



## Outer Growth - Conflict

**Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.**

*Philippians 1:30*

**Corruption** - 1 Cor 15:50

**Opinion** - Job 32:10, 32:17

**Narrow-minded** - Titus 3:3, James 3:16

**Face** - Proverbs 27:19

**Lies** - Psalms 62:4, Proverbs 14:5, Jeremiah 9:5, 1 Timothy 4:2

**Ignorance** - Ephesians 4:18

**Campaign** - Amos 2:15

**Time** - Genesis 8:22

Conflict comes in many different forms and has diverse categories. Never know when it will occur, it could come suddenly unawares into any situation at an unspecified moment with anyone. There are various kinds of conflict with misunderstanding at the top. In Philippians chapter one verse thirty states, "Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me." This verse understanding would be "since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have." However, this verse could mean someone finding a fault in you and creating a conspiracy against you. Conflict is someone in disagreement with you and expresses their feelings from within to you publicly and to others privately.

Conflict begins with corruption by creating something that initially was not there. For a situation such as this to surface begins with an instigator. Inside that individual is something they allow to provoke themselves to conspire against another. Most of the time, what causes a person to scheme against the other?

Coveteousness. This craving may range from moderate such as the story of Jacob and Esau, to severe, like Cain and Abel. The first example of conflict begins in the Garden of Eden. The book of Genesis is the first conflict that changed the lives of all humanity. In chapter three, verse one, the serpent lies to Eve regarding the instruction of what God said to her. Satan used the snake before the fall knows God gave Adam dominion over the animals and the opportunity to be fruitful and multiply. The serpent saw God gave Adam and Eve access to all the trees except one that is the knowledge of good or evil. The accessibility may have enticed the snake to fabricate against them based on the authority they received.

Conflict may occur based on an opinion. It is about people making an assessment or assumption about others where they feel they know them based on their thoughts that derive from what they see. The whole process is wrong because the accuracy will never be exact, even if it influences the public. Similar to figuring out a painting that an artist made. The evaluation will either be completely wrong or not be close to one hundred percent. In First Samuel chapter seventeen, Saul addresses David about facing Goliath. Explaining that David is just a youth and Goliath is a giant and a man of war. However, David responds to Saul that he encountered dangerous situations in the past.

Conflict creates a biased mentality from the instigator's perspective. Why? The reason is it takes one thing they may secretly admire about to turn against you. Hagar, the handmaid of Sarai, was a

victim of this biased mentality. Due to Abram's wife being barren, the young Egyptian girl marries him to have a child. Even though this idea is not from Hagar, but Sarai's. Still, despite following this plan of Sarai, Hagar ends up getting the worst of it and eventually is sent away with her son to live elsewhere. You can do no wrong and still end up being on the worst end of a conflict.

Conflict can generate from a fault of facial misinterpretation. There is a phrase, "a picture is worth a thousand words." This expression can go for facial interpretation. "A face is worth a thousand words."

Sometimes the facial expressions are interpreted wrongfully by others leading to conflict. In Genesis chapter thirteen, Lot, Abram's brother's son, had to face a decision. He had to choose which direction to go with his flock because strife was present between him and Abram's flock. Lot selects to head eastward and all the plain of Jordan. In Genesis, chapter thirteen, he lifted his eyes and saw the land but did not see the people in that environment, which later contaminated his life and his family.

Conflict could become a burden, especially if one side is not telling the truth. Where there is a lie, there is pride. A person who fabricates during a conflict does it because the other individual has or does something they admire. Even though the fabricator might not admit it, they will attempt to get back or even with the person to satisfy themselves. Some people enjoy creating drama or become animated in these situations. Appear to be extra friendly among others in the vicinity for you to see but deceiving others while attempting to confuse you. However, the evil spirit that they are in connection with is actually in control without them even knowing it. The more they continue to covet something from the other person, it will persist until they realize and decide whether to let go of it or not.

In First Samuel chapter eighteen, Saul was furious that the women chanted David's name about doing more in battle than him. In verse nine of the same chapter, Saul had his eyes on David from that day forward. In verse six of chapter nineteen of First Samuel, Saul swore to his son Jonathan that David would not be hurt while in His presence. However, after a certain period, Saul changed his mind and attempted to hit David with a spear. Saul had trouble resisting the temptation of hurting David due to the jealousy of others praising someone else instead of him, which made Him lie to His son Jonathan about not harming David.

