

Pope Gregory The Great at end of 6th century, divided all sins  
under 7 heads: Said, Every sin a man commits can be classified  
by 7 words - Pride - Anger - Envy - Impurity - Gluttony - Slothfulness  
Avarice, Some called Deadly Sins.

"CRUEL AS THE GRAVE"  
ENVY - Jealousy -  
Song of Solomon 8:6

Revel 1 Sam 18:5-16

#### INTRODUCTION:

An ancient story tells of the Devil once walking through the streets  
to observe some people ridiculing a holy man. The holy man was not disturbed  
at all. Satan, the story says, stepped up and said, "Gentleman, you are  
entirely too crude. If you wish to destroy a holy man, it must be done in a  
more subtle way." And with that, he stepped up to the holy man and whispered  
in his ear, I have just received news that your younger brother has been made  
a bishop. A scowl of jealousy crowded the holy man's face - indicating an inward  
envy, jealousy, and anger. The Devil then turned and said, envy and jealousy  
are the kind of things I recommend to destroy a man.

A lady once who was very fashionable, was talking with a person on the  
train. And as she spoke of her problems, she stated if only someone could  
discover a pill that people could swallow night and morning, that would take  
out all the nasty temper. The venom of envy, and the green-eyed jealousy, the  
harsh unkindness, the stinking selfishness and resentment. Well, their love  
could be real and beautiful she said. Life would be worth living.

Why hasn't someone done that before, she requested. They have discovered  
medicine that takes out the fever. Kills the germs of diseases. Why can't  
somebody discover something that will make real love possible.

That beset woman had heard the Gospel and the Good News. As found in

S.N. May 20, 79 P.M  
W.R.I  
Gene Park July 16, 89 P.M. W.V.  
Brentley Aug 11, W.V.  
Lake Oronoco Jan 2, 196 W.V.  
N.W. Aug 26, 2001 W.V.

Gal. 5:22-23 something that is available to every living soul. Through Christ, that makes something lasting and something possible.

This is not something chemical or mechanical that a person can sniff or swallow. But this is a blessed experience, as a gift of God, of love - who made us for love. That we may receive this gift at any time when we are willing to accept it. We cannot buy it, bargain for it, the supreme fact of history declares. Not only a man on a cross several thousand years ago, but in every age--there have been people who have accepted the fellowship of this Spirit. And have been transformed from envy, from hate, from resentment, from jealousy. And they have been turned into good people.

Many of us are like (NARCISSUS) - a character in Greek mythology, He was a handsome lad & was indifferent to beauty of others, very vain about self. A Nymph favorite of the gods was wounded by the rejection of her love & faded until only her voice remained. The gods angered by Narcissus' coldness & Envy, this deadly sin of jealousy, caused him to die & change into the flower that bears his name. Too many have fallen by Envy, Proud heart Prov 21:14

Surely this is one of the worst enemies of the human soul. And it is one that upsets our spiritual help. In these nagging days, there are those who are unloving and have jealousy. This is not an unpardonable sin. But it is one that is costly in its damage that it inflicts. It is like Emerson once wrote about hate. He said it is like finding a mouse in your house. And burning the house down to kill the mouse. Or Carlyle Marney book Dangerous Father

Problem Mothers, & Terrible Teens. A wise mother the story is told when cross or fretful voices were heard among the children, whether in doors or out doors - would call "sing it, sing it" often song began "you cheated me, you cheated me" or "I hate you, I hate you"

Here you have a deadly sin in jealousy. It is a friend of envy. It may be toward someone Who has some excellence or some good fortune. That you want. It may be in the form of suspicion. It may be something that you would

But quickly it changed to smiles & laughter family proverb - "Never say it if you can't say it" now cast sin it

like to possess. It may be something that is a rival.

However, we do not see the sinfulness of sin. The black tragedy in our world that may be in our lives as a result of jealousy. Why do we hate, and why do we gossip, and why are we intolerable. And why are we slanderous. And why do we reject some man's goodness and success. Why is it that we are glad when somebody else has harm to come to them. What makes (gossip) One who criticizes. It cancels all the good. People say, I am sorry I have to say it. It really gives me pain to talk about it. The truth must be told. But there is glea in telling it. Why is there so much of this. Not willing to bear. There is something in us that is not able to bear with others who may by their excellence or their difference, or their superiority.

