



Uncovering the Destructive Power of

Jealousy

By: Greg Pusateri

“Scripture taken from THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE. Old Testament copyright © 1965, 1987 by the Zondervan Corporation. The Amplified New Testament copyright © 1958, 1987 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Uncovering the Destructive Power of JEALOUSY

Copyright © 2008 – by Greg Pusateri
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this publication may be reproduced or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission from the author.

Published and distributed by
The Partnership for Global Advancement, Inc.

Original cover design by Matthew Pusateri
www.cmpcreative.com

Edited by Deborah Lawrence

For additional copies of this publication you can contact:

PFGA
PO Box 1072
Starke, Florida 32091 USA

You may e-mail any correspondence through our website at:

www.kingdomhorizons.com

Table of Contents

Introduction	
<i>insights into power</i>	5
The Potential of the Seed	
An Encounter with Darkness	
<i>a true account</i>	7
Zeal	
<i>fergency of the heart</i>	9
Word Study	
Godly Jealousy	
<i>the foundation of love</i>	13
Righteous Zeal	
The Counterfeit Nature	
<i>self-centered ambition</i>	19
A Kingdom Divided	
The Womb of Contention	
Iniquitous Influence	
Jealousy and the Victim Spirit	
<i>stop the blame game</i>	23
Inferiority Complex	
Injustice and Retribution	
Like Attracts Like	
The Dominion Mandate	

Jealousy and the Poverty Spirit
where is my blessing.....27

- Not Enough to Go Around
- True Contentment
- An Empty Heart

Jealousy and the Orphan Spirit
a child without a home or an inheritance.....31

- Where is My Dad?
- Cain and Abel
- Saul and David
- Jezebel and Elijah
- The Chief Priests and Jesus
- Judas and Mary
- The Accuser of the Brethren

Evil Companions
birds of a feather usually fly together.....35

- Confusion
- Covetousness
- Rage
- Disunity and Division
- Murder
- Wars

Breaking Free
living in liberty.....41

- Repentance
- Renew Your Mind with Truth
- Walk in Progressive Dominion as a Child of God
- Thanksgiving and Celebration

Introduction

insights into power

The Potential of the Seed

There is a principle found in Genesis 1:11 and 12 that states, “every seed produces after its own kind.” It is an immutable law initiated by God since the beginning of the process whereby portions of creation would have the ability to reproduce and proliferate upon the earth.

When reading through the Genesis account it would be easy to assume that this principle pertained only to the living entities such as plants and animals. But, prior to the creation of earth and everything contained therein, there was another seed that fell from heaven.

“...I saw Satan falling like a lightning [flash] from heaven.”
(Luke 10:18)

The “seed” that fell from heaven caused the rebellious action towards God found in the one once known as the “anointed cherub that covers.” (Ezekiel 28:13-15) Created as Lucifer, and designated to be the light-bearer in heaven, he held this position until iniquity was found in him. Now relegated to the earth and referred to as the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) the seed that is within him is still producing after its kind.

Later, in Genesis 3:15 there was a prophetic pronouncement from the mouth of God that stated,

*“I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed...”*

Since the fall of man this destructive force continues to be sown, eventually germinating and taking root in the earth. This power opposes the harmony of life that God desires to establish and has been the source of much human tragedy. The resulting effects of suffering, hardship, and death throughout all generations have been felt in every geographical location on the planet. Wherever there are people, this discord exists.

In this study, we will examine jealousy and how it works through the hearts of men to either destroy or restore, depending on which of the three parts of man (spirit, soul, or body) releases it. Jealousy is most often understood in a negative light, which will be our predominant focus so that we will be able to unmask this evil force and remove its power from our lives.

Chances are good that you have personally been affected by jealousy in some way. Maybe at some point you succumbed to its subtle justifications and projected it upon someone. Perhaps you have been the recipient of its wrath and experienced its ensuing warfare. Either way, it is possible for you to be free from jealousy's grasp, finding liberty in your identification with Christ and walking in the full inheritance of your birthright as a child of God.

This examination of jealousy is intended to provide three things:

- 1) How to identify it by gaining a biblical understanding of its source,
- 2) How to identify personal weaknesses of our character that make us susceptible to its power,
- 3) How to counter its negative effects when it is released upon us.

My hopes are that all who read this book become empowered and equipped to further grasp the purposes that God has appointed for their lives.

An Encounter With Darkness

Jill was a middle-aged professional woman who supervised a moderately sized office of several dozen employees. She was hired by the administrators of the corporation to help raise the level of efficiency in a specific department. Strong management expertise coupled with excellent people skills, and a long tenure in the particular service that the company uniquely provided made her perfectly suited for the task. Though she was anticipating the challenges that would come through this new occupational assignment, she was quite unaware and in no way prepared for the turn of events that would transpire over the next twelve months.

At first, she was openly welcomed by the stressed-out staff. Everyone was familiar with the disorganization that resulted from the ever-increasing workload. It was time for change and they were all looking forward to the new ideas and protocols that would eventually make all of their job responsibilities easier and ultimately more rewarding.

As with any facet of workplace restructuring, there are hard decisions that have to be made in order for production to rise to a higher level. Old systems have to be revamped, new standards have to be set, and inflexible employees who refuse to cooperate with the changing environment inevitably must be replaced.

Several months into the process Jill began to experience some acute issues in relation to her health. Daily, she was stricken with migraine headaches. After several weeks, she started having difficulty sleeping at night. Though her body was tired, her mind and emotions were restless and unsettled. Before long she was experiencing heart palpitations and chest pains.

The pre-existing high blood pressure she was used to skyrocketed to an even higher level that subsequent medication adjustments could not seem to bring into balance. Each day Jill went to work, she felt as if she were enveloped in a spiritual and emotional fog.

One year and thousands of dollars in doctor bills later things were still unimproved. All of the medical tests and physician diagnoses proved inconclusive results, yet she felt as if her body, mind, and world were falling apart. The increased stress began to take a toll on her relationships and left very little energy for any after work activities. She contemplated quitting the job that she was so highly qualified and trained to perform. What was actually happening? She needed answers and she needed them immediately.

