



faith and lay hold on eternal life which is given unto me by God Himself on the day I gladly received Christ Jesus. I must fight against covetousness. Will I always succeed? No. Will I perfectly eliminate it? No. But the real issue is I must fight it. The real issue is I can't treat covetousness as nothing. The real issue is I determine to battle against it.

The writer of the Hebrews says, "*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*"⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:5-6). Wow, what a promise!

When I'm tempted to covet, I resolve to battle against it with the words of the Apostle Paul, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith to be content.*"¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.¹³ I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:11-13).

This is the way of life that I am still learning. We hope, we pray, we join together in our daily battles. At the fundamental level, our daily battle is a battle against unbelief in the word of God. So let us wipe away the mud that blurs our eyes and **get washed up by the water of the word of God.** Keep our eyes fixed on the precious and very great promises of God.

WHEN I AM TEMPTED TO COVET

WHEN I FEEL THE URGE TO COVET, I fight the good fight of faith with the promise of God in 1 Timothy that **"godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition"** (6:6-9).

It is my responsibility to remind myself that His word is powerful to give me escape from the temptation of covetousness because **"his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain unto life and godliness"*** (2 Pe 1:3). This is an astounding statement! God has given me everything necessary for how I live my life and how to grow in godliness!

I am reminded that *covetousness never brings true satisfaction*. **"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity"** (Ecclesiastes 5:10). I am admonished by Jesus Christ Himself that *covetousness chokes off spiritual life*. The thorns choking off the Word of God which is for my spiritual life are **"the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things"** (Mk 4:19). I am given a warning that *covetousness produces many other sins*. It can be like a fish which spawns a multitude of eggs in the water.

When I feel the ugly desire of covetousness, I fight the good fight of faith with the words of the inspired Apostle that, **"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows"** (1 Timothy 6:10).

I am reproved that *covetousness lets me down when I need help most*. **"For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content"** (1 Timothy 6:7-8).

I am corrected that *covetousness destroys the soul*. **"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition"** (1 Timothy 6:9). The Apostle Paul is not just talking about financial destruction or a material downfall, he's talking about laying hold on eternal life—**"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses"** (1 Timothy 6:12).

This is why I must fight covetousness—because what's at stake is eternal life. If I, who profess Christ, can't control covetousness, and all throughout my life, there is a consistent covetousness shown in my life, then my profession of Christ is false. A true Christian has been given the power to conquer sin. This is not triumphalism or prosperity gospel. This is biblical doctrine. I fight the good fight of