Conflict mixed with dishonesty can create anxiety and tension during a desperate situation. Imagine you pleading with a judge about someone's life and honestly telling the truth while the other person is responding to the judge that you are lying and they are not. It could be overwhelming with a human being's life at stake. In First Kings chapter three verses seventeen to twenty-eight, King Solomon had a similar case with two women claiming to own the same living child because one died in the night while sleeping. The mother of the living child comes forward and tells the king the truth while the other imitates and lies about the incident. However, King Solomon resolves who the mother of the living child is. Conflict potentially can turn into a debate: lies versus truth.

Conflict can become a series of falsity from one to another. An unfaithful spouse, an insincere boyfriend or girlfriend, an inconsiderate employee or employer, an unruly teenager could become a difficult challenge to face. In the book of Judges, chapter sixteen, Samson meets a woman in the valley of Sorek named Delilah. She wants to know where does his great strength lie. Samson then tells Delilah three false methods about where his strength lies to end up sinning himself, which leads him into a trap.

Conflict can result from unintelligence. To have the opportunity to do the right thing in a situation and opting not to comply. Our conscience will tell us the truth about what is necessary and what is not. However, our minds are where the battlefield lies. The struggle between wills: will do the right for conscience' sake, will not do that for my mind is telling me something else. In Second Samuel, chapter thirteen, Amnon, the Son of David, love Tamar. However, he does not know how to go or what to do about it at the time. However, Amnon had a friend, Jonadab, and he contemplates helping lure Tamar to his friend. Amnon receives his wish as she feeds him while he lies sick in bed. Then Amnon, in verse eleven of the same chapter, takes her and asks her to come and lie with him. Why did he bother to ask Tamar the question and do what he intended all along? The reason is Amnon's conscience reminds him it is wrong. Then Tamar responds in the following verse twelve not to do this folly along with the shame and consequences to follow. Yet, Amnon's ignorance overrides his conscience and her response. He had two opportunities to refrain but chose not to. What is the root word for ignorance? Ignoring, and that is what Amnon did. Since ignorance is associated with evil, he did not see a clear path of righteousness but darkness. The heart of Amnon was blind to his wrongdoing.

Conflict involves campaigning. Why does a person or both have to invite others into the situation? Support. Similar to a campaign, raising awareness to acquire approval. To show the community that they are doing the right thing and the other person is not. Why would people like voters even elect or pick a person in a problem? If it is a believer, that person on the outside should direct them according to the Word of God. Situations such as problems between two people over things

that range from moderate to severe are sad because they could have accomplished more good than bad. In Second Samuel chapter thirteen verse twenty-three, Absalom had an event and invited the king's sons. Later in the same chapter, he contemplates and influences others to his brother that Amnon will go with them to do a task in another district. Amnon, at this point, has no idea what will transpire and expects anything but an invitation to an event. The others were reluctant to let Absalom convince the other king's sons that his brother should go with them. However, in the Second Samuel chapter thirteen verse twenty-seven, he pressed them until they agreed. Therefore, Absalom stated his case by campaigning until they gave in. Conflict can consume time. Sometimes a fight, argument, or misunderstanding could take minutes, hours, days, months, or even years to resolve. It all depends on the issue and situation, who is involved, and where it takes place. However, there is no guarantee that all matters get resolved, and the contributors affected submit to reconciliation. The conflict between people is unpredictable because when a person is ready to let go, the other one will know.

In Genesis, Jacob and Esau had conflict over Esau's birthright and his father's blessing where Jacob stole both. However, twenty years later, in chapter thirty-three, they were about to reunite. Jacob was still a bit apprehensive until he saw his brother. In verse one of the same chapter, Esau lifted his eyes and ran to Jacob, and he knew there would be no more conflict.

When two individuals or groups get involved in a disagreement or fight, it could be complicated, confusing, regrettable, painful. However, life must go on. Conflict, can't live with or without it. Whether silent or loud, it will make a person wiser on certain things and make

them more aware than before. Feelings play a role in the conflict, and things may escalate from there. How to handle it? Ask God to help you because there is no secret formula. Every problem or situation that occurs is different. No template can instantly fix it other than both parties do not hold a grudge and harbor unforgiveness. The danger with having a negative attitude towards someone is it could keep you out of heaven. We all must forgive, reconcile, and make an honest effort to resolve the matter. However, the other person is not willing, then you are free, and they are not mentally. There is a phrase, "free your mind, and the rest of you will follow. Don't be too blind or be too shallow."