



SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES NUGGETS



SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

STRIFE DESTROYS FELLOWSHIPS

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2026: OUR YEAR OF FRUITFUL LABOUR | 2 Chronicles 15: 7

- In **Acts 2:47**, the Bible states that the Lord added to the church those who were being saved daily. In other words, if the Lord does not make it happen, all your evangelising will be an exercise in futility.
- The way Jesus evangelised, and what happened to those whom He brought to Himself, show that the labourers are those with the innovative know-how and compelling power to bring others to Christ (**Matthew 9:35-38; 9:9-13, Luke 19:1-10**).
- The secret for doing the impossible is to do what you can and leave the rest to God. Zacchaeus was not looking for Jesus to come into his house, yet the Lord eventually had dinner in his house (**Luke 19:1-10**).
- Jesus did not preach to Zacchaeus before he began to confess. When people stage-manage confession, it is because there is no compelling

force at work—the absence of innovative know-how.

- Whatever your profession or career may be, it is not by accident; rather, it is a harvest field for the Lord. God placed you in that profession so that you could reach your colleagues, collaborate with them, and, by so doing, extend the frontiers of the Kingdom (**Acts 18:1-11**).
- If you are not using your profession or your career to reach other people, the enemy will drag evil men from the marketplace and put them together to hinder the spread of the gospel (**Acts 17:5-9; 19:21-41**).
- When your business becomes a platform for Jesus to be seen and heard, you will not lack fish. He knows how to direct resources to you beyond what you can even think of.

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- How do you compel people to come to Jesus? You create ways to show that you are interested in them. That is what compels people to yield to you. It must be done in creative ways or through creative methods (**Luke 14:16-17**).
- By your attitude, actions, and love for those outside, you can compel them to come to the Lord. If you do not love God, you cannot serve God. If you do not love people, you cannot serve people. Love God; love people. Serve God; serve people.
- In **Ezekiel 34:17-22**, the Lord says He will judge between sheep and sheep, that is, believers who take advantage of other believers. At the root of such behaviour and ill treatment of other people are contention, division, needless offences, and strife (**1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:1-3**). There is no room for the bone of contention in the body of Christ.
- Wherever there is strife, there will be all manner of evil things. It takes just one person to cause a little fire will engulf the entire space (**James 3:13-18**).
- When strife becomes the foundation or yardstick of your judgement or decision-making process, you will end up like Lot in Sodom, where you will be vexed daily by the wicked, though you are a righteous man (**2 Peter 2:7-10**).
- According to the Bible, those who cause offence among the brethren are called depraved and doomed apostates. They justify themselves, are full of



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themselves, and are always right. They are clouds without water (**Jude 1:12-13**).

- In **Luke 17:1-4**, Jesus says it is impossible for offences not to come, but woe to the person through whom they come. Jesus places this conversation within the intimate circle of His followers, not the crowd.
- Jesus often reserved deeper warnings and responsibilities for His disciples (**John 13**). The moment Judas Iscariot departed from them, Jesus turned to the disciples, saying, "A new commandment I give you." For as long as Judas was there, he would continue to undermine that new commandment because he saw godliness as a means of gain. By addressing believers first, Jesus reminds us that our conduct directly shapes the faith and work of others (**Philippians 2:13-21**).
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should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!" (**Luke 17:1**), that statement implies that while you cannot control hurts or betrays from people, you can control how you react.

- How should a believer handle offences? The Greek word for offence in the original text is *skándalon*, which means a trap or snare. So, when someone wrongs you, what is the trap? Bitterness. If you do not know how to restrain yourself, this can be the enemy's sneakiest trap for you as a believer. The enemy knows you cannot be anointed and offended at the same time. So, it causes offence to come, neutralises your anointing, and causes you to act from the standpoint of your carnal nature.

As believers, there are ten things we can do to stop offences from eating away at the fabric of our life or fellowship:

- #1. Temptations and stumbling blocks are part of life in a fallen world. Believers should,

therefore, be prepared to face them with faith and discernment (**Philippians 1:9**).

#2. Focus on your journey. Since offences are bound to happen, guard your own peace, and do not let someone's wrongdoing derail your faith, your character, or your peace (**1 Samuel 17:26–30**).

- In the journey of life, you get to choose your travelling companions. If you give your time to those who are not worthy of it, you have no right to complain. Therefore, become more selective. Choose your friends from among those who share your values, understand your God-given purpose, and strengthen you.

