

Partners In Courage, February 2014

OVERCOME STRIFE & BE PURE

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: I was enjoying the praise and worship just before I was to speak when a divine spark of revelation came into me. God communicates to us in many ways. What this spark of spiritual light illuminated is just as important as if I had been taken to heaven in a vision.

HERE IS THE REVELATION: *Strife is a form of impurity.* If you want to be blameless and pure—you need to become a person who detests strife and refuses to participate in it, as much as it depends upon you.

1. STRIFE IS A FORM OF IMPURITY

Philippians 2:14-16 Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

For many years I've been quoting this verse when I preach, telling the people that complaining takes them immediately out of faith and causes them to miss the first step of faith. Because of what God has shown me over the years on complaining, I've purposed in my heart to be a man who never complains. I problem solve, but I want to completely avoid grumbling, griping, and moaning in self-pity.

However, I didn't pay much attention to the part of the verse that says not to argue—so that we could become blameless and pure. The spark of divine revelation that came to me was like someone ringing a bell. Suddenly, I knew that strife was a form of impurity, just as grumbling and griping is impure. *Typically, few if any of us would think of arguing as a form of impurity.* How did we miss this? And why is this important?

It is important because if we open a door for the Holy Spirit into our lives by walking in new levels of purity the power, presence and communication of God will greatly increase in our lives. I became aware of the need for increased purity after reading a prophetic vision given to Annie Schisler. Here is that vision:

The Lord showed Annie Schisler that a black and terrible storm of evil and persecution would come upon the world, but that as it pursued its course, a new wave of purest light-force was being prepared and that it would explode in great suddenness in both force and extension. God showed her what looked like raking arms, which gathered together in ever-increasing scale a countless multitude of souls for Him. They were brought to God through elect ones who were walking above the storm. It worked its fury underneath their feet. These who walked above the storm had a very intimate relationship with God, with great flowings of love—like mighty fires and strong currents.

God told Annie that the light would be spread abroad in places where it had never been before, and where darkness had reigned until this wave of light arrived. These places were many, and they were awaiting the coming forth of this light.

This explosion of light and world evangelism would be brought forth by His elect ones who were walking above the storm. "Each one of them individually had to open, as it were, a door within himself and come into a still higher place of communication with Jesus, which would open their inner doors to the bringing forth of this light-force in great power. As they opened these doors, that great wave of light would pass through them and begin to fulfill its purposes and works upon the earth."

"He told me that these sons who are to bring in this new wave must be very purified. This purification is of great importance, not only for themselves, but also for those new ones who are to be brought in. *The high, full purification of these elect ones is the opening of the doors within them which shall rebound in great light-force unto those thousands who are still in darkness.*" (Page 54-55, Book 4 of I SAW THE LORD)

On a trip to Newark, NJ I forgot my computer, so for three days I read books and prayed all day. I read most of Annie's large book, I SAW THE LORD. This particular vision intrigued me. *I began to pray regularly for the Lord to show me how to practically open a door within myself for greater communication with the Spirit. I kept asking God, "Show me practical ways to increase in purity."*

**** That's why the spark of revelation jolted me so much. It was a spiritual "aha" moment, as if impurity had been hiding in my life in a form I wasn't aware of. I've tried to avoid strife because the Bible says to do so. But sometimes we don't obey as fully as possible or cooperate with God as fully as possible because He tells us something to do and we only try to do it because it's "right." It helps us to more fully obey when we know that it's not only the *right* thing to do to, but it's a *wise* thing to do, a spiritual strategy that helps us tap into the power, provision, protection and presence of God!

So avoiding arguing is not just the RIGHT thing to do. IT'S A WISE THING TO DO. It's a strategy of walking in a new level of purity.

2. IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO AND IT TAKES TWO TO ARGUE.

No dancer, however athletic, trim and nimble can do the "tango" alone. Similarly, no one can really "argue" alone. We talk about arguing with ourselves, but that's not really arguing. It takes two people to argue. Now if you'd like to enter into a new level of communication with God and enter into a new anointing of power for spiritual fruitfulness, you'll be delighted to know that you can PRACTICALLY do something to increase in purity. You can just refuse to "dance" when "strife" is demanding a dance partner.