It was soon revealed that there was a particular employee in the office that was convinced that the job that was given to Jill should have been given to her. This employee was less qualified, under educated, and had already reached the top of her pay grade with no hopes of being considered for a promotion. Rather than enquire with a supervisor or other company upper management as to why she was passed over for the assignment, she choose to vent her frustrations and project her pain and disappointment on Jill. Over the course of a year, it was discovered that she had woven a secret web of deceit and mistrust among the staff. Through various manipulative schemes she sought to undermine and sabotage the progress that Jill had relentlessly been striving to achieve for the company.

Eventually, the devious plots were exposed and brought into the light. Shortly thereafter, the employee was removed from service and subsequently sought legal action against the company (now projecting her jealousy towards the corporate structure).

A few months later, Jill regained her health and the office rose to a new level of efficiency and productivity. It was as if an invisible veil had been removed from the office atmosphere as the staff began to see clearly and work together. The confining tension that once restricted Jill's body, mind, and spirit quickly subsided and she was able to regain her composure as a leader. Employees whose impression of Jill had been tainted through the envious words and actions of the other finally came around and they began to see her as an objective and caring supervisor. Eventually, strong relationships were forged and together they implemented the necessary strategies to improve the reputation of the department.

This true account of an incident in an individual's life is not intended to cause fear or alarm. Nor, is it a blanket explanation of the root cause of all workplace chaos. It is only a discovery of certain facts that will help us to understand some of the ramifications and consequences that are released through the destructive power of jealousy.

May you find revelation, healing, understanding, and freedom in the following pages of this book.

ZEAL

fervency of the heart

The term *jealous* is a derivative of the word *zealous*. It is formed from the root word *zeal*, which is translated in Scripture and defined as *fervency* or *heat*. For the sake of this study, and to be easier understood, *zeal* is ultimately an *exertion of energy*. The exertion or force of this energy can be released through either or all three parts of our being: our body (flesh) – through words and actions; our soul (mind and emotions) – through thoughts, intentions, and attitudes; or our spirit (which includes our heart) – the center of who we are that influences every decision we make.

Since both positive and negative forms of *zeal* exist, there are also both positive and negative applications of *jealousy*. We commonly understand *jealousy*'s negative characteristics but Scripture does speak of a dynamic called *godly jealousy* and refers to *jealous* as a description of Jehovah's nature. Therefore, we will devote one chapter of the study to examine *jealousy* in its righteous context.

Jealousy (*zeal*) is manifested when something provokes someone to action and can be exerted either for or against, determining whether or not it will have a positive or negative release of power. Look for a moment at the vivid use of terminology that the Bible communicates when describing the action of *jealousy*,

“...his *jealousy* shall smoke against that man...” (Deuteronomy 29:20)

“..in the fire of My hot *jealousy*...” (Ezekiel 36:5)

“...I have spoken in my *jealousy* and in My wrath...” (Ezekiel 36:6)

“...shall Your *jealousy* burn like fire?” (Psalm 79:5)

The action produced by the release of *zeal* is determined by its source. The source that it is projected from determines the fruit that it produces.

Righteously, zeal can come forth from the spirit, which if one is born-again, is actually the Spirit of God working through a person towards someone else. This release of zeal is manifested as prayers for someone, prophecies, positive confessions of the Word, etc. Righteous zeal is empowered by love and mercy - and always leads to life.

Unrighteously, it is a work of the flesh and the carnal human soul. When released through these two channels - soul and body - demonic forces can be empowered. This is a form of witchcraft. The fruit of unrighteous zeal (jealousy) is extremely destructive to both the person exerting it and the person to whom it is directed. When carried to its extreme, jealousy can result in murder.

In the New Testament, jealousy is most often translated as *envy*. In this study we will examine each Scripture verse that pertains to envy so that we can receive the greatest understanding of these two words and how they are used to motivate human actions and reactions.

Word Study

acquiring a working terminology

In order to gain an understanding of jealousy, it is necessary to examine the definitions of the root words from which it was derived. We will also look at how it has been translated into English from the languages in which the Bible was originally written.

Biblical Definitions and Translations

All of the Old Testament references to jealousy come from the Hebrew term “*qana*,” which means, to create; to redeem; to recover; to procure; to purchase. In some tenses it means, to own, attain, buy, or possess. Each of these definitions insinuate some type of redemptive action and are primarily used to describe God’s motivation towards His people as well as His indignation towards unrighteousness. These descriptions are verbs (actions, responses) that result from His nature of love and mercy.

In Arabic, “*qana*” means “to become intensely red.” This will help us to more adequately understand the more modern Greek usage of the term. Here it is taken from the root prefix “*zeo*” or “*zelos*” which means, hot; to boil; to burn; to glow; malice; fervent. It eventually became the English word that we commonly refer to as zeal.

In the New Testament it is also translated as *envy*, (which is a sinful work of the flesh and the unrenewed mind). It means, ill-will; spite; detraction; to ruin; to decay; to destroy; to corrupt; to perish. All of the apostolic teachings in the New Testament warn us of the detrimental effects of an envious attitude.

The distinction between envy and jealousy is this: Envy seeks to deprive another of something that they have, whereas jealousy desires to have the same for itself. Each is a feeling of the heart that almost always elicits some type of action from the one that has it. Many times you will hear the phrases, “she was moved to jealousy” or, “he burned with envy.”

Let’s compare the Biblical translations that we just looked at with those explained in the English dictionary ¹:

Jealous - intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness;
hostile towards a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage;
vigilant in guarding a possession; distrustfully watchful; envious

Zeal - eagerness; fervor; passion; ardent interest in pursuit of something

GODLY JEALOUSY

the foundation of love

Righteous Zeal

Righteous zeal is the basis of the first and greatest commandment.

“...I the Lord your God am a jealous God...”
(Exodus 20:5)

Here, God reveals to us a part of His character. To avoid contradicting the rest of Scripture, we have to look deeper into His zeal to understand this statement.

In a righteous application, jealousy (zeal) is exerted in a positive way. When directed for someone or something, there will always be a positive end. There will always be a righteous outcome. It will always produce godly fruit. Therefore, in this statement, God is saying that He is jealous towards us. This type of jealousy is motivated by love and seeks to protect, care, look after, and show favor. Since He is completely righteous, any indignation on God’s behalf is directed only towards unrighteousness.