You know that this is like a flame. It is, that a person becomes conscious. Millions of people are facing this today as openly they have the flames of hate burning within them. Once in awhile you hear somebody say "it burns me up". Well, there may be a slow burning resentment toward a situation. Or there may be that they are burning up inside, with Devilish fires of rebellion, against their lot in life.

Have you ever noticed the reaction of two dogs - they may play together, they may hunt together. And they might be good friends. But you come along and you put your hand down and pat one of them and immediately the other one bristles up. And begins to growl. And what you are creating is a fierce battle. That may follow because of jealousy. The matter of jealousy extends from even the lowest of creation to the highest.

An Old Evangelist once said "you can't run with dogs without getting them on you"

That is why ~~Solomon~~ wrote these lines. Jealousy is as cruel as the grave. The coals thereof are the coals of fire.

It is not Solomon but it is a woman, who is made to say that. And she ought to know, to understand the fierce force of this comparison of jealousy and the grave. If you could go out and walk through the grassy aisles of the cemetery and meditate - read the names and the dates. That are graven on the tombs - you would find the grave of a man who probably lived to be 80 or 90 years old. But here is a grave, a new spot, and this person lived 3 score and 10. And then there is a grave over to the side, who died in middle life - maybe about 40 or 50. And then over there, you will find the grave of a young person - maybe in their 20's. And then as you walk around, you will find several other tombs - and these are infants. The graves are here, of all ages, of all periods of mortal life are represented. These brief inscriptions tell the story of life. Some are men, some were women. Some were poor. Some were learned, and some ignorant. Some were unknown and some were well-known. Some were criminals, and some were Christ-like. Some were saints, and some died believing in Jesus and the hope of the resurrection. Some died without faith. And you see in the grave, it takes in all classes and all conditions. Because here is placed a cross section of humanity.

Walk through  
cemetery  
Church Cemetery

Now this is where he begins with the truth and the power of a comparison of jealousy. As cruel as the grave. And jealousy, prays upon all ages, and all kinds, and all conditions of men.

6A And he says - set your seal. In ancient times few people could write. So one carried a seal. Suspended from the neck, over the heart, for this purpose.

Gen. 38:18, 25.

Or the seal was worn on the right hand. Jer. 22:24.

And this seal was used to make a signature. And he uses these familiar things in man's life and man's activity. And he said death and jealousy is a passion that is just like the grave.

He uses a second comparison when he describes it as a most vehement flame. A furious flame, a red flame. Like a jagged streak of lightning.

Deut. 32:24. Job 5:7. The coals thereof are coals of fire. Many and fierce are the flames which leap out of the furnace of the heart of man. The flame of lust, of hate, of scorn, of revenge, of jealousy. They come scourching

unto death - every good thing that comes within its path.

*Dr. Galtie refers to days there was no woman missionary among all times did not want women to have much to do with church affairs. One of his old-time was moderator of the association & objected to women speaking in mixed assemblies - one day one of the heavy women rose to speak & the old moderator said "sister, back for home women to speak in public & I will not have you attached to another woman in the rear of the building with a high beam voice, shouted out This is the way he describes jealousy. Where would you men be now if it were not for no women old moderator, stern voice we would all be in the garden of Eden, sitting Beware lest such unlovely disposition -*

The first crime that stained the history of the human race was committed by a jealous man. Abel was the keeper of the sheep. But Cain was a tiller of the ground. And it came to pass in the process of time, that Cain brought the fruit of the ground and offered it unto the Lord. And Abel also brought the firstlings of the flock. The Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offerings. But unto Cain and to his offering - he had not respect. And Cain was very wrought and his countenance fell at the saying. And it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

The first <sup>ENEMY</sup> cruel act of man to man was brought by jealousy. The first blow that man ever struck against another man, was the blow of a jealous man. Now many crimes since then it has committed. What great careers it has wrecked. What good causes it has hindered. What nations it has bathed with blood. What cities it has consumed with fire. What hopes it has blasted. What hearts it has broken. And what homes it has blighted. And what lives it has curled. Yes, jealousy is as cruel as the grave. As the coals of fire. Sending forth strong flames.

