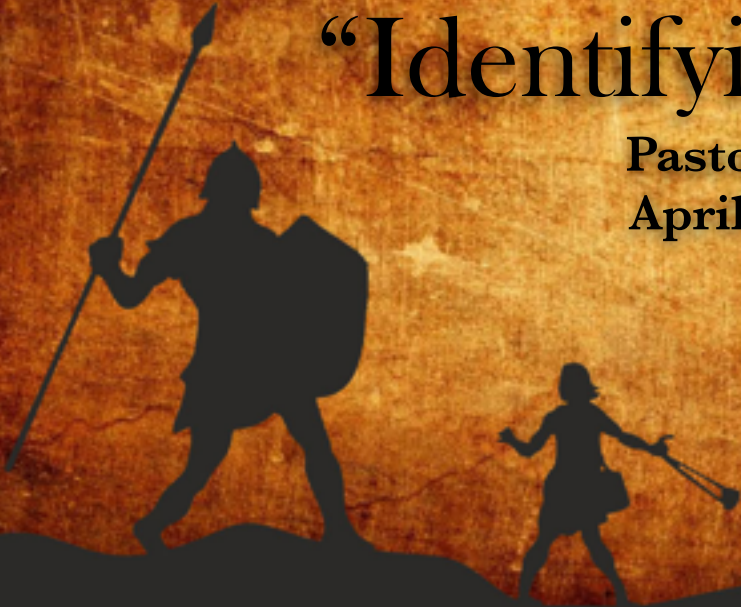


# “Identifying The Giants”

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God's Word is truth and we need to be obedient to it. The world is trying to divide the truth and Gods Word said at the End Of Time the there would be false teachers speaking things that Jesus (The Word) never said. This has created division and people are confused about what is truth. One of the areas that we need to be united and not divided on is creating strife. Strife is division and the tool used to cause that is often our tongue.

Tonight, I want to talk about strife, what is it, why is it so bad and how to get rid of it. Because we need to walk in obedience to Gods word amen? And strife creates allot of problems for us.

## Strife defined:

1. a: bitter sometimes violent conflict or dissension      b: an act of contention: fight , struggle 2: exertion or contention for superiority

**Proverbs 10:12 KJV**

*12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

**Proverbs 10:12 GNT**

*12 Hate stirs up trouble, but love forgives all offenses.*

**Proverbs 15:18 KJV**

*18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*

**Proverbs 15:18 GNT**

*18 Hot tempers cause arguments, but patience brings peace.*

**Proverbs 16:28 KJV**

*28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

**Proverbs 16:28 GNT**

*28 Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and break up friendships.*

**Proverbs 17:14 KJV**

*14 The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.*

**Proverbs 17:14 GNT**

*14 The start of an argument is like the first break in a dam; stop it before it goes any further.*

The wisest man ever, King Solomon said in Proverbs 17:14, if you release water (words) that's under pressure (out of anger or offense) it will get to the point very quickly that you won't be able to control the situation or outcome anymore.

**1 Kings 4:29-31 GNT**

*29 God gave Solomon unusual wisdom and insight, and knowledge too great to be measured.*

*30 Solomon was wiser than the wise men of the East or the wise men of Egypt.*

*31 He was the wisest of all men:*

So, what's the big deal about strife? Why does the bible have so much to say about this? Is this just a problem in the Old Testament? No. This was a problem in the New Testament Church as well. Paul gave instructions to the church about the dangers of strife but before we find out what he had to say let me remind you about Deuteronomy Chapter 28. This is why you and I need to be obedient to God's commands and then we are going to go over the why strife or creating division is so bad.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-3 KJV**

*1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

*2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

*3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

**Deuteronomy 28:14-16 KJV**

*14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

*15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

*16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.*

**Curse defined from the Hebrew text:**

- 1. stopping the blessing flow**
- 2. to dam up the flow of blessing**

Now, this is what the Apostle Paul had to say to the church about strife or division. Remember, these are followers of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 3:3 KJV**

*3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men*

The Greek text says “are you not carnal and walk like unchanged men.”

**1 Corinthians 3:3 GNT**

*3 because you still live as the people of this world live. When there is jealousy among you and you quarrel with one another, doesn't this prove that you belong to this world, living by its standards?*

Strife caused this church at Corinth to not receive what the Apostle Paul was sent to deliver to them anymore than unsaved men and women could receive it.

Although they were new creatures in Christ, **strife** had them thinking with dark knowledge, their old natural unchanged man. It had weakened and blinded their spiritual condition to the point where they couldn't hear or receive the commands of God.

There was so much strife that they couldn't do anything spiritual/biblical. They thought they were doing what was right, but they were going through the motions of what they had always done and now things were no longer happening in the supernatural. A lot of correction had to be done because of strife.

Here, the Apostle Paul is writing another church in Galatians 5:19-21. I'm going to read it first in the King James and then in the Good News Translation.

