



No Growth - Greed 2

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Gain - Proverbs 1:19, Mark 8:36

Riches - Psalm 49:6-7, 52:7

Eyes - Matthew 13:15

Ears - Matthew 13:15

Desires - Psalms 140:8, Ephesians 2:3

What causes a person to have greed? The heart. How does the most significant part of the human body get contaminated with the need for excess? Either through the eyes or the ears. The eyes see all kinds of things. In the book of Genesis, the first segment of verse six of chapter three is the first time greed came into being. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes," is where the first act made history. Eve is the woman instructed by God not to touch the fruit of a tree in the garden. However, the attraction from the eyes captured the heart and caused the greed to dwell inside of her.

Greed can begin with a view. In the second book of Samuel, verse two of chapter eleven, David saw a woman bathing herself. "And it came to pass in the eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself, and the woman

was beautiful to look upon." The feelings begin to develop for David from the heart through the eyes where the greed came to light. He already had a wife, and God would have given David more, but greed set in and took the one wife of another man.

Greed can start with hearing about something. In the book of Genesis of chapter twenty-seven, Rebekah, the wife of Isaac, heard him speak to Esau, their firstborn, about making something to obtain a blessing. She intervenes by getting Jacob, their youngest, to quickly hunt something before the older brother to deceive their father. The greed of Rebekah doing something against the other son is uncommon. However, greed is a sin that does not have any boundaries and limits. It can occur at any time and destroy the lives of the doer and damage the people that are victims.

Greed comes from the craving of the heart. In Genesis, chapter twenty-nine, Jacob, the son of Isaac, had feelings for Rachel. She was the youngest daughter of Laban, for he had two daughters. However, Jacob fell in love with Rachel. In verse eighteen of the same chapter in Genesis, he said to the father, "I will serve thee seven years for Rachel, thy younger daughter." When Jacob finished serving the time and asked for Rachel, Laban's daughter, Leah, the eldest one, was given. He then went to Laban. The response from the father was related to family tradition and could not hand Rachel to Jacob ahead of Leah. The inquiry itself that came after that did not indicate satisfaction to the Son of Isaac. Jacob said, "What is this thou has done unto me? Did I not serve thee for Rachel?" He serves for another seven years to get her. This example of a desire indicates more than enough.

Greed is what continues to separate people from having a close relationship with God. We cannot serve God and money or things. One is going to suffer while the other will prosper. How do we know if we are doing this with something or someone? Time. The period we spend with it or them in comparison with other priorities will determine. Greed is a severe problem for many people. The two things that make the term popular are money and the world's possessions.