In stating His jealousy towards His people, God is prefacing the first of the Ten Commandments:

“You shall have no other gods before or besides Me.”
(Exodus 20:3)

If we examine all of the Ten Commandments, we see that the first four relate to our duty towards God and His expectation of our relationship with Him. The next three are written as follows:

*“You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it]
or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above,
or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
you shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them...”*
(v.4, 5)

*“You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain
[that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]...”*
(v.7)

“[Earnestly] remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...”
(v.8)

If we look at these verses in light of Jesus’ summation of how to obtain eternal life, we will begin to see the complete picture of righteous zeal and how it affects both God and us.

*“... You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your strength and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.”*
(Luke 10:27)

When both of these components - loving God and your neighbor - are at work, we can serve God acceptably.

It is necessary to state that even in the form of judgment God’s jealousy has a righteous outcome. Since He is righteous, holy, and true, it is logical that His jealousy burns against any unrighteousness and therefore leads to judgment of sin. The rest of Exodus 20:5 says,

*“... visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children
to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me.”*

Simply put,

- 1) **God is jealous for those that love Him**
(and jealous against those who hate Him).
- 2) **God desires for us to be jealous for Him**
(which of course, is expressed through love).
- 3) **Our jealousy for Him will cause us to live in harmony with each other**
(the final six of the Ten Commandments).

Therefore, concerning godly, righteous jealousy, we arrive at the following conclusions:

- Godly jealousy is directed from the spirit.
- Godly jealousy is motivated by love.
- Godly jealousy always has a positive outcome and always seeks to protect, care for, look after, and show favor towards.
- Godly jealousy opposes unrighteousness and seeks to restore righteousness.

The following is a list of Scripture references that further describe God's jealousy:

*“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire,
a jealous God.”*
(Deuteronomy 4:24)

*“For the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God;
lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you,
and He destroy you from the face of the earth.”*
(Deuteronomy 6:15)

*“They provoked Him to jealousy with strange gods,
with abominations they provoked Him to anger.”*
(Deuteronomy 32:16)

*“...you cannot serve the Lord, for He is a holy God, He is a jealous God.
He will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.
If you forsake the Lord and serve strange gods,
then He will turn and do you harm and consume you,
after having done you good.”*
(Joshua 24:19, 20)

*“And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord,
Whom they provoked to jealousy with the sins they committed,
above all that their fathers had done.
For they also built themselves [idolatrous] high places, pillars, and Asherim
[idolatrous symbols of the goddess Asherah]
on every high hill and under every green tree.”*
(1 Kings 14:22)

Other examples of godly jealousy include:

- 1 Kings 19:10,14 Elijah's jealousy for the Lord.
- Ezekiel 39:25 God is jealous for His holy name.
- Joel 2:18 God's jealousy for His land caused Him to have pity on His people.
- Nahum 1:2 The Lord is jealous and takes vengeance upon His enemies.
- Zechariah 1:14; 8:2 God is jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great jealousy.
- 2 Corinthians 11:2 Paul was zealous with a divine jealousy to see the Corinthians presented to Christ in holiness.
- Galatians 4:17, 18 It is good to be zealously affected in a good thing.
- Titus 2:14 God's people should be zealous for good works.
- Revelation 3:19 There is a godly zeal that leads to repentance.

The Counterfeit Nature

self-centered ambition

Jealousy (in its unrighteous application) is the counterfeit of love and is rooted in the satanic nature. It is the very thing that caused Lucifer to rebel from his God-ordained place in heaven and rise up against the authority of Jehovah. It has been actively at work in the human race wreaking havoc on the world ever since. We see this nature personified through the thoughts and actions of the King of Babylon in Isaiah 14:12-14:

*“How have you fallen from heaven, O light-bringer and daystar, son of the morning?
How you have been cut down to the ground,
you who weakened and laid low the nations...”*

“And you said in your heart,...
I will ascend to heaven;
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”

Jealousy springs forth from the word *I* because it is a self-centered work of the flesh empowered by the carnal thinking processes of the unrenewed mind. The unrenewed mind has yet to become transformed to the mind of Christ, which is God-centered. Because jealousy is a work of the flesh, it is contrary to the fruit of the spirit. It opposes and conflicts with the working of the Holy Spirit, therefore, everything it produces is negative. We are told that those who yield themselves to it and practice it will not inherit the kingdom of God.

*“For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the Holy Spirit,
and the desires of the Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature);
for these are antagonistic to each other
[continually withstanding and in conflict with each other]...*

*“Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious):
they are immorality, impurity, indecency, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife,
jealousy, anger (ill-temper), selfishness, divisions (dissentions),
party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),
envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like...*

*“...those that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”
(Galatians 5:17-21)*

A Kingdom Divided

Ron was a young pastor who faithfully served a small congregation of believers. He was called of God to establish and lead an independent ministry free from any denominational control, but firmly built upon the integrity and truth of the Bible.

It was apparent that Ron was not highly esteemed in the eyes of the other local clergymen because of his limited realm of influence and meager meeting facility. Due to these factors and the ever-strained financial base, the church struggled to grow. It only seemed to attract those who did not fit in socially, politically, or relationally amidst the other churches in town.

Ron however, was unconcerned with his reputation within the ranks of the local religious hierarchy. Instead, he chose to focus his energy and passion on serving God by faithfully serving the people God sent him. He resolved to preach the truth and live honestly and upright. He stayed true to his divine calling and developed himself through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, and the study of the Scriptures. His faith was secure in the fact that God would supply for him everything necessary to fulfill his ministry.

Slowly, things began to change. New families started attending the church. There was an observable increase in the anointing on Ron's preaching and grace upon his life. With the added constituency came a corresponding surge in financial resources. Before long, the fledgling band of stalwart misfits galvanized into a powerful team of servants focused on impacting their community and world for Christ. They entered an aggressive building project and were well on their way to becoming an established and respected spiritual force in the city. The favor of God was evidently upon them.

Behind the scenes, however, in the dark corridors of a few skeptical hearts there began to arise suspicions, reservations, and mounting accusations against the young leader and his congregation. Even among the other local pastors there were whisperings and doubts about Ron and his intentions. Who are these people and what are they trying to accomplish here? What gives them the right to move in on our territory? Why don't they worship the same way we do? Are they a cult? Weren't we here first? Why do we need another church in this town?

