

Strife – the snare of the Enemy – 2

I believe that in these last days the enemy will use strife to keep us from walking in the victorious (Kingdom) life God has planned for us as well as cause offenses between believers.

The Devil is called “The accuser of the brethren”
– Revelation 12:10

The Devil will use circumstances to kindle strife which cause us to think and say things we should not causing unresolved offenses.

These offenses will cause us to leave relationships God has put in our lives as well as kindle new relationships that are only gained because we left the place God had for us.

God does move us in or out of relationships from time to time but we should always be working towards resolving conflicts. Whenever strife is a major factor in a separation it is a doorway for sin and ultimately a place where the enemy could gain a stronghold in our life.

When there is a Spirit of offense operating it will cause us to betray one another. We might have had a strong relationship with someone but now there is something trying to separate us. The seed of separation gets in when we get our eyes off Jesus and start to look at the wrong things.

Matthew 24:10

10 And then many will be **offended**, will betray one another, and will hate one another. NKJV

- Offend – “*skandalizo*” – to set a trap to ensnare something
- This is where we get the word, scandal

Water from the Rock – 1st time

Exodus 17:1-6 – Strike

- The chastisement for our peace was upon Him
– **Isaiah 53:5, Isaiah 26:3**

Water from the Rock – 2nd time

Numbers 20:2-12 – Speak

The water was a foreshadowing of the Holy Spirit that the Lord promised to all who believe – **John 7:37-39**

The rock was a model of Christ, who had to be struck (crucified) – **Isaiah 53**, before the Spirit could be given.

But after His death one only needed to ask to receive the Spirit. – Living Waters

When we face a situation where strife is trying to get in do I trust that the Lord’s sacrifice is enough? Do I believe that through the Holy Spirit I can now speak life into my situation?

Matthew 5:21-26

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. NKJV

- When you live a life full of strife it will affect every area of your life
- It will affect your emotional and spiritual well being
- It will affect your physical well being
- It will affect your finances – Are you reaping?
- It will cause you to make emotional decisions
- It will cause you to make decisions that are contrary to the will of God for your life

Proverbs 17:1

1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness,
Than a house full of feasting with strife. NKJV

Strife will cause division, separation and offense
It can also lead to unwanted stress in your life
Too much stress can lead to a condition called distress

Many times we allow our words to get the best of us and
they kindle strife. – Death and life – **Proverbs 18:21**

Proverbs 16:28

28 A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates
the best of friends. NKJV

Many times we discuss private matters as though no one is
listening – God is!

God doesn't only notice the words we speak but the tone
and the condition of our heart

Israel rebelling (murmuring) in the wilderness

Deuteronomy 1:26-27 NKJV

26 "Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against
the command of the LORD your God; 27 and you
complained in your tents, and said, 'Because the LORD
hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to
deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

Moses led Israel out of Egypt where they were slaves
Even though they were free they still had a *slave mentality*

Even though they had no life of their own they had a soul
tie to the government housing and food program
– old nature, Carnal living – **1 Corinthians 3:1-3**

They had never had to use their faith to exist

To inherit the Promised Land we must live by faith
When we complain about our situation we are not using
faith – instead we create an atmosphere of strife

Before too long Israel's complaints began filtering through
the camp

Exodus 16:3

3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died **by the hand of the LORD** in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." NKJV

Numbers 11:4-6

4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" NKJV

Numbers 21:5

5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." NKJV

When the people retired to their tents for the evening they would Murmur

The word murmur is found 10 times in the KJV of the Old Testament

8 times refer to Israel's complaining in the wilderness

2 words are used for murmur

Luwn – “to stop or stay overnight” (in a bad sense)

It really means to be stuck in a bad attitude over one thing or place

Ragan – “to grumble in a sense of rebellion”

We may begin with a few negative words but then that leads to continual complaining which leads to a rebellious, unteachable spirit

Deuteronomy 1:27

27 and you **complained** in your tents, and said, 'Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. NKJV

- Murmured (KJV) “to grumble in a sense of rebellion”

Deuteronomy 1:34

34 "And the LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, NKJV

- When believers speak evil of other believers the Lord notices
- Because of their complaining they couldn't enter the Promised Land

Miriam struck with leprosy

Numbers 12:1-2, 9-10

1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.

9 So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. 10 **And when the cloud departed** from above the tabernacle, suddenly **Miriam became leprous**, as white as snow. NKJV

- Moses prays for her and she is healed
- We should not speak against the anointed of God

Deuteronomy 1:34, 5:28 KJV

Says that the Lord heard "the voice of your words"

It means to be loud or to thunder – God not only hears the words you speak but the tone

Dr. Masaru Emoto – Japanese researcher

"The effects of words on water" – The Judas Goat (Perry Stone) – Page 186

Dr. Singh – Dept. of Botany in India – impact of words on plants – The Judas Goat (Perry Stone) – Page 189

2 Corinthians 4:13

13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, NKJV

- What does faith say? – **Romans 10:6-13**

Matthew 21:18-19

18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. NKJV

- What did Abraham find (say)? – Romans 4:17-21

If plants, water and trees can have words of blessing or cursing spoken over them having a positive or negative affect, what about human beings?

It has been proven that stress, coming from both physical and especially emotional sources, affects the hormone cortisol. Raised levels because of stress can cause immune cells to disappear from the blood.

James 3:9-10

9 With it (*the tongue*) we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. NKJV

James 3:14-16

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. NKJV