

Open The Light

*For God, who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6*

*Character Building
In A Relationship with God*

*He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out
of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:38*

Study 17

Time in getting to know God and His love for you is so precious. Please, do not rush through the study. With prayer, do as much as you can each day, picking up where you ended the day before.

Remember to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in Jesus Holy name as you start this study. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and mind so that you may hear and understand His words and live in them. Don't rush through the study, and pray for God to teach you, His will. Pray for the blessing of remembrance of His Word in a time of need and that you may meditate upon them throughout your days. Pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Walking in God's Law

The 10th Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. [Exodus 20:17](#).

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's." {PP 309.4}

The tenth commandment strikes at the very root of all sins, prohibiting the selfish desire, from which springs the sinful act. He who in obedience to God's law refrains from indulging even a sinful desire for that which belongs to another will not be guilty of an act of wrong toward his fellow creatures. EGW

Covet ... A primitive root; to *delight* in: - beauty, greatly beloved, covet, delectable thing, (X great) delight, desire, goodly, lust, (be) pleasant (thing), precious (thing).

Verb

-Covets, -coveting, -coveted (transitive)

To wish, long, or crave for (something, esp the property of another person)

Derived Forms

- Covetable adjective

- Coveter noun

Synonyms

= long for, desire, fancy, envy, crave, aspire to, yearn for, thirst for, begrudge, hanker after, lust after, set your heart on, have your eye on, would give your eyeteeth for

(References from the Strong's Concordance, Collins online Dictionary)

The bold underlined synonyms for the word covet are very much in line with the biblical language.

Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, **set not your heart upon them**. [Psalms 62:10](#).

What shall we say then? is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known **lust**, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. [Romans 7:7](#).

And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and **that it was pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree to be **desired** to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. [Genesis 3:6](#).

The only thing we should desire or set our heart on is God the Father, Jesus his son – our Saviour, the Holy Spirit, and all heavenly things in Jesus.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it

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with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and **not to covetousness**. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. [Psalms 119:33-37](#).

What did Jesus say regarding this subject? Read [Luke 12:15-21](#).

Continue reading [Luke 12](#) from verse 22 to 34. What shall we seek after, instead of the things of this world?

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before

men; but **God knoweth your hearts**: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. [Luke 16:10-15](#).

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, **nor covetous**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: **but** ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are **justified in the name of the Lord Jesus**, and **by the Spirit of our God**. [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#).

REMEMBER whenever you finish your study time, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through the day, and remember to pray for others and then your needs, asking these things in the Name of Jesus.

REMEMBER before opening God's word, say prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Name of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Read [Colossians 3:1-17](#), [Philippians 3:13-16](#), [20-21](#) as these verses show where covetousness comes out of, and where our heart should be.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh**, and **the lust of the eyes**, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, **and the lust thereof**: **but** he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. [1 John 2:15-17](#).

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. [John 12:25](#).

Covetousness starts with appetite and eyes, desiring for food, and things of this world. When we are God's children we long for heavenly things. The things of this world lose their appeal. The attraction, interest and pleasures of worldly things fade from the heart. This does not mean we can't enjoy life; it means that God is your life. Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for

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to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” [John 10:10](#). [When Jesus comes to take us Home to Heaven, we will have life “more abundantly.”](#) However, we can have that in this world. Let Jesus come into your life, into your heart, and you will know of this abundant life in Him as He said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” “... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” [John 14:23](#).

He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. [Proverbs 4:4](#).

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. [Galatians 2:20](#).

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. [Proverbs 7:1-3](#).

[Read Proverbs 4:18-27. Then answer the following questions.](#)

[Where are the issues of life?](#)

And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. [Ezekiel 33:31](#).

[For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. Hebrews 13:9.](#)

[In the reading of Proverbs 4:18-27, what lessons can we learn regarding covetousness in keeping as from it? See verses 20-24. What instructions are given so we don't stray? See 25-27](#)

[Job made a covenant regarding his eyes knowing where it can lead. “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” Job 31:1. Lust of the eyes can lead you into much evil, after all was it not the eyes that failed Eve in the Garden of Eden? “And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and **that it was pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree to be **desired** to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Genesis 3:6.](#)

My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought

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to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. [Proverbs 6:20-25](#).

When our hearts are set for things of this world, we are never satisfied with the things we have, ever longing for more. The Bible says “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?” [Ecclesiastes 5:10-11](#).

All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled. [Ecclesiastes 6:7](#).

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. [Hebrews 13:5](#).

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,** whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. [1 Timothy 6:6-12](#).

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: [2 Peter 2:9](#).

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. [Exodus 20:17](#).

Pray now for the Holy Spirit to guide you that you will always remember “... whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. [Colossians 3:17](#). be true like our Saviour “Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:” [Luke 24:19](#). Pray for God's Guidance through the day “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” [1 Peter 5:7-8](#). and remember to pray for others, for they need God's guidance too; Asking these things in the Name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

REMEMBER before opening God's word, say prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Name of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Ending the Ten Commandments studies

Such were the sacred precepts of the Decalogue, spoken amid thunder and flame, and with a wonderful display of the power and majesty of the great Lawgiver. God accompanied the proclamation of His law with exhibitions of His power and glory, that His people might never forget the scene, and that they might be impressed with profound veneration for the Author of the law, the Creator of heaven and earth. He would also show to all men the sacredness, the importance, and the permanence of His law. {PP 309.6} EGW

The Ten Commandments stand, not just for times past but for today, tomorrow, and forever and ever. “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him”. [Ecclesiastes 3:14](#).

Offend in one point!

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a

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transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. [James 2:10-12](#).

What is James's message here?

If anyone commits adultery they have coveted and stolen that which is not theirs. They have put their lust first, not God, making lust their god. They must lie to cover up their sins and cannot rest on the Sabbath, as their sin is ever before them making the day unholy. "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction." [Micah 2:10](#). They take God's name in vain and dishonor their parents. Killing the relationship with their husband or wife, even at times family and friends and the purity that God desires us to have in life. This is just an example of what sin does when we break one commandment.

Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. [Hosea 4:1-2](#).

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But

he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. [James 4:1-10](#).

Having faithfulness in that which is least is so important, because "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. [Luke 16:10](#).

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. [Hebrews 12:2](#). And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. [John 3:14-21](#).

Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not

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to be compared to it. I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. [Proverbs 8:6-17](#).

God and thy neighbour

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. [Matthew 22:37-40](#).

Read

[Leviticus chapter 19](#).

[Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#).

[1 Kings 2:3-4](#).

[Matthew 7:12-14](#).

[Mark 12:29-31](#).

[1 Timothy 1:5](#).

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. [Proverbs 30:5-6](#).

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. [John 14:21-24](#).

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts. [Jeremiah 15:16](#).

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: [Isaiah 46:9](#).

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[Read Romans chapter 7 and 8](#).

But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; [1 Timothy 1:8](#).

[Read 1 Timothy 1:5-17](#).

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. [Isaiah 30:21](#).

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. ... [Jeremiah 6:16](#).

The apostle Paul clearly presents the relation between faith and the law under the new covenant. He says: "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." "For what the law

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could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh"--it could not justify man, because in his sinful nature he could not keep the law--"God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 5:1; 3:31; 8:3, 4. {PP 373.1}

God's work is the same in all time, although there are different degrees of development and different manifestations of His power, to meet the wants of men in the different ages. Beginning with the first gospel promise, and coming down through the patriarchal and Jewish ages, and even to the present time, there has been a gradual unfolding of the purposes of God in the plan of redemption. The Saviour typified in the rites and ceremonies of the Jewish law is the very same that is revealed in the gospel. The clouds that enveloped His divine form have rolled back; the mists and shades have disappeared; and Jesus, the world's Redeemer, stands revealed. He who proclaimed the law from Sinai, and delivered to Moses the precepts of the ritual law, is the same that spoke the Sermon on the Mount. The great principles of love to God, which He set forth as the foundation of the law and the prophets, are only a reiteration of what He had spoken through Moses to the Hebrew people: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deuteronomy 6:4, 5. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Leviticus 19:18. The teacher is the same in both dispensations. God's claims are the same. The principles of His government are the same. For all proceed from Him "with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. {PP 373.2} EGW

The way of the LORD is Just

Read Ezekiel 18:21-32

Can you see that God has left the way open for all sinners to return to Him?

Do you think we must make that choice for ourselves to turn from our sins?

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. [John 3:18](#).

God's Heart toward us

Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? [Ezekiel 18:23](#).

O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever! [Deuteronomy 5:29](#).

O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end! [Deuteronomy 32:29](#).

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, **I have no pleasure** in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: **turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?** Ezekiel 33:11. For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye. [Ezekiel 18:32](#).

Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me. Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; **I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments!** then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: [Isaiah 48:16-18](#).

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This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. **It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.** They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope. He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach. For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. **For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.** To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth, To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High, To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not. Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not? Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good? Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? **Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.** [Lamentations 3:21-41.](#)

Remember

... as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; **but** that the world through him might be saved. [John 3:14-17.](#)

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: [1 Peter 1:19.](#)

Pray now for the Holy Spirit to guide you that you will always remember
“... whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. [Colossians 3:17.](#) *be true like*

our Saviour “Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:” [Luke 24:19.](#) *Pray for God's Guidance through the day* “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” [1 Peter 5:7-8.](#) *and remember to pray for others for they need God's guidance too; Asking these things in the Name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour.* Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. [1 Timothy 1:17.](#)