A closer look at the spiritual atmosphere of the city revealed an increasingly malignant issue. It was more than a few suspicions and accusations against Ron and his church. There was a religious mindset that had permeated the thought processes and ministry perspectives of many of the pastors working there.

Across town, it had been discovered that a certain church had devised a strategy to proselyte all of the political leaders, businessmen, and other prominent citizens. Their claim was that membership in their particular denominational organization would provide them with exponential exposure and increased leverage in the community. Some churches, realizing that their members were leaving to align with the other group quickly resorted to preaching messages based in fear and legalism. They released rumors and resorted to other means of manipulation attempting to dissuade anyone else from defecting from the ranks. Before long, a competitive spirit erupted as the respective church staffers scrambled to adjust their programs to pacify peoples' apparent discontent. Some launched into elaborate building projects that were designed and intended to lure the unsuspecting further into the belief that only their facilities would procure for them a greater blessing than they could get anywhere else. Confusion eventually filled the atmosphere and mistrust was the prevailing attitude of one believer to another.

As the leaders and their congregations retreated further into their fortresses of fear and sectarianism the schisms increased. Gone were the days of open meetings and celebrations of holidays where members of different churches corporately gathered together for prayer, praise, and fellowship. The jealous actions and selfish ambition of a few key spiritual leaders in a community had severely restricted the current of life and love that once flowed freely to the Body of Christ in that region.

The Womb of Contention

Jealousy is birthed from worldly wisdom and stands in complete opposition to the truth, which is God's wisdom. It is empowered by pride and selfish motives. If left unchecked, it will lead to many other wicked and sinful practices and in its wake you can find a trail of destruction, devastation, and broken relationships. Because it is a work of the flesh it will always be accompanied by confusion and strife, lacking the true peace that comes through a lifestyle of harmony with God.

*“But if you have bitter jealousy (envy) and contention
(rivalry and selfish ambition) in your hearts,
do not pride yourselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to the Truth.*

*“This [superficial] wisdom is not such as comes down from above,
but is earthly, unspiritual (animal), even devilish (demoniacal).*

*For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition),
there will be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion)
and all sorts of evil and vile practices.”*

(James 3:13-16)

Iniquitous Influence

We can better understand the iniquitous nature of jealousy by looking at Satan’s present position. He has fallen from grace and currently stands judged, awaiting the carrying out of his sentence of being bound and cast into the bottomless pit forever. (Revelation 20:10) He is presently at work in the earth as the “Prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) sowing deception and influencing the “children of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 3:6).

Simply put, he is jealous of the apex of God’s creation, which is man. He is jealous of God’s favor towards man in the completed work of the cross that has provided everything needed to restore man to his rightful place of fellowship with his Creator. Since He could not stop the work of the atoning death of Jesus Christ, he is limited to sowing the seeds of discord, dissatisfaction, division, and discontent into the hearts of anyone that will receive them. Once it is able to sprout, jealousy will begin its destructive journey of devastation - defiling the lives of everyone who allows its effects to have power over them.

Our quest then is to become discerning enough to identify it and also to prepare our hearts in such a way that it has no foothold from which to work.

Jealousy and the Victim Spirit

stop playing the blame game

Inferiority Complex

A victim spirit is a process of thinking that causes someone to walk in an attitude of unworthiness, feeling inferior to others. It usually develops as the result of an injustice suffered somewhere in the past. The injustice can be valid, but the interpretation of events is often jaded through a self-perceived analysis of the motives of the perpetrator. Jealousy then becomes the self-vindicating action that attempts to mete out justice, however it is perceived.

A victim can begin to believe that they deserve all of the bad things they have encountered in life and often accepts the lie that they are somehow at fault for these injustices. They always live far below their potential because they can never rise above the self-absorbed view that keeps them restricted. They will always be quick to blame others for their continued misfortunes and ultimate station in life.

The victim spirit is actually rooted in pride because it is self-focused on its weaknesses and self-consumed with its problems. It too is void of responsibility believing that it will never get a fair shake in life and will always be the underdog. Harboring grudges and failing to forgive others for the wrongs committed against us can create vulnerabilities that make us extremely susceptible to jealousy.

Since the victim spirit sees itself as the continued recipient of bias and prejudice, this mindset usually leaves the door open for the sin of envy to begin its work. It slowly starts to resent those who occupy a more advantageous place in life.

Injustice and Retribution

Perhaps the greatest biblical example of the destructive cycle of jealousy through victimization is revealed through the family dynamics of Joseph, his father, and his brothers. The story also presents tremendous hope and grace that is released through reconciliation, forgiveness, and divine providence. The power of God is always able to deliver healing and restoration to even the most dysfunctional of situations.

Joseph was a young man with a series of dreams. They weren't concocted from his own imagination, they were given as a sovereign gift from God. They were intended to prophetically speak to the destiny of his life and serve to guide the fulfillment of his future. As it usually goes with dreams, we don't always understand them completely at the onset. They are usually a metaphorical explanation of something yet to come. Such was the case with Joseph's dreams.

Though the record is not really clear as to why Joseph shared his dreams with his brothers, one thing is for sure, they envied him as a result. (You can read the account in Genesis 37:5-11.) The jealousy that was invoked upon hearing the dream prompted his brothers to devise a scheme to kill him (v.20). If not for the intervention of an elder, they would have assuredly carried out the devious plot. Instead they only threw him into a pit, which would become the first step in the manifestation of his prophetic declaration.

What was the underlying motivation for the actions of his brothers? You can read it in verses 3 and 4.

*“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children,
because he was the son of his old age...”*

*“But when his brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all of his brothers,
they hated him and could not say,
Peace [in friendly greeting] to him or speak peaceably to him.”*

Like Attracts Like

An important observation concerning victimization is that it is somewhat magnetic. Like all other dysfunctions it will draw even more dysfunction, keeping the unproductive cycles and destructive power moving. Because of its inferiority complex, the victim spirit naturally attracts those with a predatory disposition. It is like a wounded animal that tries to hide but because of the instincts of the predator is repeatedly discovered and exploited.

Frequently, a person with a predator spirit is one who has been victimized and releases their own pain by inflicting pain on others. Just like the school bully who tries to intimidate all of the weaker students, but inside is dealing with the same fears and rejections.

