restraint in their actions.

There's no advantage in greed. Greed eats up a person so that s/he is wasted away due to the heat of the bad traits it makes one develop such as selfishness, anger, jealousy and unhealthy competition. It sucks up every strand of happiness and results in death.

CAN GREED KILL A MAN IF YES /NO, HOW?

Yes, it killed Gehazi according to 2 Kings 5 20:27. Greed eats up a person so that he/she is wasted away due to the heat of the bad traits it makes one develop such as selfishness, anger, jealousy and unhealthy competition. It sucks up every strand of happiness and results in death.

Yes, because he will not see POISON in the pot. He will only see opportunities to steal, kill and destroy.

It kills let's take a popular and well known example. Judas was governed by greed and it led to him committing suicide.

Greed is detrimental in so many ways than it is ever advantageous to their thoughts. What you see and think governs your actions. If you see and think greed you would soon find yourself committing it.

Yes, greed can kill. Many people have jumped to their death in pursuit of their greedy desire.

CAN GREED SAVE IF YES/NO, HOW?

No, because he can't see

Greed can't and will never save a person rather it drew it victims to early grave. Because what the devil gives adds sorrow to it.

The Bible says Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

What God hasn't given a man kills the man.

HOW CAN I NOTIFY OR IDENTIFY A PERSON OF GREED?

I think we should start with ourselves first. How do I know I have greed?

Simply put, through our actions. What a man /woman is would definitely be visible afterwards.

What a man acts out is what he is.

- 1. You can recognize greedy person by their self-centered behaviour.
- 2. They become the first give-away of greedy people.
- 3. They Envy.
- 4. They lack empathy.

- 5. They are never satisfied.
- 6. Greedy people are experts in manipulation.

If am greedy, at one point someone might have confronted me to be greedy.

When am not satisfy with want I have and always eying what belongs to others.

If I become ungrateful and complain of not having enough.

By asking ourselves hard core questions?

Do I desire and propagate the best in people before mine?

What do I see in people possibilities or nothingness?

Who do people (Pastors, mentors, brethren) see me as?

The Bible says in the multitude of counsel there is safety

What is my motive for service? It is for the money, fame and power or the eternal reward.

CAN GREED BE AN ANCESTRAL TRAIT?

Yes and no!

Yes, man is product of genetic traits. Greediness can be in ones DNA.

Yes it can.

Sin is inherited. Some particular families behave in a particular pattern and they can't help it. For David, it is polygamous and lust.

Knowing our foundations helps a man deal with his excesses i.e. he begins to know where his work truly starts from.

Note: - not all bad traits are ancestral

The question is, has there been any trace in your lineage even up to you.

It can be a pattern of genetic family code where everyone in such family follows a similar family pattern of Greediness.

Sin, curses, spells and illnesses travel through generations.

Greed is a habit and the only way to conquer or destroy greed is by giving. Sometimes we notice these attributes in children at a very young age and if it is not dealt with it grows and becomes a monster, that's one of the major reasons fraudsters exist, they will always want more

CAN GREED LEAD TO CATASTROPHIC CHANGE AROUND YOU?

Even those who are victims always want more.

Greed robs people of many vital produce, favour both from man and God

Let's sight an example. Judas Iscariot case was a very shocking sight; his death was unexpected and catastrophic.

Why? Because of greed.

Yes. Unrestrained greed in an individual can lead to catastrophic callousness, arrogance. A person dominated by greed will often ignore the harm their actions can cause others, and the danger it poses to their own life.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO WERE GOVERNED BY GREED?

- 1. The land grabbers who killed son of farm owner, according. Matthew 21:33-46
- 2. King Ahab seizes Naboth's vineyard- 1 Kings 21:1-29
- 3. Judas Iscariot die by hanging (Matthew 27:5) or did he die by falling and bursting open (Acts 1:18)? It was meant to be, we read that the devil possessed him but he

wasn't aware, the only way the devil has access, was because greed was the key he used to possess Judas, and it could have been any other disciple.

- 4. Gehazi 1kings 5:20-27
- 5. Ananias, and Sapphira- Acts 51:10

Laban, when Jacob was about leaving but wanted him to remain in order to expand his produce on his land.

CAN GREED BE CONTAGIOUS OR INFLUENCIAL?

Yes it can. It is like an airborne disease.

Greed is a negative Influencer. If it is not contain, it can spread like wide fire.

