

IED'S laid before the Christian

Exposing the truth about jealousy and envy. Genesis 37

Whenever we sense feelings of envy and jealousy growing, we are enlightened to answer two questions:

How will I respond to the jealous feelings?

How will I deal with my actions, which usually include feelings of anger?

The Evil one primary goal: is to shift our focus away from God and onto our circumstances.

DETONATING THE IED OF JEALOUSY

God jealous for us, which means *He desire our fellowship and love.*

"You will not be able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has been good to you."

Joshua 24:19-20

FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE Jealousy starts inside of us usually with a thought or a feeling that another person has more than we do.

The earmarks of jealousy include the following:

Comparison.

Competition.

Fear. A jealous person is fearful of being replaced by somebody or something.

Strife and **dissension** are two of the evil one's favorite weapons of war. He wants us to be at odds with God and others.

THE TRUTH ABOUT IED'S OF JEALOUSY AND ENVY

* A critical spirit.

* A divided mind.

* Anger, bitterness, and resentfulness.

"The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance." Proverbs 25:23

Before Cain killed Able God asked him, "*Why are you angry?*" "*And why has your countenance fallen.*"

Genesis 4:6

- * A sense of insecurity.
- * The wrong focus. Whatever has our focus has us.

Ask, Are my eyes or my heart set on Jesus Christ, or am I angry and jealous of others?

"Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing."

James 3:16

- * A loss of privileges and opportunities.
- * Broken fellowship with God.

How do we effectively deal with jealousy in our own lives?

First, we are empowered to admit we are envious.

Second, we are empowered to **acknowledge** that we are in conflict with God.

Third, we are empowered to **thank God** for what He has done in our lives and even for the people who are the source of our conflict.

Fourth, we are empowered to **pray** and **ask** God to help us see the heart of the other person at the center of the conflict.

Fifth, we are empowered to be willing to wait for God to work.

Sixth, we are empowered to ask God to help us hear His voice over the clamor of the world.

Seventh, we are empowered to delight ourselves in God.

"When we do, we will find that He will give us the desires of our hearts." Psalm 37:4