For some reason, Joseph felt victimized, maybe because he was the youngest son of an old man. There was an open understanding that he was loved more than the others and his father made that fact abundantly clear. It is possible that he was continually on display as his father's trophy seed – the living proof of masculine virility – the constant reminder that he was still able to sire a son at such an age. He earned a reputation of being a tattletale as he was often sent by his father to deliver reports on the condition of the other brothers. His special coat of many colors caused him to stand out even more as the highly-favored son and served to further ostracize him from ever having the extended hand of fellowship into the brotherhood. He was definitely the black sheep of the family. Through the shame of it all, he developed an inferiority complex which was probably the reason why he shared the dreams (which by the way exalted him above his brothers). Quite possibly he was attempting to impress them with his spirituality. How else could he possibly be validated as a legitimate member of the family? The brothers were also victims due to the preferential treatment and conditional love extended towards Joseph from their father. They however, lashed out in their pain and sought to relieve themselves of the injustice by killing their brother.

Think of how the ramifications of this jealous act affected all three parties. Joseph was found by passerby merchants who came to his rescue, only to later sell him into slavery (notice – further victimization). The brothers fell even further from grace in the eyes of their father (more victimization). And for the rest of his life, Israel bore the broken heart of his lost favorite son (definitely more victimization).

These types of emotional dynamics create an optimum environment for jealousy to breed and come forth to perform its dark and damaging power.

Without an intervention of truth, this mindset will create cycles of behavior that may follow someone all of their days, eventually resulting in bitterness, anger issues, and general discontent in all things pertaining to life.

The Dominion Mandate

God never intended for man to live as a victim in the earth. As far back as the Garden of Eden, the mandate given to Adam was one of dominion and stewardship. His instructions were to replenish the earth and to protect and steward the creation. The blessing upon his life was a transference of authority to act as the guardian of the work of God's hands.

*“And God blessed them and said to them,
“Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it
[using all its vast resources in the service of God and man];
and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,
and over every living creature that moves upon the face of the earth.””
(Genesis 1:28)*

Through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, man lost much of his dominion and became subject to the vanities of fallen creation. The environment that he was charged to steward and rule over now exerted rule over him.

*“...the ground is under a curse because of you;
in sorrow and toil shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life.
Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth for you,...
In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread until you return to the ground...”*
(Genesis 3:17-19)

What was once blessed to multiply and bear fruit became cursed. The fruit of his labors now included sorrow and toil and required sweat and extensive exertion in order to produce.

Even so, God was immediately at work calling forth and developing a people who would be His channel of blessing in the earth. We see His intentions expressed in His covenant with Abraham, which would extend into the lineage of the Hebrew nation.

*“And I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors]
and make your name famous and distinguished,
and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others].”*
(Genesis 12:2)

Foreshadowing something greater, God was pointing to the day when Jesus Christ would reassert the dominion mandate. Through His atoning death on the cross, He would once and for all satisfy the judgment of God toward sin and allow all men by faith to enter into the New Covenant. This new man restored in righteousness (all those who are born-again) will walk in the fullness of Christ’s authority as heaven’s representative in the earth. Please → Read the entire chapter of Ephesians 1 (over and over) to discover the spiritual position of every believer in Christ.

From this revelation, it is easy to see that anyone exercising jealousy from a victim spirit does so out of sheer ignorance of their rightful position in Christ. They give way to envy simply because they don’t yet know who they are. Nor do they realize “Whose” they are! Discovering and settling our spiritual identity as a child of God is one of the primary steps toward safeguarding our hearts from jealousy.

Jealousy and the Poverty Spirit

where is my blessing

Not Enough to Go Around

Carl is a skilled technician in the marketplace. He is more than capable to compete among the best in his field. The finished product of his craftsmanship has been complemented for many years by those who have employed his services. When consulting for references for someone who can produce a top quality product at an affordable price his name is always somewhere near the top of the list.

To view Carl from the perspective of his professional capabilities, one would think that he could occupy a high social status complete with all the material possessions such as a large home, a fine car, and various other amenities. When employing his services based upon seeing other completed accomplishments you would expect him to arrive at the work site with a fully outfitted vehicle equipped with all of the latest technological tools and instruments. Surely someone with his level of aptitude would have every necessary mechanical device to quickly and efficiently execute the required tasks. Sadly, the opposite is true.

At the foundation of his self-esteem, Carl thinks he is poor. He believes that he will always have to struggle just to get by. He doesn't really expect things to get better. Somewhere along the line he has accepted an impression of himself that has resulted in self-sabotaging consequences. Business is declining because contracts are being delayed and customers are withholding payments. He has become indecisive and socially withdrawn. When speaking with him, his world view is nihilistic and cynical. Even if he could muster up the energy, there would never be enough work to get him out of the hole.

What is even more dangerous is that Carl has become envious of others who seem to be excelling. He has developed a sarcastic demeanor towards anyone who appears to be upwardly mobile. The world is against him and is passing him by. You can often hear him criticizing the work of others as he attempts to justify his own lack. He has become withdrawn and struggles to deal with unresolved anger. As he becomes more reclusive, the confidence in his capability continues to diminish and clients look elsewhere for solutions.

An impoverished spirit can manifest itself in two ways. Lack, or one that has an abundance, but withholds. (The motivation for withholding is usually determined by greed or fear.)

Just like victimization, poverty also exists and flourishes within a context of thought. It is a predominant way of thinking that traps and holds people in a mode of life that is far below their potential. A poverty spirit is immature concerning its identity in Christ and does not understand the laws that govern kingdom living. In the previous chapter we examined the victim spirit. In the next chapter we will look at the orphan spirit. All three of these mindsets work together and maintain their power through ignorance of the Word of Truth. They keep people bound and thereby never able to obtain their rightful spiritual inheritance as a child of God.

Just like the victim, a poverty spirit is often void of responsibility. It lives in a state of lack and is thereby easily susceptible to jealousy of anyone who prospers. If by chance gain or increase is experienced, it is frequently short-lived. Without the necessary elements for proper stewardship -- wisdom, faithfulness, and appreciation -- a continued prosperity cannot be sustained. Jealousy is predominantly seen in those that "have not" as they resent and despise those that "have." Remember that this is the core of the fallen sinful nature because Satan desires to have something that he lost and will never again be able to obtain -- favor with God.

