

Walking in Love.
Love is not envious, is not Jealous.

1 Cor 13 : 4. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy (is not jealous), it does not boast, it is not proud.

Question : Think about jealousy and what it looks like. What thoughts or images come to your mind?

Jealousy and envy Explained.

There are three ways in which the word jealousy in scripture is used.

- 1/. The intolerance of rivalry or unfaithfulness.
- 2/. To be uneasy due to suspicion of rivalry or unfaithfulness.
- 3/. To be hostile towards a rival or someone believed to be enjoying an advantage.

God's jealousy.

The root word in Hebrew "qana" meaning to be jealous or zealous. When ever this word is used in the context of God being jealous, it is always used in the positive sense and would be more appropriately translated as "ZEALOUS". Whenever God is the subject of the verb QANA, there is always a preposition to or for the object being described. **E.G.** God is jealous (zealous) for His Holy Name in **Ezek 39 : 25**. His Land in **Joel 2 : 18**. His Inheritance in **Zech 1: 14**. Burning with jealousy for His people (zeal) **Zech 8 : 2**.

Exodus 20 : 4-6. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

When ever God is said to be jealous it is always in the context of being intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness. Never is He uneasy due to envy or suspicion. Jealousy involves fear and torment. Both of which God can never be subject to.

God cannot be envious. Never can God ever be described as being envious of another for He is complete in Himself and needs nothing to add to Himself any stature, any sense of importance or to fulfil a sense of lack or need in His character.

God cannot be suspicious. The root of suspicion is fear and doubt brought about by having a partial knowledge of a given subject or anxious and fearful of



an outcome that can not be foreseen. God is never afraid that “something is going on”. He never doubts if something is going to happen. He is all knowing, all seeing. His power is without limitation. There is nothing that He does not know or cannot do.

Along with envy, being suspicious is one of the few things that it is impossible for God to do.

Differences between God’s jealousy (for sake of argument) and mans jealousy.

God’s Jealousy is always from a point of knowing the whole truth about a subject. Having a full understanding , a complete picture, knowing exactly what is going on where, when, why and who. He knows the end from the beginning.

Mans jealousy is almost always limited in its knowledge of all the facts. Is very often clouded by suspicion, presumption, lies and deceit resulting in producing a negative attitude or act.

God’s jealousy is motivated by love and results in Him providing three things. **1/. protection** for us, **2/. provision** for us and **3/. producing** what we need in us. He only wants the best for us. It is always positive in attitude and action.

1/. Protection.

Song of Solomon 8 : 6-7. Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. 7Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

Psalm 119:11 Shows us that He has given us His Word that we might not sin against Him. God wants to be at the center of our lives. For us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. This is not from a point of egotism. He doesn’t need praise nor flattery. His word is a lamp to our feet, a light to our path. It is purely for our protection that He gives us His commands.

Satan uses the ignorance of God’s word to seduce God’s people into serving him and turning away from God.

Hosae 4 : 6. says, “My people perish for lack of knowledge.”

Ignorance is the road that leads to captivity city. When we arrive there, we are made slaves to serve our own sin.

God will use whatever the enemy uses against us to bring us to a place where we come to our senses.



Psalm 79: 4-8. We are objects of reproach to our neighbours, of scorn and derision to those around us. 5How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? How long will your jealousy burn like fire? 6Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the kingdoms that do not call on your name; 7for they have devoured Jacob and destroyed his homeland. 8Do not hold against us the sins of the fathers; may your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need.

We can call upon God to fight on our behalf when we are feeling the pressure of Satans' attacks, knowing that God's love for us will not allow us to be overcome by our enemies. His jealousy for our complete love and affection, for our complete welfare and prosperity, means He will do anything to protect us.

Psalm 91 : 14-16. Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. 15He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him. 16With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

2/. Provision.

When we are being seduced by satan and tempted by the worlds pleasures, when sin is being offered to us in abundance, God provides us with even more Grace to overcome it.

James 4 : 1-6. What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. 4You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. **5Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? 6But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."**

1 Corinthians 10: 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, **who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.

3/. Production. If we have succumbed to Satans temptations, if our hearts have gone astray and we have walked away from our first love for Jesus, our calling,



and have gone back into the world, God's jealousy (zeal for us) motivated by love will bring His discipline upon us.

Hebrews 12 : 10-11. Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

You can rely on God's jealous (zealous) heart for you to protect you from your enemies, provide for your welfare and produce in you everything you need so that you can get to know Him more, experience fulness of life and fulfil your destiny.