*al understand your son is on the football team, what does he play?  
"al think he's one of the straw backs"*

ENEMY  
I. WHERE IS JEALOUSY FOUND

We might know that jealousy can ruin reputations, split churches, and cause murders.

It is found among nations. In the diggings around Rome Carthage they have opened up ancient city that was destroyed by the Roman Army in 146 B. C. The last chapter in the long bitter struggle with Rome, which had raged for 122 years. Cato returned to Carthage, and he was so impressed with the surviving greatness of the African metropolis, that he never finished any speech in the Senate without sounding a warning. Carthage must be destroyed. The feud between Carthage and Rome raged and destroyed that part of the world with fire and sword. It stained the seas with blood. When the Romans finally took the city, all the buildings were level to the ground. And the site was dedicated to the infernal God, and all human habitation was forbidden. Today the thick bed of blackened stone, broken glass, fragments of metal, twisted by fire have been found on the site. And it bears the evidence of the fate of that city - of the jealousy between the nations. The flaming torch of jealousy have been put on the pages of human history.

Several years ago, a Scottish preacher wrote these words -- we all deplore the fact that Europe is an armed camp. And tremble, lest the signal of war be given. What is the influence that maintains this intolerable bondage that may fling these masses of men at each other's throats. Whatever politicians may say, it is not patriotism, He finally concluded by saying, this is blind, radical jealousy. Now his words were fearfully fulfilled. It was national jealousy that turned the sun into the darkness, and the moon into blood. And poured out the tears of mankind like an ocean. For even America became involved in that operation. Because of internal relationships. And even time after time, nation after nation, we discover are destroyed because of this.

Of course, jealousy between individuals is found. The first in the world was a source of the first crime. Cain slew Abel because his own works were evil. And Abel's righteous. Goodness will always invite scorn, and persecution on the part of evil. The accuser of his brethren is ever abroad. This Satanic disease is often called into action by purity of heart and meekness of life in another person. He who climbs high must look down, on the hate and scorn of those below. There comes evil passions. As Jesus appeared on this earth - is a crowning illustration of how his pure character brought men out from the bottomless pit, Wicked men--even Pilate. For the envy and the jealousy of the chief priest had delivered up Jesus. Jealousy was the thing in the first murder. And now jealousy reached its awful climax. When it delivered up Jesus to be crucified upon a cross.

There had been quarrels and bitter disputes among men of ability, educators, statesmen, musicians, scholars - and even clergymen. Jealousy is the spur with which the Devil rises even amidst the noblest people.

One of the famous preachers of Scotland confessed to his brother ministers how many a Sabbath evening, after a young colleague had preached to a greater throng in the evening than he did in the morning - he had gone home from the church to complain about the success of the younger man. The passion of jealousy was hot and knocked at the door of his heart. But he said, "I must refuse its admittance."

*Samuel 18 - War Between Love & Jealousy: Saul's Hate Against David & Love's Final Triumph. Hate Men Show Self A Fool. Not one man in a million would imitate David unless he were influenced by the Holy Spirit. Erect Triumph over Philistines*

Jealousy was the thing that rocked the boat of Saul and made shipwreck of his life. When the dancing women went out to meet David after his victory over Goliath sang - Saul has slain his thousands but David his tens of thousands. Then jealousy was born in the heart of Saul. And Saul eyed David from that day forth. The eye through which he looked was green with envy. And now he acts upon that. That was the beginning and that was the day Saul first heard the women praising David. The end of it was when Saul and his three sons lay dead, upon the bloody slope of Mt. Gilboa.

*David must come play music for Saul - to thrust a javelin at him. V. 12 But David on foreign line, destroy his life & not for money but must kill 100 Philistines (get him killed) V. 20 Michael loved David - A javelin and time chap 19 plan execute David, wife helps escape (put wooden image in his bed, wife as sleeping man, soldiers came AM. David escape)*

We find this among individuals - the personal jealousies and personal relationships that have done injury to good causes. It is sad but it is true, that sometimes the greatest causes are hindered by selfishness of human nature.