**Galatians 5:19-21 KJV**

*19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;.Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*

*20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, **strife**, seditions, heresies,*

*21 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.***

**Galatians 5:19-21 GNT**

*19 What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions;*

*20 in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups;*

*21 they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these. I warn you now as I have before: those who do these things will not possess the Kingdom of God.*

Now, Paul is writing to the church in Phillipi...

**Philippians 2:3 KJV**

*3 Let nothing be done through **strife** or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

**Philippians 2:3 AMPC**

*3 Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit and empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than and superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves].*

**Philippians 2:3 GNT**

*3 Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves.*

Many of you are probably thinking, I didn't know that there was this much in the bible about strife... and this is just the tip of the iceberg. I'm just highlighting a couple of scriptures regarding strife because when you look up all the words in the greek and hebrew that can also been translated into strife, you'll be kept busy for a long time.

Here, Paul is writing a letter to Timothy and is instructing him on how to handle and preach to people in the church about strife.

**1 Timothy 6:4-5 KJV**

*2...These things teach and exhort.*

*3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;*

*4 **He is proud, knowing nothing,** but doting about questions and **strifes of words**, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,*

*5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*

**1 Timothy 6:4-5 GNT**

*2...You must teach and preach these things.*

*3 Whoever teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the true words of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching of our religion*

*4 **He is swollen with pride and knows nothing.***

**He has an unhealthy desire to argue and quarrel about words,**  
*and this brings on jealousy, disputes, insults, evil suspicions,  
5 and constant arguments from people whose minds do not  
function and who no longer have the truth. They think that  
religion is a way to become rich.*

Paul said when you see pride, watch out...

**Proverbs 11:2 AMPC**

*2 When swelling and pride come, then emptiness and shame  
come also, but with the humble (those who are lowly, who have  
been pruned or chiseled by trial, and renounce self) are skillful  
and godly Wisdom and soundness.*

Now, Paul in 2 Timothy starts to give answers to many questions  
that the follower of Christ is having about pride, strife and being  
humble...

**2 Timothy 2:20-21 KJV**

*20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of  
silver, but also of wood and of earth; some to honour, and some  
to dishonour.*

Now, get this 21st verse...

*21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a  
vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use,  
and prepared unto every good work.*



## 2 Timothy 2:21 GNT

*21 Those who make themselves clean from all those evil things, **will be used for special purposes, because they are dedicated and useful to their Master, ready to be used for every good deed.***

Stop claiming you're a mud pot and purge these evil things out of you – you do it (strife, division, jealousy, disputes, insults, etc). God is offering you to be a vessel of silver or gold. Stop settling because of your old natural man was like that or that is how you were raised. You are a new creation in Christ.

*22 Flee also youthful lusts: but **follow righteousness**, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

*23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.*

*24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,*

*25 **In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;***

*if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*

## 2 Timothy 2:25 AMPC

*25 **He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth** [that they will perceive and recognize and become accurately acquainted with and acknowledge it],*

## 2 Timothy 2:25 GNT

25 who is gentle as you correct your opponents, for it may be that God will give them the opportunity to repent and come to know the truth

The ones that are in strife - don't you get mixed up in what they are doing. There's 3 sides to every story: 1) there's my side or what I think, 2) your side and 3) God's side. You will never get the whole picture from one person because they can't see the whole picture. If they are in strife they are hardly seeing anything because they are already outside the Word of God. So they don't have any insight, why? Because their feelings are hurt, they're offended and that leads to many different emotions.

Well, what has happened? The Word of God has been stolen out of their heart, their blinders are on. You will have to get them over to the place where each of them will begin to take responsibility for this "thing" and get out of their selfishness. **Because strife is totally selfish, offensive and fear based .**

What place is that? for repentance in verse 25 but now verse 26

## 2 Timothy 2:26 KJV

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

## 2 Timothy 2:26 AMPC

26 And that they may come to their senses [and] escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, [henceforth] to do His [God's] will.

That's why strife is so bad and why it is so dangerous. When you indulge in it and get into it – satan can take you captive at **his will**. If you indulge yourself in strife and division and stay there, God can't get through to you and satan has access to your inner most being.

Now, it doesn't matter where ever you are at if someone is causing strife, you need to stop it or get rid of them. Have you ever been in a work situation or a family situation where there's that one person who just always seemed to cause strife, always arguing, always taking the opposing view? It makes it uncomfortable for everyone does it not?

No one wants to be there, they already know what's going to happen and it's not going to be good. The company that strife keeps and how it multiplies and spreads like a cancer is too dangerous to be left alone and allowed to keep growing.

