

Adversaries and the Adversary

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1 Samuel 1:18

And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.

Penninah made herself the adversary of Hannah.

All sin is addictive. Enjoying hurting someone with your words is a very popular sin.

Penninah had no reason to try to hurt Hannah. This is the only thing we know about Penninah.

1. We should not be an adversary. Even when we have to take a stand we should not let it make us an adversary. God has given us some rules to follow.

James 1:19-20

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: ²⁰ For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

- a. Be swift to hear.
- b. Be slow to speak.
- c. Slow to wrath. God does not need our wrath.

Ephesians 4:19-32

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ; ²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. ²⁵ Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

²⁷ Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. ²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- d. Do not use any corrupt communication
- e. Always try to edify.
- f. Always remember the Holy Spirit is paying attention to what you say.
- g. Put away bitterness, wrath, clamor, evil speaking, and malice.
- h. Be kind and tender hearted.
- i. Forgiving one another (as Christ has forgiven you).

2. We have an Adversary. Satan is the Hebrew word for adversary.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

We should not be surprised that Satan tries to destroy us with harmful words. He even tried to destroy Christ that way. He tried to destroy Paul that way.

3. We should not let the Adversary or adversaries stop us from serving the Lord.

a. Stay focused on the Lord.

Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

b. Sometimes you do not answer the attacks against you.

Proverbs 26:4

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

c. Sometimes you must answer the attacks against you.

Proverbs 26:5

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

d. Never let the adversaries steal your joy.

Philippians 1:1-18

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ² Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ: ⁷ Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. ⁸ For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; ¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. ¹² But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; ¹³ So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*; ¹⁴ And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: ¹⁶ The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: ¹⁷ But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.