Mans jealousy is motivated by insecurity, fear or the desire for power, wealth and recognition. This results in Anger, bitterness, suspicion, paranoia, fear and depression. Which in turn produces in us three things. A spirit of **1/. persecution, 2/. possessiveness** and **3/. personal self destruction**.

1/.Persecution. 1 Sam 18 : 8-11. Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" 9And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David. 10The next day an evil (or injurious) spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand¹¹and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

Jealousy causes us to act and speak irrationally to each other. Throwing fists or insults and accusations that create strife. Saul became irrational and sought to kill David out of jealousy for the peoples affections.

2/.Possessiveness. Saul feared losing the kingdom to David. Jealousy can cause us to grip tightly to the object we fear to lose. To hold onto that which we are meant to let go of. Saul feared losing his kingdom. It was God's not his. The truth is, it's not us that has possession of the object desired, but the object that has possession of us. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". If we can't let it go, then it has already taken root in our hearts and will demand our full attention. Our thought life will be dominated by the object or issue and our hearts and emotions led astray. Jealousy tries to draw us into possession of something, but jealousies real desire is to posses us. The more you try to posses it, the more it possesses us.



3/. Personal self destruction. Jealousy can cause irrational, erratic and immoral behaviour. Uncontrolled Jealousy can result in the breakdown of our relationships. (strife brings division) The weakening of our witness (our effectiveness as christians), The loss of our vision (our focus will be distracted) and the delaying of our destiny (everything gets put on hold).

Saul having being taken over by an evil spirit became more and more immoral, turning his back on God and finally committed suicide by falling on his own sword.

Other instances of jealousy. Cane and Abel. Sarah and Hagar. Joseph's brothers. The brother of the prodigal son and many more..

3/. a God has the right to be jealous (zealous) for that which He has created and owns. He is the potter, we are the clay.

3/. b Man, especially Christians, have no right to hold onto, possess or desire anything other than seeing the will of God come to pass for themselves and everyone else.

The difference between Godly jealousy (zeal) and demonic jealousy.

Godly jealousy or Zeal is a characteristic of God's Holiness and righteousness. Mans jealousy is earthly, carnal and has its roots in the demonic realm.

Numbers 5 : 14. `if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him and he becomes jealous of his wife,

Man can be jealous with a Godly jealousy.

2 Corinthians 11 : 1-3. I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. 2I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Jesus desires us to have the same jealous or zealous spirit for the things of God as He did. This jealousy will desire to Protect, provide and produce just as God does.

Protect.

a/. The knowledge of God. His character, His ways, His thoughts. Look at Elihu and Jobs three friends.



Question: What can we do to protect the knowledge of God?

b/. The work of God. His will and desire. The vision of the house set forth by the leadership. Heath as being the main visionary of Liberty church.

Question: What can we do to protect the work of God?

Provide.

For the work of God. The furtherance of the gospel, Discipleship, the healthy functioning of the body. This is done through giving our time , talents and finances.

Produce. Looking out for one another to help each other grow and flourish. Those who are spiritual restoring one caught in a sin. Praying for one another, Confronting, disciplining so as to free them from Satans grip.

Things to remember about ungodly jealousy and how to deal with it.

Remember : Jealousy is a demonic spirit at work in this world. **Numbers 5 : 14**
`if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him and he becomes jealous of his wife,

a/. Jealousy reveals insecurity, fear or a wrong motive and desire for something within us. **Repent.** We must repent of being insecure, fearful or selfishly ambitious and resist the desire to be jealous.

b/. The moment we become jealous of something or someone, it reveals that it has become too important to us and must be relinquished. Don't allow anything to become impossible to live without or it will become an IDOL. **Relinquish** the object or desire and put God first.

c/. Jealousy will grow in strength if not dealt with. It will open the doors of your heart and hand out invitations to doubt, fear, insecurity, anger, frustration, bitterness, unforgiveness, hate, murder and sometimes even the extreme of suicide. **Resist** the devil and he will flee.

d/. Jealousy will often tempt you into provoking jealousy in another person and create a breakdown in your relationships.
Restore not react. Don't react to jealousy, seek to restore the relationship.

e/. Jealousy will also be closely followed by guilt and condemnation for your feeling it and acting upon it.
Rejoice. Don't allow satan to beat you up. Beat him up instead by praising God for His greatness and His love for you.

