

Enmity & Hostility, Rom 8:7; Jms 4:4, 7-8; Purpose of Rebound: Restore Fellowship So Growth Can Lead to Service for God; Rewards: Motivation for Growth, Not the Purpose

5. We have recently noted the verb form **ἐχθρός, echthros** in:

James 4:4 - You **adulteresses** [μοιχαλίσ, **moichalis**: **reversionists**], do you not know that the love of the world is a continual status quo of alienation from God? Therefore, whoever has decided to be a lover of the world appoints himself the **enemy** [ἐχθρός, **echthros**] of God.

6. In this context the translation indicates “enmity” since its direct object **Θεός, Theos**, or God, is in the genitive case.

7. When a believer is enmeshed in spiritual adultery he is classified as an enemy of God. *Echthros* is defined as someone who is hostile to God and expresses it through hatred. This is cosmic-two reversionism.

Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v.:

Enmity. **Synonyms:** ENMITY suggests positive hatred which may be open or concealed. HOSTILITY suggests an enmity showing itself in attacks or aggression. ANTIPATHY suggests repugnance, a desire to avoid or reject. ANTAGONISM suggests a clash of temperaments leading readily to hostility. ANIMOISTY suggests intense ill will and vindictiveness that threaten to kindle hostility. ANIMUS adds to animosity the implication of strong prejudice.

8. These words amplify our understanding of the spiritual condition of these reversionists. Even so, the context clearly expresses by the imperative moods of verses 7 and 8 the divine desire that they all recover through rebound.

James 4:7 - **Be subordinate** [imperative of ὑποτασσω, **hypotassō**] under the authority of God, but **oppose** [imperative of ἀνθίστημι, **anthistēmi**] the devil and he will escape from your presence.

v. 8 - **Come near** [imperative of ἐγγίζω, **engizō**: rebound and return to Bible class] to God and He will **come near to you** [forgiveness and restoration of fellowship]. **Cleanse** [imperative of καθαρίζω, **katharizō**] your hands you **sinners** [ἁμαρτωλοί, **hamartōloi**] and **purify** [imperative of ἁγνίζω, **hagnizō**] your streams of consciousness you **double-minded ones** [δίψυχοι, **dipsuchoi**].

9. In Romans 8:7, *echthra* is followed by the directional preposition **εἰς, eis**, plus the accusative direct object **Θεός, Theos**, giving us the following expanded translation of the entire sentence beginning in verse 6:

Romans 8:6 - Consequently, the **mindset** [behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyle] from the source of the sinful nature is **terminal death** but the mindset from the source of the Holy Spirit is **life** [ζωή, **zōē**: capacity for life through doctrine] and **peace** [εἰρήνη, **eirēnē**: tranquility of soul through harmonious rapport with God],

v. 7 - because the mind-set motivated by the sinful nature is hostile toward God ...

10. We are able to extract a few principles from these two verses for as far as we have gone:

- 1) When an advancing believer sins he becomes carnal because he is out of fellowship, but by quickly utilizing the problem-solving device of rebound he quickly restores fellowship with God and reacquires the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The person who is out of fellowship and neglects the use of rebound is in chronic carnality.
- 3) This believer is carnal because he neglects rebound and therefore is unable to function in status quo spirituality.
- 4) The purpose of rebound is to restore oneself to fellowship so that he may grow in grace in order to better and more efficiently serve God.
- 5) Some assume that the purpose of rebound is to qualify for rewards and blessings. This is self-centered and subjective. The purpose of rebound is, through acknowledgement of sin, to reenter the divine power system.
- 6) Restoration of fellowship is for the purpose of serving God, not winning prizes. Rewards and blessings are part of one's *motivation* for spiritual growth but they are not the *purpose* for one's spiritual growth.
- 7) The purpose for spiritual growth is to learn through Bible study how to better serve God.
- 8) On the other hand, those who neglect rebound make poor decisions that limit their future options. Divine provisions are promised to each believer but their quality and quantity can be withdrawn down to a mere sustenance level.
- 9) Believers and unbelievers who reside in the cosmic systems have lost contact with divine grace and, dissatisfied with their circumstances, resort to human-viewpoint problem-solving devices.
- 10) This is an expression of hostility toward God. Individual believers do this when out of fellowship and unbelievers do it all the time.