#3. Once you sense offence, please let it go. Overlooking minor slights is a sign of emotional maturity. Do not harbour it. Do not retain it. Let it go. Do not sweat the small stuff (**Philippians 1:10**).

#4. Make up your mind to operate in love always. Although it is

not easy, you have to be intentional about it. If you do not love God and love people, you cannot serve God and serve people (**1 John 2:9–11**).

#5. Self-examination. Regularly examine your life to identify any areas—especially your dressing, what you eat, and what you drink—so that you may not be a stumbling block to others (**1 Corinthians 8:8–13**).

- When the mention of someone's name triggers resentment in you, stop and pray. Pray that God will forgive that person just as He has forgiven you.
- When you retaliate, you deny God the right to show mercy and deal with the situation in His own way. Do not play God. You have received mercy; pass it on. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (**Matthew 5:7**).

#6. Guard your personal conduct so that it never lures another into sin. The Bible says that evil

communication corrupts good manners (**1 Corinthians 15:33-34, Proverbs 12:26; 13:20-21; 22:24-25**).

- Why should a believer not associate with an angry or contentious person? Because at the root of their anger is strife (**Proverbs 29:22**).

#7. If you are a teacher, preacher, or mentor, teach the truth clearly, avoiding half-truths that erode faith (**2 Timothy 3:1-17, Titus 1:10-13**).

#8. Responsibility over influence. As followers of Christ and workers in the kingdom of God, we have a responsibility to ensure that our actions and words do not lead others into sin. Our influence should be a source of encouragement and edification (**Colossians 4:6-17**).

#9. Community accountability. As believers, we must ensure that mutual accountability is

practised. We must encourage one another to live lives that reflect Christ's teachings as carriers of grace. We must do everything to rescue those who are offended or those who cause offence. Do not sweep it under the carpet. The strongest chain will break at its weakest point (**Numbers 12:1-16**).

#10. Following community accountability, intercede and act quickly when you see someone drifting. By so doing, you become a stepping stone, not a stumbling block. In other words, be a peacemaker (**Matthew 5:9, James 5:19-20**).

- Are you offended easily? Do you still have offences? Bring them into the open and deal with them so that they do not become a cancer that spreads and destroys an entire fellowship.



PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for the Lord to Gather His People

Scripture: Acts 2:47, Ezekiel 34:11–16

Prayer:

Father, in the name of Jesus, bring Your people back to their fold from where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. Let their fold be on the high mountains of our nation, with good pasture, in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

2. Pray for Innovative Know-How and Compelling Power

Scripture: Matthew 9:35–38

Prayer:

Lord, grant me all the skills that I need to be an effective soul winner. I want to be like a magnet to iron filings. When sinners see me, let them know that I carry Someone on the inside of me whom they need. Let them be attracted to listen, to hear, to hearken, and to respond appropriately. I ask You for innovative know-how and compelling power, in the mighty name of Jesus.

3. Pray to Become an Effective Witness

Scripture: Matthew 9:9–13, Luke 19:1–10

Prayer:

Father, let my life change. Make me an effective witness of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let my witness become consistent and contagious, so that what begins with one person will influence families, organisations, professional groups, and cities, in the mighty name of Jesus.

4. Pray to Reach People Through Your Profession

Scripture: Acts 18:1–11; 17:5–9; 19:21–41

Prayer:

Father, help me to recognise that my profession and career are harvest fields for Your Kingdom. Use me to reach my colleagues, collaborate with them, and extend the frontiers of Your Kingdom. Let me never neglect the opportunities You have given me to spread the gospel.

**5. Pray for Kingdom Influence
in Your Business and Career**

Prayer:

Lord, let my business and career become platforms through which Jesus is seen and heard. Direct resources towards me as I honour You and use my work for the advancement of Your Kingdom.

**6. Pray for Creative Methods of
Evangelism**

Scripture: Luke 14:16-17

Prayer:

Father, give me creative methods and creative ways to reach the hearts of men and women. Teach me how to

show genuine interest in people so that they will be compelled to come to Jesus.

**7. Pray for Genuine Love for
God and People**

Prayer:

Lord, fill my heart with love for You and for people. Let my attitude, my actions, and my love compel those outside Your Kingdom to come to Christ. Help me to love God, love people, serve God, and serve people.