Immediately upon presenting himself to Eve in the Garden of Eden we see Satan beginning to spin his web of deceit. He plants the seed of jealousy in Eve's heart by convincing her that God is withholding from her.

*"You shall not surely die:
for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God..."*
(Genesis 3:3)

She then buys into the lie and partakes of the forbidden fruit. We all know the outcome of this story. In the very next generation, we see the fruit of jealousy manifest in Eve's firstborn son as he murders his own brother. (Later in this study we will see how jealousy, when carried to its fullest extreme can ultimately lead to murder.)

True Contentment

A poverty spirit lacks contentment. It is not easily satisfied and is often not thankful for that which it does have. Becoming restless as a result of emptiness, it begins to incubate jealousy by focusing on what others have that it does not. True contentment is really a condition of the heart and can only be attained and settled through our identity, which comes by way of an intimate relationship with Christ.

Let's examine Paul's perspective on contentment in Philippians 4:11-13:

*“...for I have learned how to be content
(satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am.
I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances,
and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance.
I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation,
whether well-fed or going hungry,
having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without or being in want.
I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me
[I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength
into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].”*

Paul's strength and sufficiency was not a result of any physical possession, but rather was a spiritual substance that was well able to sustain him in whatever physical situation he found himself. His spiritual fullness empowered him to endure any physical lack.

A poverty spirit often blames everyone and everything else for its lack. Sometimes it is characterized by a sense of entitlement, thinking it deserves something that it has not worked for. It is void of responsibility because it covets something that it has not earned or consequently paid the price for. It is not willing to make the necessary short-term sacrifices to obtain the long-term gains that are legally enjoyed by those who have. Let's look at James' view as to how jealousy, once unleashed, can have large-scale consequences:

*“What leads to strife (discord and feuds)
and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you?
Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily
members?
You are jealous and covet [what others have] and your desires go unfulfilled;
so you become murderers. [To hate is to murder as far as your hearts are concerned.]
You burn with envy and anger and are not able to obtain
[the gratification, the contentment, and the happiness that you seek],
so you fight and war.*

You do not have, because you do not ask.

*Or, You do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive,
because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives.
Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures.”*
(James 4:1-3)

An Empty Heart

We have seen how jealousy is marked by lack. It is void of the godly elements of love, responsibility, contentment, truth, and peace, which are all a part of the abundant life that Jesus promised. This emptiness is what causes it to lust after the possessions of others. Therefore, to act out the sin of jealousy is to literally act out of an impoverished spirit!

An easy way to check your heart for any of this activity is to ask yourself how you feel when you see someone else enjoying the favor of being blessed. Are you happy for them, or do you resent their blessing wishing you could have it for yourself? Many will never advance in life because they have not rejoiced in some else's prosperity! Being happy for others and rejoicing in their victory and newfound prosperity will begin to create a synergy for your own life to be blessed. It will begin to have an affect on your heart and enlarge it to be able to receive more. As you receive more, be sure to increase your giving. Anything that is sown will reap a corresponding harvest. This principle stands true for you as you live abundantly above the poverty spirit.

Jesus said,

*“...I came that they may have and enjoy life
and have it in abundance
(to the full, till it overflows).”*
(John 10:10)

Paul said,

*“Now to Him Who,
by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us,
is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly,
far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think
[infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams].”*
(Ephesians 3:20)

Jealousy and the Orphan Spirit

a child without a home or an inheritance

The victim / poverty / orphan mentalities all work together to keep people living short of their spiritual inheritance which is rightfully theirs as children of God. Its negative application is a “three-fold cord” that is not easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Each empowers the other through ignorance of revelation concerning who they are as a child of the Most High God.

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;
because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you...”*
(Hosea 4:6)

Where is My Dad?

An orphan is a child who does not have a vital relationship with a father. Since an inheritance is passed from father to son (especially in the spirit), walking in God-ordained destiny is impossible without this connection. When we are born-again, we are brought into the family of God and He becomes our Father in heaven. As we properly relate to Him and allow Him to father us into a place of maturity, He begins releasing to us our inheritance.

This inheritance is His grace and favor upon us. If you have ever experienced the favor of our heavenly Father in your life, you might have also been the recipient of jealousy. Scripture is full of examples of people who were the object of envy simply because they were being blessed by God.

Cain and Abel

Cain's rejected sacrifice moved him to jealousy and led him to murder his brother Abel. His anger was really towards God. He just took it out on his brother because he was accessible. I wonder how many of our own personal frustrations and disappointments with God have caused us to lash out against our brethren?

Saul and David

Saul's jealousy towards David led him to attempted murder. With his popularity waning and David's increasing, he supposed the only remedy was to get rid of the competition.

Jezebel and Elijah

Jezebel's jealousy of Elijah's power led her to put out a contract on his life. This was after she had already killed Naboth because she was jealous of his vineyard (which he refused to give her). We can read in the scripture that the effects of Jezebel's jealousy towards Elijah soon led to his own depression and self-pity.

The Chief Priests and Jesus

The Pharisees' and Chief Priest's jealousy of Jesus' receptivity with the people led them to devise a plan to kill him.

Judas and Mary

Judas' jealousy of Mary's extravagant worship of Jesus led him to criticize her motives concerning the value of the ointment. It ultimately led Judas to betray Jesus (the recipient of the worship). Probably, Judas wasn't concerned about the wasting of the ointment. More likely, he was jealous that it wasn't wasted on him.

Envy and jealousy are signs that the demonic realm recognizes God's grace upon you. When someone is envious of the favor of God upon another (or a people group) they are actually cooperating with the spirit of antichrist. This spirit opposes the anointing of God because it is out of agreement with His will. What we are basically saying is that we don't agree with what God is doing through blessing this particular person, and that we should be the rightful recipients instead.

*“And as you have heard that the antichrist
[he who will oppose Christ in the guise of Christ] is coming,
even now many antichrists have arisen,
which confirms our belief that it is the final time.”
(1 John 2:18)*

The Accuser of the Brethren

Jealousy is also a manifestation of the accuser of the brethren (Satan) because he is fallen from grace and has lost any and all favor with God. Notice how jealousy will cause someone to accuse and bear false witness against another.

