USE YOUR AUTHORITY TO



This is the time of year when many people make plans to travel home for Christmas. I know that, for some of you, those plans come with a sick feeling because you know it won't be peaceful. You've heard that Christmas is the best time to be with the ones you love, but it always seems as though you'd enjoy it more if you were on the other side of the world. Standing in line at the checkout counter can be just as bad. Imagine waiting for over an hour just to buy one little gift with your debit card, only to find out from the cashier that they take nothing but cash!

These are situations where Satan tries to stir up strife. If you don't know how to stand up against strife-how to resist and overcome it—then the wonderful things that heaven is trying to get to you will be blocked. "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (James 3:16). Where strife exists, there is permission for Satan to carry out every evil work he desires. Strife is designed to destroy lives; it's designed to destroy relationships; and it's designed to destroy churches. I have seen it operate in all three of those areas. When strife comes into your life and you tolerate it—in other words, you don't resist and actively fight against itit's almost like everything stops right there. It's as if the pause button has been mashed on your blessings; but I have seen strife dealt with and, immediately, God's grace began to flow into people's lives.

Strife can be defined as vigorous or bitter conflict, antagonism, a quarrel, a struggle, or a clash. It's not limited to being in competition or rivalry; it can stem from a simple disagreement. The potential for Satan to bring about confusion, sickness, poverty, and every evil work rests on this foundation of strife. "For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices" (James 3:16, AMPC). There may be strife between you and your parents, your spouse, your children, your siblings, somebody at work, or maybe even a friend. If this is the case, it's time to use your authority to actively fight the good fight of faith where strife is concerned.

The Bible says an angry man stirs up strife. "A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife" (Proverbs 15:18). Anger is an expression of fear. The real issue is not, "What am I angry about?" It's really, "What am I afraid of?" Are you afraid that someone might use or betray you? Are you afraid that you're not valued or appreciated? Are you afraid that what God promised you won't work? Whatever the fear may be, it's up to you to say, "I believe God. I trust Him. Even if it doesn't look like what He promised is going to happen, I still believe God!" When you believe Him, you have nothing to fear and the anger won't come.

Proverbs 13:10 says, "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom." If you ever find yourself angry, in strife, or in contention, realize that pride came first. Only by pride cometh contention; only by pride cometh strife; only by pride cometh anger. Pride is a refusal to submit to God's way and His Word. It's the opposite of humility. You can receive more grace, but you have to humble yourself instead of walking in pride. A humble person submits to God's way and God's Word.

Think, "Maybe I just need to shut my mouth and go on." As long as you keep talking about an issue, you give life to strife; and as long as you give it life it will remain a wall that blocks everything God has designed for you.

Look, if anything costs you your peace it's too expensive. Remember, Jesus has already delivered you from strife. Resisting strife will empower and enable you to celebrate Christmas with joy, to share your love with your family and friends, and to focus on Him (2 Samuel 22:44, AMPC). Amen.

Love

Creflo Nollar

Creflo

It's time for you to see the manifestations of God's glory in your life! I'm offering the free message, 10 Sources of Strife, to help you remember that love is always better than strife.

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