

A Little Bit More

The Principle

Do not deeply desire (covet) anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else your neighbor owns. Exodus 20:17 NLT

The Purpose

The uncontrolled “desire to acquire” is an addictive compulsion that prohibits us from experiencing God's peace and purpose for our lives.

You will never be satisfied if you long to be rich. You will never get all you want. Ecclesiastes 5:10

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from the desires that battle within you? James 4:1

The Practice

1. I will enjoy what I have.

Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift of God. Ecclesiastes 5:19

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. Psalm 73:25 NIV

For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 NLT

2. I will guard against covetous dead ends.

(Solomon) All that my eyes desired, I did not deny them. I did not refuse myself any pleasure...When I considered all that I had accomplished, all my works that my hands had done and what I had labored to achieve, I found everything to be futile...

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the Good News, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for nice things, so no crop is produced.

Mark 4:18-19 NLT

3. I will conquer covetousness with generosity.

...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Luke 6:38 NRSV

Command those who are rich with things of this world not to be proud. Tell them to hope in God, not in their uncertain riches. God richly gives us everything to enjoy. Tell the rich people to do good, to be rich in doing good deeds, to be generous and ready to share.

1 Timothy 6:17-18 NCV

Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.

Psalms 37:3-5 NLT