## **2 Timothy 2:22-25 GNT**

*22 Avoid the passions of youth, and strive for righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who with a pure heart call out to the Lord for help.*

*23 **But keep away from foolish and ignorant arguments;** you know that they end up in quarrels.*

*24 The Lord's servant must not quarrel. He must be kind toward all, a good and patient teacher,*

*25 who is gentle as he corrects his opponents, for it may be that God will give them the opportunity to repent and come to know the truth.*

### **James 3:1-10 GNT (The Tongue)**

*1 My friends, not many of you should become teachers. As you know, we teachers will be judged with greater strictness than others.*

*2 All of us often make mistakes. But if a person never makes a mistake in what he says, he is perfect and is also able to control his whole being.*

*3 We put a bit into the mouth of a horse to make it obey us, and we are able to make it go where we want.*

*4 Or think of a ship: big as it is and driven by such strong winds, it can be steered by a very small rudder, and it goes wherever the pilot wants it to go.*

Whoever is in control of that ship, I don't care who it is can control the ship of any size with that rudder. Now, this is talking about the tongue. Has anyone's tongue ever gotten them into trouble?

*5 So it is with the tongue: small as it is, it can boast about great things. Just think how large a forest can be set on fire by a tiny flame!*

### **James 3:1-10 KJV**

*5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire **kindleth!***

Depending not he translation, it says flame, kindling or kindleth. When you go camping, the staple of any camp experience is the fire.

When trying to start the fire, sometimes you'll see somebody put out a big log and put a match underneath it and try to light it. They can't figure out why it won't light. There's an art to starting a good long lasting fire.

First, you need some kind of kindling. Something that is small and highly flammable, easy to light on fire. Then you take that little wood or splinter of something highly flammable and you add to it and add to it and the fire gets bigger and bigger and bigger as you add more to it.

What the bible is talking about here is the tongue as being all the kindling to the fires in your life. It will be a bonfire, and you look at it and wonder what started that enormous fire. Soon after the fire starts, nobody knows what kind of kindling was used to start it because it is all burned up, but they know the steps.

God is telling you and I what started that horrible fire in your marriage/family, that horrible fire in your mind, that horrible fire in your finances – oh pastor Grant it's just a curse in my life, that just seems to be my lot in life – no! , the Word says...

**Proverbs 26:2 KJV**

*2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.*

**Proverbs 26:2 NLT**

*2 Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an unfair curse will not land on its intended victim.*

You have to take control of your tongue, you have to do this. This is the only book (God's Word) on earth that will tell you how to do this. There are no other books outside of this one that can tell you how to tame your tongue. If you're not born again, following God's Word, you can't tame it.

**James 3:6 KJV**

*6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

**James 3:6 GNT**

*6 And the tongue is like a fire. It is a world of wrong, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading evil through our whole being. It sets on fire the entire course of our existence with the fire that comes to it from hell itself.*

That's the way hell, satan, gets into your affairs. The phrase "the course" means **wheel** in the Greek. The tongue is what starts the wheel rolling like kindling to the fire. The tongue is what starts the marriage breaking up before you even know that it's in danger and it's rolling down hill. It's all there – let's read it again in verse 6 again...

**James 3:6-7 KJV**

*6 the tongue, is what **setteth on fire** the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

*7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:*

You don't have to be born again to tame a horse do you? How about a bird?

*8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

*9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

*10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not so to be.***

This isn't just talking about profanity, there's allot of things that are profane in God's eyes that aren't in the natural mans eyes. God can't bless the profane, that will never happen.

*11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

*12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*

*13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? **let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.***

*14 **But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts,** glory not, and lie not against the truth.*

*15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.*

*16 For where **envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.***

This just wiped out all the gifts of the spirit: tongues, prophecy interpretation of tongue, healing, faith. It's all wiped out by this. Well pastor Grant what am I going to do? Here's what you do in verse 17.

### **James 3:17 KJV**

*17 But the wisdom that is from above... what is the wisdom from above? The Word, Jesus the Holy Ghost and love (God is Love). Remember over in Ephesians 3 we are grounded and rooted in love (the Word) not strife. We are filling our minds and our mouths with the love of God.*

The bible says offences will come, it also says you better not be the one causing it when it happens... also, when it happens to you and it will (offences) how many times are you to forgive? 70 x 7 !

### **Luke 17:1-5 KJV**

*1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!*

*2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.*

*3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.*

*4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.*

*5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.*



When the disciples heard that, they said, “increase our faith”. Why? because the natural man wants to fight back and start the quarrel and not let the person have an opportunity to repent.

We need to be determined not to respond in strife or “I choose not to respond in strife.”

Remember the bible says by faith Moses chose to...by faith Joseph chose to....by faith Jacob chose to.... all those who chose to live and act by faith did what was right. Doing what is right is obedience to God’s commands.

We need to respond in forgiveness, forgiving those who trespass against us. When we start the day thanking God for what we have and who He is, filled with His Word by the reading of His Word which renews our mind we are all ready putting into motion the practice of love.

So, when that old strife rears up inside of you, **you say** “I’m not going to go there today”. Because, when you fill your mind and mouth **with the Word of God** and get it down into your spirit, in time when something comes back out it will be filled with faith, filled with love, filled with power and the anointing.

Satan will not have control over you because you have control over your tongue.

**Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV**

*4 Where the word of a king is, there is power:*