*“...for the accuser of our brethren,
he who keeps bringing before our God charges against them day and night,
has been cast out!”
(Revelation 12:10)*

Ultimately, jealousy is lawlessness – the violation of spiritual law because it is an attempt to move in illegally obtained authority.

Evil Companions

birds of a feather usually fly together

Jealousy has some unsavory companions that are like unwelcome party crashers who show up at your house looking for mischief and something to destroy. Once the door has been opened, they will gain entrance and begin their work (which can go very deep in a short time.) Without the grace of God and the character of Christ it is virtually impossible to restore things - namely relationships - back to their original order.

Let us briefly look at some of the key works of unrighteousness that accompany jealousy.

Confusion

The presence of jealousy creates an atmosphere of confusion that becomes the breeding ground for many other evil works. Confusion opens the door to misunderstanding, which if left unchecked will cause someone to act or react in response to something that may not even be necessarily true.

*“For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition),
there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion)
and all sorts of evil and vile practices.”*

(James 3:16)

Jealousy spawns confusion and generates disorder. Because it is void of peace (which is a dynamic of God's presence) confusion clouds people's perception to where they cannot discern properly and effectively.

“...for God is not the author of confusion and disorder, but of peace...”

(1 Corinthians 14:33)

On a personal level, confusion is usually a result of double-mindedness. When we are torn between two or more opinions our thoughts and subsequent actions become unstable as we try to rationalize back and forth between them. It is not until we make a cognitive choice that things begin to settle down and we start to see clearly again.

On a mass scale, confusion describes the tumultuous frenzy of a riotous crowd. The pandemonium that accompanies such an event can cause someone to lose their objectivity and easily become swept up into the fervor of the mob. There are accounts of individuals being questioned as to why they participated in similar chaotic incidents without being able to give a reasonable answer for doing so. Their objectivity was shrouded by the confusion of the crowd.

Covetousness

Webster's dictionary provides the following description of the word *covet*:ⁱⁱ

- to wish for enviously;
- to desire what belongs to another inordinately;
- to crave for possession;
- greed.

Covetousness is a form of idolatry that will activate the wrath of God against us. The Scriptures are clear in explaining that this is the nature of the old, sinful man before we were renewed in righteousness.

“So kill (deadens, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).”

It is on account of these [very sins] that the [holy] anger of God is ever coming upon the sons of disobedience (those who are obstinately opposed to the divine will).”
(Colossians 3:5, 6)

It is interesting to note that covetousness often manifests itself as adultery and other sexual vices. The iniquitous nature of the natural man is predisposed towards the satisfaction of the lusts and desires of the flesh. It would be understandable therefore that jealousy is often acted out in the arena of inappropriate sensual desire. When we begin to envy our neighbors' goods (spouse included), our thoughts will start to devise a way to somehow obtain them for ourselves. Most of the time, as the deceptive scheme unfolds we see the companion sins of lying, cheating, and stealing.

Look for a moment at the downward moral digression of someone who has rejected the knowledge of God (also notice the association of jealousy and covetousness):

“And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome,

*Until they were filled (permeated and saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, iniquity, grasping and covetous greed, and malice.
[They were] full of envy and jealousy, murder, strife, deceit and treachery, ill will and cruel ways.
[They were] secret backbiters and gossipers... ”*
(Romans 1:29, 30)

Jesus instructs us to be cautious and vigilant by keeping our hearts free from the temptation of jealousy that leads to covetousness.

“Guard yourselves and keep free from all covetousness (the immoderate desire for wealth, the greedy longing to have more); for a man’s life does not consist in and is not derived from possessing overflowing abundance or that which is over and above his needs.”
(Luke 12:15)

Rage

Jealousy is characterized as masculine rage. Proverbs 6:34 & 35 describes the anger of a husband whose wife has been discovered to have been involved in adultery.

“For jealousy makes [the wronged] man furious; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance [upon the detected one]. He will not consider any ransom [offered to buy him off from demanding full punishment]; neither will he be satisfied, though you offer him many gifts and bribes.”

The word *man* in this text is the Hebrew word *geber*, which means: to be strong; to prevail; to act valiantly; to be a warrior. It carries with it a desire for revenge to see its injustice equaled through retribution. Jealousy, once incited, can cause someone to burn with rage until elusive justice is satisfied.

There are many other texts throughout Scripture that show how anger and envy are associated and work together.

Disunity and Division

Since jealousy breeds confusion (con-fusion → opposing fusion or unity) it is easy to see that it leads to misunderstanding, strife, and discord. We see many examples in Scripture but unfortunately most are reproofs directed at particular churches because they allowed disunity to prevail due to lack of spiritual maturity.

Paul's reproof to the Roman church:

*“Let us live and conduct ourselves honorably and becomingly
as in the [open light of] day,
not in reveling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery
(sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarreling and jealousy.”
(Romans 13:13)*

Paul's reproof to the Corinthian church:

*“For you are still [unspiritual, having the nature] of the flesh
[under the control of ordinary impulses.]
For as long as [there are]envying and jealousy and wrangling and factions among you,
are you not unspiritual and of the flesh,
behaving yourselves after a human standard and like mere(unchanged) men?”*

*“...that perhaps there may be factions, (quarreling), jealousy, temper
(wrath, intrigues, rivalry, divided loyalties), selfishness, whispering, gossip,
arrogance (self-assertion), and disorder among you...”
(2 Corinthians 12:20)*

To false teachers (who breed contention and disunity):

*“But if anyone teaches otherwise and does not assent
to the sound and wholesome messages of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the teaching which is in agreement with godliness,
he is puffed up with pride and stupefied with conceit, [although he is] woefully ignorant.
He has a morbid fondness for controversy and disputes and strife about words,
which result in (produce) envy and jealousy, quarrels and dissention,
abuse and insults and slander, and base suspicions.”
(1 Timothy 6:4)*

Murder

When carried to its extreme, jealousy can result in murder. In previous chapters, we saw how jealousy was rooted in the satanic nature and is the antithesis of Christ's nature.

*“You are of your father, the devil,
and it is your will to practice the lusts and gratify the desires
[which are characteristic] of your father.
He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth,
because there is not truth in him.
When he speaks a falsehood, he speaks what is natural to him,
for he is a liar and the father of lies and of all that is false.”
(John 8:44)*

Jealousy is entirely focused on selfish ambitions, which cause a distorted perception of justice and open the door for even greater works of unrighteousness. The nature of Christ always produces life, but because the motives and actions of envy are contrary to His character, when they are fully carried out, the result is death.

