



# Strife—a Deadly Enemy

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### Quick Study Guide

#### I. Every evil work.

- Envy and strife lead to EVERY EVIL WORK.

#### II. What is envy?

- Envy wants something that belongs to someone else, like things, relationships or even personal qualities.
- For example: wanting someone else's spouse, car, house or the respect they receive.
- The Law of Moses was given as instructions for outward actions.
- Jesus stressed that the inner man must also be changed.

#### III. What is strife?

- Strife represents a struggle—one person's will against another person's will.
- Arguments, complaining, demanding your way, divisions, harsh words, disagreements, emphasizing differences are all products of strife.
- Ask God to forgive any words you've spoken to stir up arguments.
- Replace your words with God's words of love.
- Brother Copeland renews his mind to the love of God by saying 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 in the first person, making it personal.
  - Do whatever it takes to stay out of strife.
- Let your words be full of encouragement, and let God's love shine out of you to others.



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## Scriptures for Contemplation

### James 3:16

*“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work” (KJV).*

### Genesis 4:8

*“Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him” (NLT).*

### Mark 7:21-23

*“For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you” (NLT).*

### Matthew 5:21-22

*“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell” (NLT).*

### Ephesians 5:3-4

*“No coarse, stupid, or flippant talk; these things are out of place; you should rather be thanking God” (NEB).*

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## Confession

*Thank You, Father, for revealing to me the dangers of envy and strife. I ask You now to help me to replace words of strife and argument with Your Words of love. I receive Your help now. Thank You.*

*In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.*