

# How to overcome greed

1 Timothy 6:6-10

## 1. What is contentment?

The love of money is the root of all evil. Why are people greedy for money? Greed means feeling that it is not enough. It is not that you do not have enough, but that you want more and better: a bigger house, a more expensive car, a newer mobile phone, a more beautiful woman...

Paul said that greed comes from dissatisfaction. A contented heart is a good way to resist greed.

Only those who are content know how to live a simple life. What does it mean to be simple? There is no definite standard here because everyone's needs are different and difficult to compare. Simplicity is not only an outward lifestyle, but more importantly, it is a state of mind.

How to distinguish between greed and simplicity? Ask yourself, is what you desire really what you need? Or is it okay not to have it? For example, you already have a lot of books at home, most of which you have not yet read. But now you see a good book and want to buy it. Is this really what you need, or do you just want to own it? If it is not for need, it is out of greed; if you buy it only when you need it, it is contentment. A contented person does not have more than he needs.

## 2. Learn to be content

### a. Resist the urge to buy cheap goods

In this competitive society, we often encounter big discounts and big sales in order to stimulate consumption. For example, if a skirt originally costs one thousand dollars, but is now discounted to only three hundred, it will stimulate your impulse to buy it. But in your closet, there are also similar skirts that you have no real need for, and buying a new one is only for the purpose of satisfying your greedy desires.

Buying something just because it is cheap or you like it is not in line with the principles of the Bible. If you do not really need it, you must firmly reject this desire. When you refuse to buy cheap goods, you are also rejecting the power of greed and crucifying this beast inside.

**b. Know how to say "enough" to yourself**

What is enough?

There is no objective measurement for enough. It is a mindset of being grateful and content with what you have.

To be honest, in Hong Kong, people's basic needs in life are sufficient. Do you agree? In this world, there are many people who do not even have basic food and clothing, and one-third still live in hunger. These are the people who are truly lacking. The Bible says, "Having food and clothing, we shall be content with that." Our needs for food, clothing, shelter and transportation are basically sufficient.

A contented person focuses on what he has and is grateful for what he possesses. A greedy person focuses on things he does not have, which makes him resentful in his heart, and does not even know how to cherish what he has.

**c. Principle of practical economy**

Always ask yourself: Why do you want to buy? What needs are met? Is it okay not to buy it?

If I really need it, can I buy the cheapest one? Why should you choose the more expensive one? Is there really a need for this?

If you can really pass the above two checks, it will be in line with the principles of practical economy.

The simpler you live, the easier it will be and the freer you will be, because you can let go of the desire to show off to others or your own desires. Overcoming greed is a great liberation.