

**THEME:** SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – ENVY

**TOPIC:** HOW TO BREAK FREE FROM ENVY.

**TEXT:** 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4; GALATIANS 5:26; PROVERBS 14:30; JAMES 3:14-16; ECCLESIASTES 4:4; 1 PETER 2:1-2; EXODUS 20:17; JOB 5:2

## INTRODUCTION

A simple definition of *envy* is “to want what belongs to someone else.” A more thorough description of *envy* is “a resentful, dissatisfied longing for another’s possessions, position, fortune, achievements, or success.” Today we will be concluding our study and understanding of ‘Envy’ as a deadly passion. We will be looking at some of “the Devastating Power of Envy” and discussing the key points of “How to Break Free from Envy”.

## WHAT ARE THE DEVASTATING POWER OF ENVY?

*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

***Galatians 5:19-21***

1. Envy is so controlling it drove Saul crazy, took him off his throne, it painted an image of David so strong and powerful. It caused King Saul to fantasise; but David, having been ordained in private and having defeated Goliath in public, would very soon take over the throne.
2. His envy pushed him into the wilderness looking for the young man.
3. Envy is so powerful that once people engage in it or when it grips their heart only God can set them free. ***Proverbs 27:4***
4. Envy causes internal turmoil. It eats up like something toxic and poisonous.
5. When a person walks in envy part of the consequence is something so harmful and enduring.
6. Envy causes damage and destroys the bridge that connects people, creates an atmosphere of suspicion, it eats up the person who walks in it. It causes them to manifest more of the work of the flesh, it exposes them to a life that is void of being crucified with Christ. ***Galatians 5:19-21.***
7. Every manifestation of carnality accompanies envy. Once it is uncontrolled the consequence and impact is devastating.

## HOW TO BREAK FREE FROM ENVY

1. Breaking free begins with accepting whom God says you are. ***Ephesians 1:6.***
2. It becomes stronger by you refusing to use other people as the barometer to measure what kind of a failure or success you are, and seeing in everything you do the opportunity to sign off with excellence. ***2 Corinthians 10:12.***
3. Envy overcame Saul. You can overcome envy by recognising that once God is with you, who is against you and who has a greater gift than you matters little. ***1 Samuel 18:12.***
4. Recognise the fact that your life is a masterpiece. No one has ever been created to look like you or can ever be. This makes you unique and a masterpiece.
5. You are gifted and blessed. You were ordained to have dominion. ***Genesis 1:28.***

6. Recognise the need to redevelop a heart that is positive in its outlook, confident in its achievement and full of faith in its focus towards God. ***Proverbs 14:34.***

## CONCLUSION

Breaking free from the hold of 'Envy' is possible however, the sins of the flesh must be brought to the altar and nailed to it ***Romans 13:13.*** Now that we are in Christ, we have been crucified with Him. That crucified flesh must not be allowed to resurrect. Once we are able to put our body under subjection, we are able to stay away from envy according to ***Galatians 5:24-26.***

We ought to be mindful of those very acts that manifest envy in our lives as we have been made to understand, it must be avoided. ***Ephesians 4:29-31.***