

BATTLING JEALOUSY AND ENVY – GENESIS 37:1-11

SERIES: AVOIDING SPIRITUAL POTHOLES

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and *so* lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. *James 3:14-15 (NASB)*

Central Idea: *You cannot be obedient to God and have jealousy in your heart at the same time.*

- **Jealousy:** being suspicious someone or something is going to take our place: *the feeling or fear of being replaced.*
- **Envy:** The displeasure of seeing someone's good fortune.

1. THE TRUTH ABOUT JEALOUSY

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and *so* lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. *James 3:14-16 (NASB)*

2. AVOIDING THE POTHOLE OF JEALOUSY

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. *Genesis 37:3-4 (ESV)*

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God: he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. *Joshua 24:19 (ESV)*



3. JEALOUSY IS A _____ (HAPPINESS IS TOO!)

¹⁷ The man said, "They have already left. I heard them say that they were going to Dothan." So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted against him and decided to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer. *Genesis 37:17-19 (TEV)*

4. WINNING THE STRUGGLE OF JEALOUSY

⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. *Galatians 6:7-10 (ESV)*

5. JEALOUSY FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. *James 3:16-18 (ESV)*

6. THE CONSEQUENCES OF JEALOUSY

Critical Spirit	Divided Mind	Anger, Bitterness	Resentment
Insecurity	Wrong Focus	Indecisiveness	Depression
Loss of Privileges and Opportunities			Physical Sickness
Broken Fellowship with God			

7. HOW TO AVOID A JEALOUS SPIRIT

- A. _____ WHEN YOU ARE JEALOUS
- B. ACKNOWLEDGE YOU ARE IN CONFLICT WITH _____
- C. THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE _____ AND THE LIFE OF THE ONE WE ARE JEALOUS OF
- D. PRAY AND ASK GOD TO HELP US _____ OF THE OTHER PERSON
- E. BE _____ FOR GOD TO WORK, AND FOR HIS LEADING
- F. ASK GOD FOR HELP TO HEAR HIS VOICE OVER OTHERS
- G. DELIGHT YOURSELF IN GOD – PSALM 37:4

8. WHEN OTHERS ARE JEALOUS OF YOU

- A. Ask God what you need to learn about yourself and them
- B. Make a deliberate decision to ignore any harsh words spoken to you
- C. Ask God to show you if there is something you did or failed to do that created an atmosphere of jealousy. (Joseph showed off his coat and dreams)
- D. Show the person struggling with jealousy some form of kindness
- E. Pray for your attitude to be changed and for the other person to become focused on God and His purpose for their life.