In 1981 I ministered in Maui, Hawaii and helped a large church start a bus ministry. The associate pastor there took us to one of the dinner theaters where we had a great meal and watched a Hawaiian stage show. Part of the show was beautiful young ladies doing their very sensuous dance in grass skirts. The most beautiful one came down to my table and wanted me to come up on stage and "dance" with her. I was terrified! I refused and although she tried about three times to get me up on stage I did not go. She got the associate pastor to go up on stage, and he was a good sport and danced with her.

My point is this: Sometimes "strife" will ask you to "dance" and will be very appealing and insistent. But no one can MAKE you dance with strife if you really don't want to. Strife will then treat you as if you are a coward, perhaps even mock you that you will not participate, but eventually strife will just move on to find someone else to fight with and argue with.

Strife has its own form of sensuous appeal. It appeals to our "flesh" to defend ourselves, insult others back even more forcefully, and be "right"—winning an argument while trampling another person's dignity under our feet. **Galatians 5:19-21 KJV** **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Notice the company that "strife" keeps. Strife is right at home with murder, drunkenness, idolatry, witchcraft and sexual immorality of all kinds.

Here's the same verse in the NIV. **Galatians 5:19-21** **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.**

Here, strife is translated as "discord." Some people just WANT to be disagreeable. They will pull you into the dance of sensuous strife if you let them. But you have a choice to participate in strife, or not. *And that willful choice to NOT participate in strife will open your life to a new level of purity.* The purity will open your life to new communication with God which results in His power, provision and protection.

3. STRIFE BRINGS MANY VERY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES.

A. If you live in strife your immune system will be weakened and you'll be more prone to sickness.

Proverbs 14:30 **A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.** If your very bones are rotting because of strife, is it any wonder that when you argue and get angry you “feel rotten”?

B. Strife will hinder your digestion and thus weaken your health.

Proverbs 17:1 **Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.**

**** Once in Midland, Texas a young woman said to me through her tears, “Pray for me. My heart is out of rhythm and my doctors think I have Crone’s disease.” I had her put her hand over her heart and put my hand on top of hers. The anointing I felt burning in my hand would not go into her. I told her to put her hand on her intestines and I put my hand on top of hers. The anointing in my hand would not go into her intestines. Then I put my hand on her head and anointing flowed down my arm and into her. It was a form of the Word of Knowledge, a spiritual gift, letting me know the source of her problems. I was led to say, “Is someone verbally abusing you?” She burst out in tears. Her husband was very verbally abusive and the strife that they were living in was literally inflaming her intestines. But to solve the problem didn’t require healing of her intestines, but rather—anointing on her mind so that she could stop reacting to provocation in a way that only increased strife. The next night she testified for twenty minutes that God had helped her get alone with her unsaved husband that day.

C. We are vulnerable to spiritual attacks by Satan when we are in strife.

**** I once had a book by a lady from Sri Lanka. It was a self-published book, and I lost it in an airport. I don’t think there is any way to get another copy of it. It’s probably been out of print for years. But I will always remember that the author, a lady with the last name Wickramaratne, said how “charmners” were always trying to kill her with witchcraft. The death curses never hurt her until she got into fits of anger. These occultists buried a death charm under her doorstep. One day she was angry with the orphan girls in a dormitory she was overseeing. A government inspector was coming and the girls had the place in a mess. She yelled and raged at the girls in a full-blown temper fit and exited the dormitory via the doorstep where the death charm was secretly buried. As soon as her foot hit the step she was hit with a spirit of infirmity. All her organs began to shut down. She nearly died, for no one could break the curse until she repented of her temper fit. Then the curse was broken and healing occurred.

This same thing happened to her twice. Each time she nearly died from the effects of witchcraft and both times she received healing and deliverance when she repented of her temper outbursts. An occultist explained to her that if she was right with her God and he sent the demons they only returned. If she was not right with her God, and he didn’t send the demons that day, then she would not be hurt. But he warned her that someday, he would send demons at the same time she was not right with her God—and he would get her! Ephesians 4:26-27 **“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.** You see, a spirit of infirmity can get a “foothold” on your body if you walk in strife and refuse to get over your anger in a timely fashion.

