

Greed

The Hunger for More

Greed is the restless demand for more possession, security, status, or control through what can be acquired. Scripture exposes greed not only in what we own, but in what we trust, fear, hoard, envy, and refuse to release.

22 Study Sections

Theology + application

3 Biblical Case Studies

Trace the pattern in context

Interactive Tools

Diagnostics · scenarios
· mapping

7-Day Practice

Contentment &
Generosity

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Course Dashboard

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study sections completed

Progress is saved privately on this device.

Chapter Aim

Greed is the restless demand for more possession, security, status, or control through what can be acquired. Scripture exposes greed not only in what we own, but in what we trust, fear, hoard, envy, and refuse to release.

Opposite virtue: Contentment & Generosity

Primary passage: [Luke 12:13-34](#). Read the complete passage before working through the study.

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How to Use This Study

This Go Deeper chapter is designed for slow study rather than quick completion. Read passages in context, answer honestly, and use the tools to move from recognition to repentance and practiced obedience.

Important distinction: self-examination is not self-condemnation. Conviction names sin truthfully and moves toward Christ, grace, repair, and obedience.

Questions to carry through the chapter

- What do I believe money or possessions can guarantee that God has not promised?
- Where does “enough” keep moving farther away?
- Do I measure blessing primarily through accumulation?
- How does generosity expose what I actually trust?

Before you begin, what do you want God to expose, renew, or strengthen through this chapter?

Primary Passage Lab

Read: [Luke 12:13-34](#)

Greed is the restless demand for more possession, security, status, or control through what can be acquired. Scripture exposes greed not only in what we own, but in what we trust, fear, hoard, envy, and refuse to release.

Observation — What words, contrasts, commands, motives, promises, or movements stand out?

Theology — What does the passage reveal about God, Christ, grace, holiness, or human dependence?

Heart — What does the passage expose about desire, fear, worship, relationships, or self-rule?

Response — What specific faith and obedience does the passage call for?

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Word Study

Original-language study is useful when it clarifies the inspired text in context. These terms are not “secret meanings”; they are study aids that should remain subordinate to the passage as a whole.

pleonexia — greed / covetousness

Reference: [Luke 12:15](#)

Literally connected with wanting more; Jesus warns that life does not consist in abundance of possessions.

philargyria — love of money

Reference: [1 Timothy 6:10](#)

The issue is not money itself but a disordered love that can pierce people with many griefs.

autarkeia — contentment / sufficiency

Reference: [1 Timothy 6:6](#)

A sufficiency that does not make circumstances or accumulation the master of the heart.

Which word or concept most sharpened your understanding, and how does the surrounding passage control its meaning?

Biblical Theology Trace

Trace the theme across the biblical storyline. The goal is to see both continuity and development rather than building doctrine from one isolated verse.

Law	Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 15:7-11	God forbids coveting and commands openhanded care for the poor.
Wisdom	Proverbs 11:24-28; 30:7-9	Wisdom contrasts trust in riches with generosity and asks for neither poverty nor riches.
Prophets	Amos 8:4-7	Greed can become systemic exploitation, especially of the vulnerable.
Jesus	Luke 12:13-34; Matthew 6:19-34	Jesus warns against covetousness and redirects treasure toward God's kingdom.
Church	1 Timothy 6:6-19; 2 Corinthians 8-9	Believers pursue contentment, generosity, and cheerful giving rooted in grace.

What changes or deepens as you trace this subject from the Old Testament through Christ and the church?

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How This Sin Hides

Sin often survives by changing clothes. Mark the expressions you have seen in yourself or want to examine more carefully.

☐ Constantly upgrading what was previously “enough”

☐ Anxiety that treats money as ultimate security

☐ Resenting generosity because it reduces personal options

☐ Hoarding while calling every accumulation “wisdom”

☐ Making career decisions solely by income or prestige

☐ Viewing people primarily by what they can provide

☐ Compulsive comparison of homes, travel, technology, or lifestyle

☐ Being generous only when it is visible or tax-advantaged

Which hidden expression is easiest for you to excuse or rename? What would truthful language sound like?