HOW CAN WE BE CURED FROM GREED AS BELIEVERS?

This is important. Yes, Lust of the world and the eyes are part of the flesh and can only be subdued by the word of God.

Repentance, seeking the Lord.

Communion with the Holy Spirit.

Like Paul would say. We ought to be dead to sin! A Christian that is dead to sin does not respond to sin/temptation! Crucify the flash on the cross of Jesus daily.

You must be convinced that you have it.

Go to CALVARY for cleansing

Repent and forsake it

Allow HOLY SPIRIT to guide your affairs.

GODLINESS with CONTENTMENT is a great GAIN

1. Subject oneself to the word of God according to Joshua 1:8

- 2. Pray without ceasing according to 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 3. Subject flesh according to 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Cure for greed.

- 1. It is more blessed to give than to receive.
- 2. Remember those who have been generous to you.
- 3. Remember those who have not helped you when you were in need.
- 4. Do not live only for yourself.
- 5. Think about your loved ones who might be needing others' help.
- 6. Know that you cannot bring your wealth when you die.
- 7. Ask Holy Spirit for help.

Crucify the flesh,

Circumcise your heart.

CAN A MAN BE RIGHT WITH MAN AND GOD WITH GREEDINESS AS A LIFESTYLE?

Capital No. A man can't follow peace with GREEDINESS talk less holiness.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Right standing with God means to be blameless.

Jesus said it is better to give than to receive, when we are greedy we are not Christ like. Remember the case of the Israelites and manna from heaven.

A greedy person is never satisfied with what he/she has.

A greedy person has the eyes of thief.

A greedy person always wants to cheat you in everything.

The Bible states that a false balance is an abomination.

They always want the scale to slide to their side; they always want to get more than they need.

CAN A MAN BE RIGHT WITH MAN AND GOD WITH GREEDINESS AS A LIFESTYLE?

No it is not possible. One can't be right with the Lord and be greedy at the same time.

Our God is not greedy, and if we are called His children, then we should know that the trait of greediness is not belonging to our God.

Greediness affects a man's relationship with man and so also with God.

Men tend to avoid greedy men, because through greed, all sorts of lusts and evil deeds ensue....

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:9 - 10 KJV

IS GREED A SIN?

Every unrighteousness is a sin. Greediness is unrighteousness before God and man, and if not gotten rid off in man's life, it can send such a man to hell because greediness pushes a man into many errors and mistakes.

CAN GREEDINESS TAKE YOU TO HELL?

For sure it CAN.

Should GREED become a DOCTRINAL topic to be addressed in churches?

Yes! The church need to be more enlighten on the subject of greed.

Indeed it should be a topic treated in churches and it should be among the Christian watchword and doctrine of Saying NO to Greed at all times....

As believers, our leaders need to open us up to the signs, meanings, symptoms, consequences, e.t.c. of Greed.

The truth is, some Christians may be unknowingly practicing greed.

Iron sharpeneth iron.

It is up to our Christian leaders to lead the sheep's in the right way and teach the truth at all times.

CAN A MAN LOVE HIS NEIGHBOR AS MYSELF AND STILL BE GREEDY?

No. Greed is selfish

Love is selfless

The two do not work together.

No, one who can love his neighbor as himself is perfect and blameless.

One way of ridding oneself of greed is to love your neighbor as yourself.

DOES GREED AFFECT A MAN'S BEHAVIOR? (HOW?)

Yes, in so many areas. In speech, relationship, character etc.

Yes, greed affects our life and character negatively; a greedy soul is exposed through his life and character. By their fruits you shall know them

A man who is greedy lives all his life in pursuit of the fulfillment of his greedy desires.

A greedy man is never satisfied. Always wanting more and more.

With greed, come several sinful lusts that occupy a man's heart and he keeps going deeper and deeper.

Therefore, a greedy man is in bondage of his greed.

Greediness is a snare

Yes. One has the character of wanting everything to be for oneself. The pronoun "I" is often punctuated in one's speech.

DOES YOUR WAY OF LIFE CHANGE BY GREED?

It does. No rest for a greedy man.

Always having evil calculative and manipulative thoughts...

Like I said earlier, he has no other meaning to life than the fulfillment of his evil desires...This affects his relationships, families, and walk with God etc.

From bad to worst

It changes for worse

Yes, when a good person is influenced by greedy desire, their way of behaviour changes negatively.