D. We can literally defeat ourselves without any help from the devil if we live in strife.

Galatians 5:15 **If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.** If you “bite” someone verbally, most people will “bite” you back. If you bite them back they will almost certainly “bite” you again. *Better to be bitten just once than twice.* By this I mean, if they “bite” you—DON’T bite them back. Bless them instead. That way, you’ll only be bitten once and you’ll be able to recover fairly quickly. 1 Corinthians. 4:12-13 **We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.**

E. Prayers are hindered when we are in strife.

1Peter 3:7 **Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.**

Marital strife will hinder your prayers. But remember, it takes TWO to be in strife. So even if your mate is provoking you, don’t dance the dance of strife. Sit it out. So even if your marital partner is speaking things in a spirit of strife it will not hinder your own prayers as long as you do not participate. However, it *would* hinder your agreement in prayer.

Isaiah 58:4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and *strife*, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

That's five negative consequences of living in strife, and I suppose the list of negative consequences would go on and on, almost endlessly. But you get the point. STRIFE, if you participate in it, will HARM YOU AND ROB YOU!

4. THERE IS A HIDING PLACE FROM STRIFE.

Psalm 31:20 KJV Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Psalm 31:20 NIV In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues.

**** When I was a pastor in Omaha, Nebraska I went through a major church split. I was in the prayer room one morning and I read this verse. I said, "Oh God, that's what I need. I need to be hidden away in your secret pavilion from the strife of tongues." God spoke to me, "I will hide you there away from strife if you stay out of it."

I realized, "I can't be hidden away from strife if I'm right in the middle of it, slinging verbal mud right back at my accusers." *We can't be in strife and be hidden from it.*

Now ask yourself, "Would I rather be hidden away in God's presence from the strife of tongues or would I rather be participating in it?"

You can't be hidden from it if you are participating in it!. Repeat that to yourself! I can't be hidden from the strife of tongues if I'm participating in it."

There really is a hiding place from strife. It's unseen, but it exists in the spirit-realm. Its affect can be seen, however. The tranquil look of peace on your face will testify that you are living in the secret place, hidden from participation in the strife of tongues. It's also portable. It will follow you, wherever you go. You are hidden there in the Spirit, but as you move about on the earth this peace, this presence of God will surround you as if you are in a bubble of peace.

Would you rather be hidden from strife or participate in it? Would you rather indulge the flesh and gratify the fleshly desire to verbally file someone or would you rather refuse to come out of your secret place to fight?

5. KEEP YOUR SPIRITUAL DIGNITY

Proverbs 20:3 It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

**** When Jesus was on trial he was being falsely accused, slandered, and insulted. He had no kingly crown, no kingly throne, no kingly army around him to guard him. Yet when he told the Roman Governor Pilate that he was, indeed, a king, Pilate believed him. Why? Because of His kingly dignity. He wore it. He did not give it away. While others reviled Him he just wore that dignity.

John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

John 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. ¶ Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 18:38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

The best proof that you are of royal birth, that you are of spiritual nobility, is to wear your spiritual dignity and not lower yourself to grapple with someone in a verbal mud wrestling contest! Remember, no one can take your spiritual dignity away from you, no matter how much they accuse you, no matter how they slander or insult you. You would have to GIVE your spiritual dignity away by lowering yourself to angry retorts and even more clever insults.

It's really kind of fun to just wear your dignity while others try in vain to get you to take it off and fight with them. It's certainly feels better to wear your spiritual dignity. The Bible calls this your GLORY.

Proverbs 19:11KJV **The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.**

Proverbs 19:11 **A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.**

Notice, whoever is speaking offensively to you cannot take your glory, no matter what they say. You can WEAR your spiritual dignity, your glory, by being patient, holding back anger, and merely overlooking an offense.

Of Jesus, the Holy Spirit said, "He will not quarrel. He will not yell in anger. He will be gentle. I will delight in Him and put My Spirit on Him."

Matthew 12:18-21 **"Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope."** (Matthew was quoting Isaiah 42:1-5).

Perhaps someone would aspire to have an international ministry, to affect nations, to lead justice to victory in various righteous causes. If you are that person, then don't quarrel. Don't yell! Don't be harsh!

6. STAYING OUT OF STRIFE IS PART OF ANOTHER SPIRITUAL STRATEGY.

I am appalled at what I see happening to America. Constitutional government is being destroyed. Great darkness, poverty, bloodshed and chaos are coming! I've been preaching six spiritual strategies God gave me so that I could tap into God's power, provision and protection in wild and crazy times. However, there are more strategies than six!

Here are the six strategies from my sermon, WORRY KILLERS.