One of the bitterest contests in history and among individuals was during the Civil War in this nation. It came to a crisis and men were feeling and placing their rights against the great ends of justice. In thinking of the jealousy of individuals, there was much of it among the leaders of the Armies. But the great Commander, Robert E. Lee, was different. After the battle of Fair Oaks, or Seven Pines, with McCullens Army - Joseph E. Johnston, a very able Confederate Commander



was disabled by a shell. The command immediately went to the next in rank, Gen. W. H. Smith. But in the meantime, Jefferson Davis, had appointed to take command in the field - Gen. Lee. But Lee, before starting to the front, wrote a friendly note to Gen. Smith. Urging him to make an attack and win a victory before he, himself, could get to the front. And take command. That is a (rare) spirit.

Job 5:2 - Wrath killeth the foolish man. Envy slayeth the silly one.

There is the story of a man who killed himself through envy and jealousy. His fellow citizens erected a statue. One of their number was a great champion at the public games in Greece. But this man, a rival of the honored athlete, was so jealous that he vowed that he would destroy the statue. Every night he went out into the darkness and chiseled at the base in an effort to undermine its foundation, and make it fall. At last, he succeeded - it did fall, but it fell on him. And he fell victim to his own jealousy.

We find that jealousy is in nations, in individuals, and really in every area of our lives. It is like a prairie fire, it is so swift - it is so terrible. It strikes a cruel blow at our domestic lives. We suffer, we are injured. And love is destroyed many times.

How often we see this in a jealous rage - something happens, even in news stories. The worst of sin, the worst of things happen. Because an individuals heart has a wild craving and a passionate desire. And he goes to carry out some

crime due to this evil that he has in his heart.

Have you ever felt the flame of jealousy in your heart? <sup>Envy</sup> Has the serpent ever hissed in your ear. Is there someone in your line of work or service whose name has brought to pass a cloud over your face. Is there someone who is superior in talent or gifts. And you secretly grit your teeth over. Is there anyone whose beauty you secretly hate. Or whose goodness and godliness you scorn. Is there, under a sun, (a single) person whose affection you might be turned. Is there one you have, with the flame that the winds are fanning, and have destroyed your happiness.

Of course, the time to attack jealousy is when you feel it's first sting. <sup>Envy</sup> Or note it's first flame. Then you can handle it. This is one of the most awful sins because there is no depth to which it will not descend. There is no cruelty at which it will not stop. There is no character, no matter otherwise how fine and strong. Which it cannot, if once submitted - bring to ruin. There is no garden of happiness which it cannot enter and destroy.

This was the sin that expelled John Wesley from the church, in which he had been born. This is the sin that mingled the blood of those coventors in Scotland. And this is the sin that is not uncommon for men of vision to discover.

Andrew Bonar this day, he said 20 years ago - I preached for the first time as an ordained minister. It is amazing that the Lord has spared me and used

Andrew Bonnar 20 yrs teaching -11-

me at all. Yet, jealousy is my hurt. And today, I have been seeking grace to rejoice exceedingly over the usefulness of others. "Lord, give more and more to those brethren whom I have despised." This good man had been jealous of ministers seemingly more successful than himself. And (envy) had been in his eyes and in his ears, and upon his tongue.

During World War II - Couple walking London this raid sounded - down to shelter -  
Museum - Packed - sardines can - lights out - when lights on again  
young lady said "Herbert you shouldn't have done it" - Done what? - Kissed  
me - lights out - "I didn't kiss when lights out + sobbed every around the 4 to catch  
The fellow who did, did touch him" - Oh Herbert, you wouldn't touch him anything"

### III. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

Well, Psalm 49:16 the Bible says, be not thou afraid when one is made rich. When the glory of his house is increased. "Envyng those who are more prosperous than we, does not add \$1.00 to our assets but it bankrupts our soul.

You cannot have the freedom of happiness, and jealousy in your heart.

Prov. 14:30 (a sound heart is the life of the flesh. "But envy - the rottenness of the bones.") Envy is not a defensive weapon. It is an offensive instrument. Used in spiritual ambush. It wounds for the sake of wounding. And hurts for the sake of hurting.

This is one of the most awful sins of the flesh. And one of the most uncalled for. Prov. 27:4 - who is able to stand before envy, Solomon said.

Gal. 5:26 Paul let us not be desirous of vain glory. Provoking one another, envying one another.

James 3:16 - Where envy and strife is, there is confusion. And every evil work.

Frances Bacon "neither can he that mindeth his own business, find much matter for envy. For envy is a gadding passion. It walketh the streets and doth not stay at home. The envious man grows thin at another man's prosperity."