EXPLAIN THE ROLE THAT GREEDINESS PLAYS IN ULTERIOR MOTIVES?

It alters our ulterior motives. Whatever a greedy person does, be it the work of the Lord, he or she makes sure that he or she benefits from it, and often wants a Lion's share.

Greediness is the cause of ulterior motive.

The motive becomes ulterior when you pursue and seek the fulfillment of it. Evil thoughts may pass through our hearts, but it is our responsibility to cast it out using the word of God...

So a selfish thought may come into a man's heart, at that point it is not ulterior.

It becomes ulterior when he accommodates the thought and begins to take steps towards achieving the evil intent that flown by his heart.

Greed like Every other sin can hide under our skin, one can pretend to be a caring, selfless, generous person, but all their aim in hidden in the deep part of their heart.

For instance, when it time for campaign during election you'd hear politicians giving themselves names like servant leader, selfless leader, serving the will of the people etc just to get votes. After election, we know what they become.

HOW HAS GREEDINESS AFFECTED THE CHURCH?

When church close their eyes to the needy, orphans and widows but always requesting money from them.

To be sincere, a lot of Christians have been enveloped with greed.

Greed for position, for power, for money, for recognition, for fame, and so much more.

No wonder we were admonished not to love the world.

Worldliness that crept into the church brought a lot of evil vices alongside with it.

Yes, it has and has eaten deep down the bone of the church.

When the sheep look shattered and battered, poor hungry, but the shepherd is looking fat, shining, with expensive lifestyle yet help is far from the sheep.

Greed is the cause.

Greed has crept in the churches and affected it negatively. Because of greed church projects are at a standstill. Reason: one minister of God embezzled the money. The overseer or any other top churches leader diverts the funding to personal projects thereby muzzling the work of the Lord.

How has greediness affected the relationship between pastors and their members?

The Pastor prospers and keeps prospering while the sheep keep getting poorer and poorer. At last they blame the sheep of been faithless, unspiritual enough to claim the promises of prosperity. They milking the sheep dry of their resources! This has stop for the love of Christ!

Lack of trust has ensued between pastors and their members...

Lack of respect is also another effect greed has had in the church.

Members who felt betrayed by the leaders who should have been protected them.

Also, pastors who sold the birthright of their calling and ministry to greed, hence, loosing the staff of authority over the sheep and being governed by sick sheep due to financial gain.

These are just few among the many negative effects it has shad in the church.

Many have left the church frustrated and confused because of greedy shepherds.

Greed has often soured the relationship between the minister of God and the church members. The church members see no progress on the church against the backdrop of funds reportedly flooding the church coffers. For this reason has many a church asked for replacement of ministers of God.

How can the Church be healed from the lack of trust caused by greediness?

We must pray and cry back to God to come down and collect back his church from the hand of greedy shepherds.

Genuine Love of God and Selflessness...

Loving God, Loving people, making a difference and being thankful.

Seminars and trainings in servanthood leadership where greed is emphasized to be curtailed coupled with prayers.

Let the church RETURNED to her first love.

Stop PREACHING of PROSPERITY.

Place salvation above materialism.

Love by give time and attention to the needy etc.

What scriptures should we live by as Christians in order for us not be greedy?

1 Timothy 6:6 - 12 KJV

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. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Hoarding.

- 2. Comparison.
- 3. Overspending.
- 4. You keep trying to make more money at the expense of others.
- 5. When you ignore people you can afford to help.
- 6. When you're too stingy.
- 7. When you're too loose with money.

Who are greedy attached

- 1. They do something for nothing.
- 2. Lifestyle of, it's all about me.
- 3. They never had enough
- 4. They make so many excuses.
- 5. They gossip so much.
- 6. They are so pride.

- 7. They are so disobedience.
- 8. They are so Insensitivity
- 9. They so Influence. And the Bible says; "Have nothing to do with them" 2 Timothy 3:5

CONCLUSION: We thank God for all participants that contributed powerfully to this discussion.

It is our prayer that every reader will have encounter with God through this forum.

BIBLE VERSES ABOUT GREEDINESS

ECCLESIASTES 5:10, HEBREW 13:5, LUKE 12:15, PROVERBS 11:28, PROVERBS 13:11, PROVERBS 14:31, PROVERBS 15:27, PROVERBS 20:21, PROVERBS 22:9, PROVERBS 28:22, PROVERBS 28:25.

Compiled By Rehoboth