1. Choose worship instead of worry. Magnify God until you expect good things from Him.
2. Get your spiritual roots down. Seek God like a plant seeks water. Go deep.
3. Shop for God in unselfish prayer so that you qualify for the prayer bonus and have things added to you that you did not ask for.
4. Be as responsible as you can be but when that is not enough, know that your Father will pick up the rest of the tab with true miracles. Miracles are given by God to His people when our level of responsibility has been full, but is still not enough. But God will not do miracles for the irresponsible people.
5. Get out of all sin and get into righteousness. Put off sin and put on the fine linen of righteous acts that God gives to us to wear. The Bride of Christ must not just get out of sin, but must dress up for the wedding of the Lamb by putting on the righteous acts of good deeds. Revelation 19:8 **Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)**
6. Hack away at distractions that rob us of time with God. Make time for God. Find a way. Then delight in spending time with Him and you'll abide in the Shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91).

Last month I dealt with a seventh strategy.

7. Fill others with positive emotions through kind words, appreciation and loving deeds. As you fill others, you fill yourself with positive emotions which gives you strength to overcome. Prov. 11:17 **A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself. Proverbs 11:25** **A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.**

If you give a spoonful of encouragement out of your bucket of positive emotions, God will add two spoonfuls to your bucket—adding the one back, and adding one to it. If you use a dipper to take from your encouragement and give to others, God will use that same dipper to give back to you—one dipper full to replace what you gave away, and another one to be added to it. Luke 6:38 **Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."** *Therefore, a seventh spiritual strategy is to use a big measure of encouragement,*

compliments, and kind words as you fill the emotional buckets of others with positive emotions.

This will not deplete you. God will use the exact measure you use to give back what you gave and add to it. If you are filled with positive emotions you can get through anything!

7. AN EIGHTH SPIRITUAL STRATEGY THAT WILL ENABLE US TO GET THROUGH TREACHUROUS TIMES IS TO BE IN AGREEMENT, RATHER THAN STRIFE.

Just as there are very negative consequences for living in strife, there are very many positive consequences and benefits to being in agreement and harmony. So when the Bible tells us to agree, to be of one mind, to live in harmony—it's not just the *right* thing to do. It's a *wise* thing to do. It brings power, anointing, light, and great answers to prayer!

With this in mind, let's look at just how much the prophets, Jesus and the apostles encourage us to avoid strife and live in the opposite of strife—in unity, harmony, peace, and agreement.

Psalm 133:1-3 How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Unity, rather than strife, brings the anointing of God and the blessing of God. Therefore, it's worth it to work for unity, agreement, understanding and harmony.

Matthew 18:19-20 “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

**** Coming together doesn't mean just getting our bodies together in the same room. It means coming into agreement. This brings dynamic answers to prayer and the very presence of God into our midst!

Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

1Corinthians 1:10 So that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

2Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Phil. 4:2-3 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. (What applies to the head of a household applies to the other members of a household. We could also say, “Wives, love your husbands and do not be harsh with them.” *Harsh words are a form of impurity!* Paul also wrote, “**You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?**” (1 Corinthians 3:3). Again, strife is a form of impurity. It's worldly.

2Timothy 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

1Peter. 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

To the Roman Christians, who were going through and would go through great and terrible persecutions and trials, Paul wrote: “**Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good**” (Romans 12:16-21).

In Paul's writings we see him urging us to avoid things that cause strife: feelings of superiority, conceit—looking down on others, repaying evil for evil. He urges them to do what would tend toward agreement and harmony—Do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone. Don't take revenge—leave that to God. Rather, do something good for your enemies. Overcome evil with good.

Paul prayed for a "spirit of unity" to be given to the church in Rome. If we get into strife, we get separated, isolated. **** A pack of wolves will always separate one deer, elk, or buffalo from the herd and then run them down and devour them. Strife is the devil's way to separate us, get us alone, and destroy us.

Romans 15:5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.

Ephesians. 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

You see that Paul was not only urging unity and harmony among believers, he was earnestly PRAYING for it.

Jesus also prayed for this: **"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me"** (John 17:23).

**** If we are unified and not in strife we will be in a kind of purity that brings great light—and that light brings in a harvest of souls, like Annie's prophecy. Jesus said that the world would know God's love if we would be unified. Paul wrote that if we did everything without complaining and arguing we'd become blameless and pure and shine like bright stars against the backdrop of spiritual blackness as we hold out the word of life. **Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing** (Philippians 2:14-15).

