

## THE SPIRIT OF GREED

The spirit of greed represents an inner force or mindset driven by appetite desire for wealth, power, control, status, possessions, even attention. It's often depicted as a corrupting energy that blinds people to gratitude, empathy, and balance. A constant yearning for more that is never satisfied.

Greed is characterized by never being satisfied with what one has and being unhappy when others gain something. Spiritually, it's often viewed as a negative force that can lead to destructive behaviour, a lack of love for others, and the prioritization of material possessions over spiritual wealth. It can lead to negative personal and social consequences, including stress, anxiety, relationship problems, and a lack of life satisfaction.

In Christianity greed personifies one of the Seven Deadly Sins, (things that God hates). They are considered deadly or capital. There are examples of lists of sins in the Bible.,

### **In the Old Testament, Prov 6:16-19: The things that God hates**

1. -Haughty eyes,
2. -A lying tongue,
3. -Hands that shed innocent blood,
4. -A heart that devises wicked schemes,
5. -Feet that are quick to rush into evil,
6. -A false witness who pours out lies,
7. -A person who stirs up conflict in the community"

### **In the New Testament, Gal 5:19-21: The acts of the flesh:**

1. -Sexual immorality,
2. -Impurity and debauchery;
3. -Idolatry and witchcraft;
4. -Hatred,
5. -Discord,
6. -Jealousy,
7. -Uncontrollable rage

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRIT OF GREED

1. -Excessive control: Often identified by making excuses for the accumulation of possessions.
2. -Lack of contentment: Feeling unhappy when others receive, pleased only with self.
3. -Prioritizing material goods: Accumulating wealth for its own sake, at the expense of others.
4. -Destructive impact: Affect all relationships, it is all about self.

In the **country**, it can contribute to economic inequality, underfunding essential services environmental damage and can lead to harmful actions (protests, picketing etc). Greed has been identified as a driver for wars, fraud, conflicts, misuse of state resources and political instability and apathy in the country.

***“Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others, it is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed”*** Mwai Kibaki Kenya Ex- president.

