

Times Two pt10 – The Supernatural Power of Greed

Dr. John Carmichael

[2Ki 5:15-27 NASB95] 15 When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now." 16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And he urged him to take [it,] but he refused. 17 Naaman said, "If not, please let your servant at least be given two mules' load of earth; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD. 18 "In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter." 19 He said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him some distance. 20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, thought, "Behold, my master has spared this Naaman the Aramean, by not receiving from his hands what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him." 21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw one running after him, he came down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?" 22 He said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, 'Behold, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothes.'" 23 Naaman said, "Be pleased to take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags with two changes of clothes and gave them to two of his servants; and they carried [them] before him. 24 When he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and deposited them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed. 25 But he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere." 26 Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go [with you,] when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to receive money and to receive clothes and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and male and female servants? 27 "Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper [as white] as snow.

- Greed will connect you to the supernatural. Not the kind of supernatural that you want.
- We live in a greedy society. Please long for money. Steal. Do not pay what they owe people.
- Gehazi was greedy. It was not time to receive the money. His greed for more things caused him to get leprosy.

What does God want us to know about greed?

Here are three things God wants us to know about greed.

I. God wants us to know what greed is not.

a. Greed is not:

i. Wanted to get paid for work performed including preaching.

1. [1Ti 5:18 NASB95] 18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

2. [1Co 9:13-14 NASB95] 13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the [food] of the temple, [and] those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

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- ii. Believing for and righteously working for provision and prosperity that God has promised. [Mat 6:28-30, 33 NASB95] 28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is [alive] today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, [will He] not much more [clothe] you? You of little faith! ... 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- b. Greed is:
 - i. Loving money. [Heb 13:5 NASB95] 5 [Make sure that] your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"
 - ii. Stealing. [Eph 4:28 NASB95] 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have [something] to share with one who has need.
 - iii. Not paying what you owe. [Jas 5:4 NASB95] 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, [and] which has been withheld by you, cries out [against you;] and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.
- c. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is greed in your life.

II. God wants us to know the effects of greed.

- a. It leads to all kinds of evil. [1Ti 6:10 NASB95] 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.
- b. It connected Gehazi to leprosy.
- c. Not a stretch to believe that greed, along with lying, caused Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, to die. [Act 5:1-10 NASB95] 1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back [some] of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back [some] of the price of the land? 4 "While it remained [unsold,] did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. 6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him. 7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." 9 Then Peter [said] to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out [as well.]" 10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
- d. Greed will keep you from serving God. [Mat 6:24-26 NASB95] 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. 25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, [as to] what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, [as to] what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather

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into barns, and [yet] your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

- e. Greed will get you to compromise like Baalam.
 - i. [2Pe 2:15 NASB95] 15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the [son] of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
 - ii. [Jde 1:11 NASB95] 11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.
- f. Do not allow greed to stay in your life.

III. God wants us to know how to free from greed.

- a. Overcome fear of lack by trusting in God for provision and prosperity.
 - b. Learn to love people.
 - c. Become a generous giver. Giving is the antidote to greed.
- **God wants you free from the negative supernatural effects of greed by learning to trust God for provision and prosperity as you learn to love people and become a generous giver.**