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Anatomy Map

Use this map to catch the pattern earlier. The earlier you recognize the movement, the more choices you can make before the behavior becomes entrenched.

Trigger

Seeing what others possess, facing uncertainty, or feeling status pressure.

Desire

To secure life through accumulation, options, ownership, or financial control.

Lie

"If I have more, I will finally be safe, significant, or satisfied."

Consent

Coveting, hoarding, exploiting, dishonest gain, stinginess, or endless acquisition.

Fruit

Anxiety, divided loyalty, relational strain, reduced generosity, and false security.

Renewal

Seek God's kingdom, practice gratitude, define enough, give, steward, and trust the Father.

Map one recent real situation through these six stages. Where could faithful interruption have happened earlier?

Biblical Case Studies

Biblical narratives let us watch motives and consequences develop in context. Avoid flattening every detail into a formula; ask what the text itself emphasizes.

Achan — Joshua 7:20-26

Read: [Joshua 7:20-26](#)

Achan sees, covets, takes, and hides what God had forbidden; private acquisition brings public consequences.

Trace the trigger, desire, lie, choice, consequence, and possible point of interruption in this account.

The rich ruler — Mark 10:17-27

Read: [Mark 10:17-27](#)

A morally serious man encounters the place possessions hold in his heart and walks away sorrowful.

Trace the trigger, desire, lie, choice, consequence, and possible point of interruption in this account.

Ananias and Sapphira — Acts 5:1-11

Read: [Acts 5:1-11](#)

They present an image of radical generosity while secretly preserving control and lying about it.

Trace the trigger, desire, lie, choice, consequence, and possible point of interruption in this account.

Gospel & Opposite Virtue

What must be put off?

Greed is not only a behavior to suppress. It is a pattern of worship, desire, reasoning, and action that must be brought into the light.

What must be put on?

Contentment & Generosity is not a personality style. It is Christ-shaped character practiced through concrete choices.

Gospel foundation: We do not practice holiness to make Christ receive us. In Christ, grace creates a new identity and trains believers to live differently. See [Titus 2:11-14](#) and [Romans 8:1-14](#).

How would fighting this sin change if you fought from acceptance in Christ rather than for acceptance?

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Heart Diagnostic

This is not a spiritual grade or clinical assessment. Use it to notice recurring themes worth prayer, Scripture, counsel, and concrete practice.

1. I frequently compare my financial life with people who have more.

2. I postpone generosity until I reach a future level of security.

3. I feel unusually threatened by unexpected expenses.

4. I buy things partly to signal success or belonging.

5. I find it hard to enjoy what I have without planning the next upgrade.

6. I am more excited by increasing income than increasing usefulness.

7. I hide purchases, debts, or financial habits from people affected by them.

8. I treat giving as loss rather than worship.

9. I rarely ask how my resources could serve people in need.

10. I assume having more options will eliminate fear.

11. I resent people who receive financial opportunities I wanted.

12. I can identify a clear, prayerful definition of “enough” for this season.

Answer the statements prayerfully. This tool does not diagnose or grade your spirituality.

What two or three themes deserve the most honest attention right now?

Scenario Lab

Choose the response that best reflects truthful, grace-shaped faithfulness. These are formation exercises, not attempts to cover every pastoral detail.

1. Upgrade

Your current device works well, but a newer one is heavily promoted and most friends have upgraded.

Buy immediately because desire proves need.

Ask what problem the purchase solves, whether it fits stewardship priorities, and whether waiting reveals the desire more clearly.

Judge everyone who buys one.

2. Giving

A need arises that you could meet, but giving would reduce money set aside for discretionary plans.

Assume all savings must never be touched.

