

DISCERNMENT OF SPIRIT

SPIRIT OF GREED

Manifestation/Collaboration/Characteristics:

A) THIS SPIRIT HAS GOT TO DO WITH ENDLESS DESIRES

- Especially the desire for which that belongs to another.

B) THIS SPIRIT GOES AGAINST THE TEACHING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- *'You shall not steal'* (Ex 20:15)
- *'You shall not covert your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor'* (Ex 20:17)

C) THIS SPIRIT HAS GOT TO DO WITH UNCLEANLINESS

- **Mk 7:20-22 (v21)** *'For from within, out of man's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, GREED, All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean'.*
- **Eph 5:3**, *'But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.'*
- **V5**, *'For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person – such man is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.'*
- **Col 3:5**, *'Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry'*
- GREED = IDOLATRY.

- **Mt 6:24** says, **'You cannot serve both God and money.'**
- Money becomes god.
- **1 Tim 6:10**, *'the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.'*
- Jesus warned, **'Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.'** (Lk 12:15)

D) THIS SPIRIT COULD DISGUISE ITSELF AS MORE RELIGIOUS THAN GOD.

- **Mt 26:6-11**(John 12:4-5) “*Why this waste? This could be sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.*”
- Spoken by Judas Iscariot who sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

E) A PERSON WHO IS ATTACKED BY THE SPIRIT OF GREED IS LIKELY:-

- To have lack of gratitude, lots of complaints.
- To make foolish decisions (**1 Tim 6:9**).
- -> lack of discernment.
- -> happens in church, e.g. pastor showing favor to rich member who could give huge offerings, by putting him in leadership position, without praying and discernment if he is living a godly life.
- E.g. Pastor given a ministry opportunity and he take it up, without much prayer and discernment, because of his desire for fame and popularity
- To have spiritual greed -> e.g. spiritual gifts, positions in church, more members coming to your church, anointing.
- To have inferiority (inferiority complex) because of the many desires that is not fulfilled.
- -> feel small, sense of inadequacy.
- To end up being poor.
- -> through wrong discernment, decision, judgment, calculation.
- -> through laziness – wanting easy money. Therefore, speculate in stock market, for example.
- **Proverbs 6:9-11**, ‘(v11) *and poverty will come on you like a bandit.*’
- -> through stinginess -> lack of willingness to give offering.
- **2 Cor 9:6**, ‘*Those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly.*’

- **Proverbs 11: 24, 25**, *'One man gives freely, yet gain even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.'*
- -> hoarding of wealth (James 6:1-6)
- Includes hoarding of revival, resources of church.
- To have poverty mindset (miser mentality): -
 - Dare not spend money. Could not give much either.
 - Always go for something cheap. Words like 'discount', 'sales', 'offer', 'promotion', 'buy 1 get 1 free', captivates them much.
- To be extremely careful and calculative when comes to money.
 - Because he is always thinking of gaining more out of it, and is afraid of losing.

F) HOW DO WE COMBAT THE SPIRIT OF GREED?

- 1) Since it is a part of idolatry, we could do the same as we do for the spirit of idolatry. i.e. repent of devotion to the desires and cast out the spirit.
- 2) We got to receive the truth that God Himself is sufficient to meet our every desire. (**Philips 4:11-13**)
- 3) We need to go through inner healing and deliverance. The reason why we have the spirit of greed could be because of family background, especially extreme poverty, or teaching by parents.
 - E.g. Parents telling their kids to take more food during a buffet meal, to make money worth. Or to take advantage of others, and praise them when they do so.
 - E.g. Greed of parents (like gambling) -> passed on to children.