

Anger It Will Destroy You

Solomon said, “Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools” (Ecclesiastes 7:9). James said, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (James 1:19-20). Paul said, “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath” (Ephesians 4:26). Once again Solomon said, “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city” (Proverbs 16:32).

In each of these verses we see that anger can be destructive, and that the angry person cannot accomplish what is right in God’s eyes – even though many try. When you live an outwardly good life but have anger buried within, you are a miserable person. The outward trapping represent pruning and touching up on the outside, while deep down inside those roots of anger are growing deeper and deeper. You understand the process of pruning – you prune (cut off that which is bad) something in order that the root of the tree may be strengthened. The more you prune, the more the roots are being strengthened. The more you clean up the outside without cleaning up the inside, the more you strengthen anger. Anger must be dealt with at the root – the part that is unseen by the eye.

If you remember what you have just read, you will see a contradiction. And it is this contradiction that will cause things in your life to become more severe. Anger is caused by many things. However, I will decline to call any by name – for the simple reason, that I may not touch upon the one that has driven you to anger, therefore anger would excuse itself and keep you in bondage.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,” note carefully the next words “even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32). David Augsburger a man I know nothing about, but a man who said something worth noting: “The man who forgives pays a tremendous price – the price of the evil he forgives! If the state pardons a criminal, society bears the burden of the criminal’s deeds. If I break a priceless heirloom that you treasure and you forgive me, you bear the loss and I go free. Suppose I ruin your reputation. To forgive me, you must freely accept the consequences of my sin and let me go free! In forgiveness, you bear your own anger and wrath at the sin of another, voluntarily accepting responsibility for the hurt he has inflicted upon you.” Most anger can be resolved by forgiveness.

Scripture: King James Version: Ecclesiastes 7:9; James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26, 31-32; Proverbs 16:32.

Jerry W. Arnold
(All Rights Reserved)