James 4:5 says that envy is in the very nature, the Spirit that dwelleth in us, lusteth to envy. Cain envied Abel because he had found favor with God and then murdered him. Envy needs no justification to make an attack. More often, there is no real reason for its existence. It just springs out of an unregenerated heart. And it comes forth like weeds growing in a flower garden.

Let me illustrate this with a story of Joseph. Joseph's brethren were envious of him. And when he came to visit them, they took him and cast him into a pit. And then they sold him into slavery. Because of jealousy. They paid for their deed with an awful famine, and in the end they were forced to recognize Joseph's superiority. Their envy made them poor. But it intended harm for Joseph - but it hurt them more than it hurt him.

Again in the Bible there is a story of Haman and he was full of jealousy and envy, against Mordecai. And he wanted him to pull political strings. So he tried to do away with him. He even built the place to hang this man. And the tragic story ends. Esther 7:10. So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.

How many of you have been hanged on the gallows that you have made for some other person. Many a man has died on this gallows of envy that he has prepared for another. Look around you, right now in your community. And your resentment

toward others. Toward religion. Toward your neighbors. I defy you to show me a person who is filled with envy and jealousy - who is happy. The moment you build a gallows for somebody else, that moment you die.

Mark Twain - Church - Missionary speaking - I will donate \$100.00  
" - Court - talk - I give 50¢  
" - " - " - " - " 10¢  
" on 4th - finished - off - took out 5¢  
What idea tonight but realize some know about Envy already.

IV. WHY IS JEALOUSY SUCH A GREAT SIN

Solomon says it is as "cruel as the grave." Was it that God just wanted to make some kind of denouncement of it. Did he forbid it just because it makes us miserable. Certainly not. God is interested in our total being.

Stephan Co Lasi 3+ Obsessed Jealous wife Robyn Rogers 29yr old extremely nice. Hired men "Soured her mixture water & dye as she sat at a Desk in a rental office" Died Now in the Torment! (Estate on Eastern shore)

We are told in 3 John 2, beloved, I wish above all things that though prosper and be in health - even as thy soul prospereth.

Remember jealousy was one of the sins of Lucifer. Before he was transformed into Satan. He was jealous of God's position and was determined that he was going to dethrone God and put himself in God's place. Therefore, God hates envy and jealousy.

Mark 15:10 - One of the sins that caused the death of Christ is jealousy. For envy, they delivered him.

The Pharisees were jealous of the attention that Jesus received. They were envious of the crowds that flocked to hear him. Because the people made Jesus somewhat of a hero, they had jealous hearts that burned with fire. They had conferences together and planned to put him to death.

X  
The Pharisees and the Sadducees were not on good terms. And on most points, there was no agreement. However because of their jealousy, they pooled their resources in order to stop Jesus. And they forgot their differences. And jealousy takes many forms. When it hates God, it will help to destroy all in sight.

Envy and jealousy is forbidden because it destroys our spiritual health. Envy is something that is connected with the (original sin). And don't think you are alone in possessing it. Everyone has it - to a greater or lesser degree. Even Paul warned Christians against it. He himself, had a great amount of it. He was jealous of the new group called Christians. And his envy burned up in wrath. He went everywhere persecuting and destroying it. But in the face of the Christian named Stephen, at whose stoning he officiated, he saw light which he had never seen before. He found that light on the road to Damascus. And his envy was changed into fervent love. And unrestrained joy, and happiness. And he began serving the Saviour.

If you find the germ of some disease in your body, you would spare no time or money in taking care of that. And yet, there are many people afflicted of the deadly disease of envy, who are doing nothing about it.

In the eyes of God, it is as ugly and deadly as any open immorality. It is one of the 17 fleshly sins mentioned by Paul in Gal. And ranks along with murder, fornication, and drunkenness. It is more prevalent than any of these. Though in the pulpit we seldom warn people about its power, And its destruction. Though it is not forbidden by law, this vice has infiltrated all of modern life.

James 5:9 - grudge not one another, lest ye be condemned. Behold, the judge stands ~~at~~ before the door.

Envy is forbidden and is a great sin because it takes the joy and the contentment out of living. It is impossible for a person to be content as long as he is jealous in his heart. There are many people you have seen with bitterness, hardness, frustration, confusion - as a direct result of jealousy. Jealousy takes away the effectiveness of one's work and one's life, and one's service for God.