We see this clearly personified in the life of Cain when God rejected his unacceptable offering. Cain's indignation caused him to burn with envy to the extent that he took his brother's life.

*‘But for Cain and his offering He had no respect or regard.
So Cain was exceedingly angry and indignant, and he looked sad and depressed.’*

*“... Cain rose up against his brother and killed him.”
(Genesis 4:5, 8)*

Wars

I wonder how many of our own personal disappointments with God and other unfulfilled expectations in life cause us to rise up against our brother with an attitude of indifference, ultimately wishing he were dead. Could it be that our very own inner conflicts and contradictions build to the point that there is an inevitable release of anger expended (whether overtly or passively) towards those who are usually closest to us? These very things give jealousy a foothold to work on a much larger scale leading to such atrocities as ethnic cleansing, genocide, and wars.

*“What leads to strife (discord and feuds)
and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you?
Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily
members? You are jealous and covet...”*
(James 4:1)

Since wars will be a sign of the end of the age (Matthew 24:6), it is highly indicative that an increase of jealousy will be active on the earth. Therefore, we must understand how jealousy works and be able to guard ourselves against it.

Breaking Free

living in liberty

There are several avenues of action that we can take to become free and stay free from the destructive effects of jealousy.

Repentance

We must begin by being objective with the content of our own heart. Of course the best remedy for any sickness is to stay healthy in the first place. However, knowing that we live in an imperfect world full of broken people (ourselves included) let us provide some room for God's grace to work. Be honest. If you identify the presence of jealousy and realize you have allowed it to work through you, first repent sincerely and ask God to forgive you. You will also need to ask for forgiveness from the person you have projected it towards. This action will immediately disengage any negative powers that are working and begin the road to restoration and healing. If any negative words or actions have begun to bear fruit, further restitution may be necessary to repair the damage that has already been caused.

Renew your mind with Truth

Because walking in Christ-likeness is directly related to the revelation of who we are in Christ, it is important that we mature in our understanding of our identity as a child of God. Jealousy only gained a foothold because there were unrenewed areas of our thinking that have yet to be transformed according to the Word of truth.

Now that the thief has been discovered (through realization and honesty), and removed (through repentance), the house (your heart and mind) must be fortified with the Word to keep him from gaining future illegal entrance.

A transformed thinking according to the Word of God is the only way to walk in the Spirit and deny the lusts of the flesh.

Walk in progressive dominion through spiritual maturity.

Though it is impossible to keep someone from projecting jealousy towards you, as you mature spiritually, it will become easier to walk free from its effects. Work to make the following revelations a reality in your life:

**Establish your spiritual identity
by becoming secure in the acceptance and love of God
as your Heavenly Father.**

If you are born-again, you are child of Almighty God. His immense love for you must be realized and received. Living in the reality that you are extravagantly and unconditionally loved by God will have a profound affect on the way you view yourself and others.

*“For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God which is Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 8:38, 39)*

Becoming affirmed in the love of God will dispossess fear from our heart. In the same way that the nation of Israel was unable to possess their promised land until they dispossessed the inhabitants that occupied it, the same holds true for us. We have a promised inheritance concerning our life and future – and part of it is to live free from fear so that we can follow God by faith.

*“There is no fear in love [dread does not exist],
but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors
and expels every trace of terror!
For fear brings with it the thought of punishment,
and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love
[is not yet grown into love’s complete perfection].”
(1 John 4:18)*

**Allow the Word of God
to bring healing and wholeness to your heart and emotions
until you are able to walk free from jealousy towards others.**

The truth of God's Word concerning our destiny as His child is clear. You are not a victim of the circumstances that life has dealt to you. Everyone has had to overcome something. We can not allow the disappointments of past experiences continue to have a grip on our emotions. Allow the presence of God to minister to your to the wounded places of your heart. Remember that everything we overcome through the power of God will give us a platform to be able to minister to others.

*“We are assured and know that all things work together and are
[fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God
and are called according to [His] design and purpose.”
(Romans 8:28)*

You are not an orphan wandering through life, but have been adopted into a great family lineage with an incredible inheritance.

*“For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery
to put you once more in bondage to fear,
but you have received the Spirit of adoption
[the Spirit producing son-ship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba Father!”
(Romans 8:15)*

Poverty is not a part of the “abundant life” that Jesus came to provide for us. Lack does not exist in the kingdom of heaven. Our task is to renew our thinking so that we can access heaven's resources and thereby carry out all of God's purposes for our life.

**Walk in dominion as a favored child of God
through forgiveness, spiritual fruit, and prayer.**

Exercise forgiveness towards anyone who has projected jealousy towards you. Refuse to let their ungodly behavior towards you continue to exert power over you. You will have to make a conscious decision to release them and may have to do it over and over until all of the ill feelings in your heart are gone.

Exhibiting the character of Christ-likeness by walking in the spirit will keep you from succumbing to jealousy.

*“But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the Holy Spirit,
[responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit];
then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh
(of human nature without God).”*
(Galatians 5:16)

Pray for and bless those who have wronged or used you. View your prayers as an investment into their life. Chances are high that the goodness you show back to them will cause a change to come to their heart as they acknowledge the selfishness of their actions towards you.

*“Invoke blessings upon and pray for the happiness of those who curse you,
implore God’s blessings (favor) upon those who abuse you
[who revile, reproach, disparage, and high-handedly misuse you].”*
(Luke 6:28)

Thanksgiving and Celebration

One of the most proactive things that we can do to keep our hearts in a state of peace is to maintain an attitude of thankfulness. Rather than being overly concerned with what we don’t have, or what is not happening, or how things just didn’t go our way, it is possible to shift our thoughts in the opposite direction.

**Cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving for what you have
and make a habit of celebrating the blessings
that you are presently experiencing.**

There is no substitute for worship and praise as we openly give God thanks and honor Him for Who He is.

**Realize your uniqueness as a fully affirmed child of God
and be free from comparison and completion with anyone else.**

*“You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace
whose mind [both its inclination and its character]
is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You,
leans on You, and hopes confidently in You.”*
(Isaiah 26:3)