The Spirit of Contention

The Bible says, “Great peace have they which love the law of the Lord and that nothing shall offend them”. When the spirit of contention is manifesting, or in a more practical way, when there is contention in the air, it does not matter whether you talk or not, and it does not matter what you say or how you said it. If you talk, then that becomes the subject of the contention, in the sense of not just “what you said” but especially “how you said it”. If you do not talk, then it becomes “don’t tell me you have nothing to say about this or that”. So how do you deal with the issue of contention? How do you resist the spirit of contention?

Psalm 119:165 (KJV) says “Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them”.

Offence causes people to stumble. Consider how great the peace Jesus had at the time of His crucifixion, to the extent that whatever they did or said to Him, or how they said it or did it, did not stir up offense in Him. In the midst of it, He said “Father forgive them…” Does this kind of response come out of an offended heart or mind?
How do you respond to what people say to you? Do you get offended and justify it by saying that you are offended because you do not like how they said it? This does not mean that it is okay for people to talk in nasty ways to others but we cannot really control how people talk to us.

There are “time-localised pressures”, “space-localised pressures” and also “time-continuous” and space-continuous” pressures. Day in and day out we are being constantly subjected to these in various mixes. Jesus went through them all until He got to the cross where all of them climaxed on Him.

Sometime people may talk to us in ways we consider as rude, often not intentional, but because of pressures of life. We must resolve in the revelation of Psalm 119:165 not to get offended but to walk in such a great peace, that NOTHING offends us. It is like choosing to forgive no matter what people do to us. After all the Bible says that we should grow in grace [2 Peter 3:18].

The less you are offended by things that are thrown at you, the more you are lining up with The Word, at least in the light of this scripture from Psalms 119. By the time you have grown in grace to the point where nothing offends you,
then you have lined up with the word of God. How do we define maturity in Christ? Is it not by how much we are in alignment with the Lord, in Character, in Power and in Wisdom?

We should grow in the grace of not becoming offended, by growing in great peace. We should resolve to grow in the grace of not becoming offended, by growing in great peace. We must resolve to grow in the grace of not becoming offended, by growing in great peace. We can choose not to get offended, no matter how people talk to us, just like we choose to forgive no matter the offense. In essence, we should take responsibility to deal with our own response to the things we face in life, because you do not have the means to control them all.

Contention must be avoided as it generates more contention. In fact it produces loss of spiritual energy. Contention and offense go together and they create and propagate strife. “Great peace have they which love (not necessarily obey) Thy law: and nothing shall offend them”. This therefore implies that the biblical answer to offense is to have great peace, and this great peace comes from loving the law of the Lord. [02112011]