

## **The Art of War**

### **The Roots Beneath the Weeds**

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*One of God's highest priorities for His people is peace and unity...*

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Rom. 12:18)*

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Eph. 4:3)*

*Strife/disunity are the result of sin and poorly managed conflict...*

*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious...hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy..." (Gal. 5:19-20)*

*In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Eph. 4:26-27)*

*The spiritual roots underneath the weeds of conflict...*

- *Desires within and disappointment without – “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? “You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.” ” (James 4:1-2a)*

*Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. (Prov. 13:10)*

- *Faulty perceptions and presumptions – “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end leads to death.” (Prov. 14:12)*

• *Assumicide: killing the conversation or relationship with assumptions.*

*Conflict: crisis or opportunity?*

- *Conflict can lead to creative problem-solving to further God's purpose – “This proposal pleased the whole group...So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly...” (Acts 6:5, 7)*
- *Conflict can deepen and strengthen relationships – “They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company...Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.” (Acts 15:39; 2 Tim. 4:11)*
- *Conflict can expose sinful attitudes and lead us to grow – “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.” (Gal. 6:1a)*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. (Matt. 5:9)*