It also isolates one from the fellowship with God. There is no possibility that a person can receive fellowship with God and have envy in his heart. If you are not a Christian, and have never given your heart and life to Christ - this is one of the basic sins that separates you from your God. And you must repent of your sin and receive Christ as your Saviour before you can receive a new nature. Now, if you are a Christian and have jealousy in your heart, it means that you are out of fellowship with Christ. And you no longer have the thrill of victorious living. God cannot bless you as long as you cling to it.

*Num 12:1*  
We are talking about why jealousy is such a great sin. Very briefly in the story of Miriam and Moses and Aaron - when they were jealous of Moses. And finding fault with Moses in the wilderness there. This gives you insight as cruel as the grave. Now, it says here that because of the jealousy, it resulted in uncleanness. Miriam became a leper. Num. 12:10. The sin of her heart was manifest in uncleanness. All fault-finders, envious people, are soon found outside of the service of God. They will not remain in close fellowship and service for God. Their lives will become unclean and unfit for God's service.

A Book adventure "The Call of the Wild" Story of dog, born in civilization, gentle & taught - But turned into tool of sledge driver - driven in frozen north - Hard ship harsh words - whip! One night heard cry of wolf in forest - stalk away to answer with the howl of savagery - Tapped into wolf, became wild - blood thirsty - So with children's  
 3 It interrupted fellowship in V. 14 Let her be shut out from the camp.

The spirit of jealousy quickly withers up the spirit of communion. It makes one not only unclean - but unfit for fellowship with God and his people.

We nurse - teach - pray for petitioners - But manhood - womanhood - There comes the call of the wild - Power of habit, appeal - The Battle is almost won or lost  
 Where is my wandering Boy to-night - The boy of my tenderest care,  
 The Boy that was once my joy & light - The child of my love & prayer?

This is a law that is unalterable. Beware of how you express your jealousy.

Walk the City Streets late hours - Poor wasted humanity!  
 Toward God's servants.  
 See Army War Crises - Moving Pages - Fathers, Mothers write names of lost children  
 disclose degeneration -  
 No wonder sin every put Christ on Cross is as cruel as death!

Hardly, it hindered their progress. The people journeyed not to Miriam was brought in again - V. 15. The whole camp was kept back because of her sin.

Those who sin in high places and in the church, bring about great hindrances to the church and to the cause of Christ. One fly may spoil the ointment. One achan can defeat the whole army of God. One person, whose life is filled with jealousy, one unfruitful life. Can hinder the progress of the church.

There is a prayer that you ought to pray. Psalm 139:23. "Search me o God, and try me. And see if there be any wicked way in me. And lead me in the way of everlasting."

Had  
 73 - Evaluates Evil, 11 kind exempt, said sin - trouble  
 13 felt in vain  
 17 Problems to Right Person - faith  
 21 - 23 experience "God holds" hand.  
 28 overlook! Near God

V. HOW CAN I GET RID OF THIS SIN

What can I do about jealousy that may be in my life. Those who are guilty of this sin are going to be judged. They are warned in the Bible, that someday we will stand before the judgement of God, and give an account of all the secret thoughts of jealousy and envy. Many of you are asking right now - how can I get rid of this sin that robs me of this happiness in my life.



✓ 1 - Acknowledge that you have it. That is, you are on your way to being cured if you will stop blaming others for your failure. Look and take inventory in your own soul. And then take some positive action - get rid of that sin which has beset you. Admit your fault. Do not make your fault smaller - on the contrary.

Post War Germany - Authorities asked in secrecy 150 Typical Germans - (Q) who do think responsible for outbreak of war? 1. <sup>20</sup> 40% High Command 2. Nazi Party 3. Her People - (A) Not Me - Not Me - after crucifixion "Not Me" 1. Hitler 2. 123 3. 11, 4. Allies

✓ 2 - Secondly, confess your sin. Tell God about it. I John 1:9. Confess, and he will forgive.