8. HERE ARE A FEW PRACTICAL WAYS TO LIVE IN UNITY AND HARMONY.

If you sing harmony, then someone else is singing the melody which is the main element of a song. *You are assisting someone when you sing harmony.* So when you *live* in harmony, you assist others with their vision. They are the most important one, and you help make their mission and ministry beautiful in the way you assist.

**** Annie Schisler's prophetic book, I SAW THE LORD is almost out of print. I've offered my services to oversee getting it into digital form, reprinted and into an E-book and even translated into other languages. I don't have visions like she does, but I can sing harmony with her and her husband's ministry by offering to serve them with the project management skills I have.

I'm basically singing harmony when I do revival/seminars in churches. The pastor is singing the melody. I come in and harmonize—helping make the ministry more beautiful.

This is a way of thinking: "You have a wonderful ministry. How can I help?" What our ministry does for the native pastors in Africa that we help is basically singing harmony with them. They carry the melody by living in hardship and danger. We help make their ministry more beautiful through our prayers and by helping them help the orphans that live with them and by helping them in times of crisis and persecution.

Jesus said, **"Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison"** (Matthew 5:25).

The KJV of this verse says, **"Agree with thine adversary quickly whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison"** (Matthew 5:25).

**** How do you AGREE with someone who is accusing you and taking you to court? *You admit you are wrong!* If you quickly admit when you are wrong you'll stay out of a lot of strife. If you deny your wrong-doing, blame shift it and justify it, you'll promote strife. If you aren't wrong, then don't admit it. But if someone really does have something against you—admit it, fast! Then make it right.

**** We can avoid some strife by just “not going there.” Titus 3:9 **But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.**

**** Remember, you can't win a fight with a skunk. You've got to just go around a skunk. There are arguments that need to be AVOIDED, rather than won.

Some strife can be avoided by NOT telling people how much you know and how much MORE than them you know. Proverbs 12:23 **A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly.** **** I heard of a man who was always correcting his wife. She got frustrated with him and said, “Look, even a broken clock is right once a day.” Her husband foolishly said, “Actually, it's right TWICE a day.” Now, was he WISE or FOOLISH? Actually, he blurted out folly because he made his wife feel small and stupid.

**** Another cause of strife is coveting what others have. James 4:1-3 **What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.**

Don't covet what the rich have. A vast political movement is underway in America to train a generation of youth to covet what the rich have as if they have no right to their riches. This will result not just in strife, but in the kind of bloodshed that was seen in Russia and China when this kind of mentality took over. If the sinners get involved with this, then sinners will be sinners. But coveting what others have is not something Christians should be involved in. We can pray and ask God to help us. We serve a God of abundance. We want to avoid a small poverty mindset that says, “The pie is only so big and others have a bigger piece than me, so I want what they have.”

If others get their wealth through injustice then they will get the judgment of God. I will refuse to covet what they have.

The terrible entitlement mentality that is taking over in our country will end in massive strife and bloodshed and poverty if it grows unchecked by Biblical morality.

1Corinthians. 4:12 **We work hard with our own hands.**

Ephesians 4:28 **He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.**

2Thessalonians. 3:10 **For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”**

“Wealth redistribution” is a political mantra now, as if it's a good thing. But it's a cover up for covetousness. Those who want wealth redistribution want strife and all the turmoil that comes with strife.

James said, “You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet.” (James 4:2) Coveting and killing go together like salt and pepper. I cannot help but feeling in my spirit that our once peaceful country is going to be plunged into great darkness and the kind of covetousness that KILLS.

CONCLUSION: The storm of darkness will surely come upon a world that turns its back on God and His Word. *But a wave of light will come under storm and God will give us a great harvest of souls.* While sinners get ever more sinful in the rot and impurity of their strife and strife filled thinking, the godly must turn from strife and pursue unity and harmony. This is a spiritual strategy that will bring answered prayer, power and anointing. God doesn't give us spiritual strategies just to amuse us. His strategies will help us tap into His power, provision, protection and most of all, His presence—no matter what chaos and collapse is happening in the kingdoms of this world. There is no time to lose implementing any of these strategies. But be strong and of good courage—because God is WITH those who obey Him.

Isaiah 28:6 **He will be a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.**

2Chronicles 16:9 KJV **For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.**

I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU!