

REMOVE STRIFE AND INCREASE MATURITY

Growing in Christ Through Unity, Forgiveness, and Peace

Opening Scripture — Colossians 4:2 (AMP)

“Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving.”

Introduction

Hello, all Royal Prayer Guards and all those who join us online!

It is truly uplifting to see believers coming together to pray and support one another, especially for those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

As believers, we are called not only to pray, but also to **grow**. Spiritual maturity affects how we respond to one another, how we handle disagreements, and how we protect the unity of the body of Christ.

One area we must continually address is **strife**.

If we want to increase spiritual maturity, we must learn to recognize strife, remove it from our lives, and choose forgiveness, love, and peace.

1. THE DANGER OF STRIFE

James 3:16

The teaching reminds us that strife opens the door to confusion and “every evil work.”

Strife is therefore more than simply having a disagreement. When it is allowed to remain, it can damage relationships, disrupt unity, and affect the spiritual health of the church.

Think about this:

What happens when we allow strife to remain in our hearts?

It can affect:

- How we think about others
- How we speak to others
- How we pray
- How we respond to corrections
- How we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ

Key principle:

Do not allow strife to dock in your life.

We must learn to recognize it before it becomes established.

2. MATURITY IN CHRIST

1 Corinthians 3:1–3

God calls His children to grow from spiritual infancy toward maturity.

A spiritual baby is loved and nurtured, but maturity is necessary if we are going to participate effectively in the spiritual battles we face.

Spiritual maturity affects our responses.

An immature response may be:

- Envy
- Strife
- Division
- Judgment
- Holding grudges

A mature response moves toward:

- Love
- Patience
- Humility
- Forgiveness
- Peace

The question is not simply:

“How old am I in Christ?”

The better question is:

“How am I responding as I grow in Christ?”

3. REMOVE JUDGMENT FROM THE PROCESS

Matthew 7:1–5

Jesus teaches us to examine ourselves before attempting to address the shortcomings of others.

The teaching also reminds us that judging others—even in our thoughts—can grieve the Holy Spirit and perpetuate strife.

Ephesians 4:30

Therefore, spiritual maturity requires personal examination.

Before asking:

“What is wrong with them?”

we should ask:

“Lord, what do You want to change in me?”

This shifts our attention from judging others to allowing God to work in us.

4. FOUR STEPS FOR REMOVING STRIFE

Step 1 — Daily Repentance and Renewal

Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

We should regularly ask God to examine our attitudes, thoughts, and responses.

Repentance gives us an opportunity to turn away from attitudes that contribute to strife.

Personal question:

Is there anything in my heart that I need to surrender to God today?

Step 2 — Promote Unity Through Love

Colossians 3:14

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Love is presented as the antidote to division.

We are not merely called to avoid strife. We are called to **put on love**.

Love helps us:

- Be patient
- Extend grace
- Forgive
- Walk in humility
- Protect unity

Step 3 — Promote Peace

Romans 12:18

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Notice the personal responsibility:

“As much as depends on you.”

We cannot control everyone else's response, but we can take responsibility for our own.

We can choose to be instruments of peace rather than contributors to strife.

Ask yourself:

“Am I helping bring peace into this situation, or am I adding to the conflict?”

Step 4 — Do Not Allow Strife to Dock

Think about a ship arriving at a dock.

When the ship docks, its cargo can be unloaded.

The same illustration can help us understand spiritual influences.

Do not allow strife to dock in your life.

If we recognize strife approaching, we have a choice about what we will allow to enter our hearts and relationships.

5. NOW WE MOVE TOWARD FORGIVENESS

The next step in removing strife is forgiveness.

The Bible provides many valuable truths about forgiveness. The teaching keeps this principle simple:

Everyone has the choice to forgive.

Matthew 6:14–15

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Forgiveness is therefore not something we should treat casually.

The teaching describes prayer as having a connection between what God does and what we do.

We are called to forgive others.

6. THE TWO SHIPS

Here is the object lesson:

THE SHIP OF FORGIVENESS

THE SHIP OF UNFORGIVENESS

Imagine two ships traveling throughout the world, seeking a place to dock.

People have a choice about which ship they will allow to dock in their lives.

Each ship has cargo.

The teaching identifies several important truths:

1. People have the choice to allow either ship to dock in their life.
2. Each ship has cargo.
3. Each ship is spiritual.
4. The cargo is eternal.
5. We are to receive the benefits of the ship of forgiveness.
6. One benefit of the ship of forgiveness is: **“You will be forgiven.”**
7. Once we receive the cargo from the ship of forgiveness, we are to maintain and guard it.
8. The two ships travel everywhere in the world seeking to dock in someone's life.
9. The ship of forgiveness is from God; the ship of unforgiveness is identified in the teaching with Satan.
10. Repentance is involved with forgiveness.
11. Therefore, repent, be forgiven, and forgive others.

7. WHAT SHIP ARE YOU ALLOWING TO DOCK?

This is where the illustration becomes personal.

Every person must make a choice.

Which ship am I allowing to dock in my life?

Am I allowing:

The ship of forgiveness

or

The ship of unforgiveness?

The choice affects what we carry.

Unforgiveness can become something we continue to carry, while forgiveness releases us to walk according to God's Word.

Remember:

What we allow to dock can determine what we carry.

8. GUARD WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

Forgiveness is something we receive and continue to walk in.

The teaching says that once we receive the cargo from the ship of forgiveness, **we are to maintain and guard it.**

This means we must remain alert.

If an offense occurs tomorrow, we must make another choice.

Will we allow unforgiveness to dock?

Or will we continue walking in forgiveness?

This is part of spiritual maturity.

9. MATURITY MEANS CHOOSING GOD'S WAY

Spiritual maturity is demonstrated through our choices.

When strife appears:

Choose peace.

When offense comes:

Choose forgiveness.

When tempted to judge:

Examine yourself.

When division threatens unity:

Choose love.

When bitterness attempts to take root:

Repent and surrender it to God.

This is how we grow.

10. OUR PRAYER AS ROYAL PRAYER GUARDS

Our prayers should not only focus on what happens around us.

We should also pray for what God wants to accomplish **within us**.

Pray for Unity

“Father, let Your love bind us together, breaking down walls of division and strife.”

Pray for Maturity and Grace

“Father, give us grace and strength to grow in spiritual maturity. Help us walk in love, patience, and humility, avoiding the traps of envy and strife.”

Pray for Personal Transformation

“Father, search our hearts and remove any root of bitterness or strife. Help us become instruments of peace and reconciliation in Your church.”

All in Jesus name, Amen!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take a moment and ask yourself:

1. Is there any strife I have allowed to remain?
 2. Is there anyone I need to forgive?
 3. Have I been judging someone instead of examining myself?
 4. Am I promoting unity through love?
 5. Am I promoting peace?
 6. What am I allowing to “dock” in my life?
 7. Am I guarding the forgiveness God has given me?
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CONCLUSION

Remove Strife. Increase Maturity.

God desires us to grow.

Growth means learning to respond differently.

Instead of strife — **choose peace.**

Instead of judgment — **choose self-examination.**

Instead of bitterness — **choose forgiveness.**

Instead of division — **choose love.**

Instead of remaining spiritually immature — **continue growing in Christ.**

The final instruction from this teaching is simple:

Therefore, repent and be forgiven and forgive others.

ROYAL PRAYER GUARD DECLARATION

I will not allow strife to dock in my life.

I will pursue peace.

I will walk in love.

I will forgive others.

I will guard what God has given me.

I will continue growing toward spiritual maturity in Christ.

Amen.

Available resources:

[Click here.](#) RPG Prayer Focus (WPF #21) Forgiveness The two ships

[Click here.](#) RPG Prayer Focus (WPF #102) Remove Strife! Increase Maturity!

[Click here.](#) (Audio) Satan's tactics! Real change! Enemy's roar! Stagnation! Part 1

[Click here.](#) (YouTube) Forgiveness vs. unforgiveness/2 Ships

[Click here.](#) (YouTube) Who will answer this call?



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INCREASE MATURITY

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COLOSSIANS 4:2 (AMP)

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1 THE DANGER OF STRIFE

James 3:16
Strife opens the door to confusion and "every evil work."

- Damages relationships
- Disrupts unity
- Affects the spiritual health of the church



Do not allow strife to dock in your life.

2 MATURITY IN CHRIST

1 Corinthians 3:1-3
God calls His children to grow from spiritual infancy to maturity.



A spiritual baby is loved and nurtured, but maturity is necessary to engage effectively in the spiritual battles we face.

3 REMOVE JUDGMENT

Matthew 7:1-5
Judging others, even in our thoughts, can grieve the Holy Spirit and perpetuate strife.

Ephesians 4:30



Before asking, "What is wrong with them?" ask, "Lord, what do you want to change in me?"

4 A STEPS FOR REMOVING STRIFE

1 Daily Repentance and Renewal

Psalms 51:10
"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."



Pray for cleansing personal attitudes and thoughts.

2 Promote Unity Through Love

Colossians 3:14
"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."



Love is the antidote to division.

3 Promote Peace

Romans 12:18
"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."



Be an instrument of peace.

4 Avoid Strife



Do not allow strife to dock in your life.

5 NOW WE MOVE TOWARD FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14-15
"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."



In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.

6 THE TWO SHIPS

The Ship of Forgiveness

- From God
- Brings eternal benefits
- One benefit: "You will be forgiven."
- We are to receive the cargo and maintain and guard it.

Allow this ship to dock in your life.



The Ship of Unforgiveness

- From our enemy Satan
- Brings harmful cargo
- Leads to bitterness, strife, and division
- The cargo is eternal.
- The two ships travel everywhere seeking to dock in someone's life.

Do not allow this ship to dock in your life.

IMPORTANT TRUTHS:

1 People have the choice to allow either ship to dock in their life.

2 Each ship has cargo.

3 Each ship is spiritual.

4 The cargo is eternal.

5 Repentance is involved with forgiveness.

6 Therefore repent and be forgiven and forgive others.

7 SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Prayer for Unity
Heavenly Father, we pray for unity in the body of Christ. Let Your love bind us together, breaking down walls of division and strife. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer for Maturity and Grace
Father, give us grace and strength to grow in spiritual maturity. Help us to walk in love, patience, and humility, avoiding the traps of envy and strife. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer for Personal Transformation
Father, search our hearts and remove any root of bitterness or strife. Help us to be instruments of peace and reconciliation in Your church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

8 OUR CHOICE

- Remove strife.
- Choose forgiveness.
- Promote unity.
- Promote peace.
- Guard what God has given you.
- Continue growing in Christ.