Gen 49:23-4 Joseph a fruitful boner - Archers shot at him Hated Envy  
spelt as slave - Green monster eyes, Envy lives in L.D. as well -  
Secret strength 1. Quietness 2. Hands of God 3. Covenant -

James 5:16 - confess your faults - that you may be healed. Many a person has started on the road to spiritual confession, and recovery by just confessing to God. Confess your sins, renounce your sins, and repent of your sins.

2.4 Hands made strong, hands of mighty God of Jacob -  
The stone which the Builders refused - King Solomon Temple, stones marked, put in place, one very curious, seemed unfit, tried, throw away!

✓ 3 - Third, open your heart to the regenerating grace of Christ.

stone of Envy, touched at, Solomon made mistake, years in Building -  
Finished - Builders, where is top stone, Pinnacle,  
Envy can be overcome.  
Perhaps, stone rejected - Took - hoisted to top - found it well adapted because the head stone of the corner

Paul - Phil. 4:13 "I can do . . ." all -  
so it is with Christ Jesus  
Christ reigns at the top most stone -

✓ 4 - Fourth, ask, Holy Spirit to come into your heart and give you victory.

Know you are saved - H.S. Conquer by Sin!  
Rom. 6:11 - If Sin & go on in sin never been born again in 1st place -

Complete the victory by surrendering completely to Christ.

✓ Supreme example of John the Baptist, Bank of Jordan - great crowds - Jesus came. Lamb of God. "He must increase, but I must decrease."

## Blind eyes

There are several ways that we keep our eyes shut. I have already talked about the first one – theologizing. We talk about healing but how often has a person been dramatically healed after we have prayed for them.

*End  
Clear*

On an ABC New Special, "In the Name of God," Peter Jennings interviewed the founder of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, John Wimber. Wimber said that the first time he went to church he expected dramatic things to happen. After attending three Sundays, he was frustrated. Following the service, he talked to an official-looking man and asked him, "When do they do it?" "Do what," the man replied. "The stuff," Wimber answered. "What stuff?" "The stuff in the Bible." "What do you mean?" "You know, multiplying loaves and fish, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind. That stuff." "Oh," the man replied apologetically, "We don't do that. We believe in it, and we pray about it. But we don't do it."

One reason may be our approach. We are much like the disciples. We spend more time talking about healing than praying for healing. I am not referring to the general prayers we offer when someone we know is diagnosed with cancer. We make an adequate attempt at presenting those petitions. I am referring to prayers that are more specific. In the book of James, the sick are specifically instructed to call the elders and have them pray over them, anointing with oil. When was the last time you requested such prayer? We may believe that God heals but could still have closed eyes?

We also keep our eyes closed out of a judgmental spirit. <sup>*Jealous spirit, Envy, Jealousy*</sup> We have a difficult time accepting that God could use another person or, another church whose style of spirituality we find offensive.

The minister and several lay people had tried to help Tom and his family. They lived almost next door to First Church. Their yard was a disgrace. Broken-down cars. Dead washing machine (and dryer) on the front porch. Tom drank and there were rumors that he abused his wife and kids.

The women invited her to a UPW Circle. The CE committee paid for the kids to go to church camp. Nothing changed.

Then one day the pastor notice Tom cleaning his yard nearly every weekend until everything was put in order. All the major appliances were removed. The minister waited for an opportunity to talk to Tom to see what was going on. It finally came quite unexpectedly.

"Tom, is that you?" The pastor asked, after this well-dressed man had spoken to me. He had so radically changed. The pastor hardly knew him. "What happened?"

"I've been saved," Tom said.

"From what?" asked the pastor.

"From hell," he announced. "The hell of my life, the hell I'd put my family in. Born again. Fire baptized. No more alcohol. No more meanness."

The pastor of First Church couldn't deny the miracle.

"Owe it all to Bethesda Community Church," he said.

"Gosh, Tom," I said. "I wish our church could have helped you. That church is, well, a bit narrow."

He smiled. "Don't feel bad, preacher. No nice church would have had me. You Presbyterian offered me aspirin. I needed massive chemotherapy."

"All I know is, I was blind. Now, I see."

## Keeping Our Eyes Open

Little Jane sitting on the sofa  
knee one day, looking - "  
Were you in the art with Bob?  
Certainly not, my dear, he replied.  
Then asked the child, why weren't  
you drowned? "

Mom's wife sick for yrs  
Better now - Dr Currid

Always  
Told her what she had  
was a symptom of old age!