Prayerfully consider responsibilities, wisdom, and generosity instead of defaulting to self-protection.

Give recklessly without considering obligations.

3. Career

A higher-paying role would require patterns that undermine family, church, integrity, or health.

Salary alone proves it is God's will.

Evaluate the whole calling: integrity, responsibilities, service, limits, and provision.

Money is evil, so reject advancement automatically.

4. Comparison

Someone close to you buys a home you wish you could afford.

Let their blessing become evidence of your failure.

Rejoice with them, name your own longing honestly, and return to gratitude and faithful stewardship.

Criticize their purchase to feel superior.

Write one realistic scenario from your life. What would an impulsive response, a self-protective response, and a Christ-shaped response each look like?

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Truth vs. Lie Builder

Sin is often sustained by believable-sounding claims about God, self, other people, or what will satisfy us. Practice answering the lie before the next moment of pressure.

Lie

More will finally make me secure.

Truth

Ultimate security is in the Father who knows our needs; possessions are uncertain.

Scripture

[Matthew 6:31-34](#); [1 Timothy 6:17](#)

Lie

My life is measured by what I own.

Truth

Life does not consist in abundance of possessions.

Scripture

[Luke 12:15](#)

Lie

Generosity leaves me with less life.

Truth

Jesus calls generosity kingdom treasure and an expression of trust.

Scripture

[Luke 12:32-34](#); [2 Corinthians 9:6-11](#)

Lie

Contentment means lacking ambition.

Truth

Contentment governs ambition so that provision serves faithfulness rather than greed.

Scripture

[Philippians 4:11-13](#)

Lie

If others have more, God has withheld good from me.

Truth

God's goodness is not measured by comparison; every good gift is received with gratitude.

Scripture

James 1:17; Psalm 73:23-26

Write one recurring lie in your own words.

Answer it with a truth drawn from Scripture, in context.

Scripture Investigation Lab

Luke 12:15

Read the passage in context, then answer below.

What does this text reveal, warn, command, promise, or re-order? How does it apply to this chapter?

1 Timothy 6:9-10

Read the passage in context, then answer below.

What does this text reveal, warn, command, promise, or re-order? How does it apply to this chapter?

Joshua 7:20-21

Read the passage in context, then answer below.

What does this text reveal, warn, command, promise, or re-order? How does it apply to this chapter?

Mark 10:17-27

Read the passage in context, then answer below.

What does this text reveal, warn, command, promise, or re-order? How does it apply to this chapter?

Hebrews 13:5

Read the passage in context, then answer below.

What does this text reveal, warn, command, promise, or re-order? How does it apply to this chapter?

Ephesians 4:28

Read the passage in context, then answer below.

What does this text reveal, warn, command, promise, or re-order? How does it apply to this chapter?

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Put Off · Renew · Put On

New Testament change is often more than stopping. Old patterns are put off, the mind is renewed in truth, and new Christlike practices are put on.

PUT OFF — What specific behavior, access point, speech pattern, or habit must stop?

RENEW — What truth about God, identity, desire, or neighbor must become more believable?

PUT ON — What would Contentment & Generosity look like as observable action?

Personal Pattern Mapper

Common trigger

What I want in that moment

The lie or interpretation

My usual response

What it costs God, neighbor, or faithful stewardship

Truth I need ready

A wise boundary or friction point

Who can help me stay in the light

Cross-Reference Explorer

WARNING

Luke 12:15

Guard against every kind of covetousness.

WARNING

1 Timothy 6:9-10

The desire to be rich brings snares.

EXAMPLE

Joshua 7:20-21

Achan sees, covets, takes, hides.

EXAMPLE

Mark 10:17-27

The rich ruler cannot release his great possessions.

COMMAND

Hebrews 13:5

Keep life free from love of money; be content.

COMMAND

Ephesians 4:28

Work honestly so that you may share.

PROMISE

Matthew 6:31-33

The Father knows your needs; seek the kingdom.

GOSPEL

2 Corinthians 8:9

Christ's self-giving grace becomes the pattern for generosity.

TRANSFORMATION

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

God supplies so generosity can abound.

S.O.A.P. passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

S — Scripture: Write the key verse(s) or phrases in your own study notes. What is the immediate context?

O — Observation: What do you notice about God, motives, commands, warnings, promises, relationships, and repeated ideas?

A — Application: What concrete change would faithfulness require this week?

P — Prayer: Respond with worship, confession, gratitude, dependence, and specific request.

Knowledge Check

1. Jesus says life does not consist in...

- ☐ Abundance of possessions
 - ☐ Relationships
 - ☐ Work
-

2. The love of money is described in 1 Timothy 6 as...

- ☐ A neutral hobby
 - ☐ A root of all kinds of evils
 - ☐ The only serious sin
-

3. Contentment is most closely opposed to...

- ☐ Wise planning
 - ☐ Restless craving and false security
 - ☐ Generosity
-

4. Achan's sequence includes...

- ☐ Seeing, coveting, taking, hiding
 - ☐ Serving, giving, rejoicing
 - ☐ Planning, saving, investing
-

5. Generosity primarily functions as...

- ☐ A way to buy God's favor
 - ☐ A grace-shaped practice of trust and love
 - ☐ Proof that saving is sinful
-

6. Which is a false security?

- ☐ God's character
 - ☐ Possessions as the guarantee of life
 - ☐ Christ's promise
-

7. Biblical stewardship includes...

- ☐ Only giving
 - ☐ Only saving
 - ☐ Receiving, planning, providing, giving, and using resources under God's lordship
-

8. A helpful question before acquisition is...

- ☐ Will this make people impressed?
- ☐ What desire am I asking this purchase to satisfy?
- ☐ Can I hide it?

Check Answers

Use the quiz to retrieve key ideas, then review explanations and passages.

Personal Action Plan

What must I stop feeding or making easy?

What truth must be ready before temptation?

What practice of Contentment & Generosity will I begin?

What boundary changes timing, access, environment, or secrecy?

Who can pray, ask direct questions, or help me stay in the light?

If this sin has harmed someone, what truthful repair or restitution may be needed?

Prayer & Confession Journal

Confession — What do I need to name before God without euphemism?

Grace — What does Christ’s finished work mean for my guilt, fear, and identity?

Desire — What good or distorted desire has been driving this pattern?

Neighbor — How has this pattern affected other people, even when hidden?

Prayer — Write your response to God.

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7-Day Practice

Practice one focused response each day. The goal is not a flawless streak but intentional formation.

☐ **Day 1**

Inventory three blessings you usually overlook and thank God specifically.

☐ **Day 2**

Track every “I need” statement today; distinguish need, preference, and status desire.

☐ **Day 3**

Read Luke 12:13-34 and underline every statement about life, treasure, fear, and the Father.

☐ **Day 4**

Give something meaningful—money, time, possessions, hospitality—without seeking recognition.

☐ **Day 5**

Choose one category where you will practice “enough” for the next month.

☐ **Day 6**

Pray for someone whose financial blessing has stirred comparison; rejoice intentionally.

☐ **Day 7**

Review your budget or resource habits and identify one concrete kingdom-oriented change.

After seven days: where did you notice the pattern earlier, what helped, and what practice should continue?

In-Depth Conclusion

Greed promises control but produces a horizon that continually moves. Jesus does not merely tell His followers to want less; He gives them a greater treasure, a trustworthy Father, and a kingdom worth seeking. Contentment and generosity become acts of worship because they say that life, security, and joy are not ultimately stored in what we can keep.

Carry forward: The goal of this chapter is not to become fascinated with greed, but to become quicker at recognizing it, more confident in the sufficiency of Christ, and more practiced in contentment & generosity.

Write your one-sentence summary: What is God calling you to believe and practice now?
