

**THEME: SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – ANGER**

**TOPIC: WHAT IS ANGER?**

**TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:26-27; JAMES 1:19; PROVERBS 15:1; 14:29; COLOSSIANS 3:8; ROMANS 12-19-21; Psalm 37:8**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Bible teaches that anger can be constructive if handled righteously, but destructive if not addressed. It also teaches that uncontrolled anger is harmful to the person who feels it and those around them. Here are some Bible verses about anger:

### **WHAT IS ANGER?**

Solomon, the great sage (someone who is highly revered and wise) concluded that ‘anger rests in the bosom of fools’. *Ecclesiastes 7:9*

Anger makes people do things, say things, react in ways they would not have done in ordinary circumstances. When it is unbridled it becomes a force, a passion which controls the person through which it is expressed.

### **THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ANGER**

#### **1. God’s Anger – It makes anger deadly.**

If God himself expresses anger, why is anger considered a sin?

- a. The anger of God is little compared to the abundance of his love and what God gets angry about is different from what men express their anger at.
- b. God gets angry at the presence of sin. *Habakkuk 1:13*
- c. The presence of sin automatically arouses the anger of God which results in the consequential release of his judgement.
- d. When He expresses anger, it is at the presence of things that violate His goodness and grace which He has already shown to man. *Psalms 103:9*
- e. God expresses His anger at the presence of sin. Yet in the magnanimity of His love and kindness He has put a time limit to His anger.
- f. God is angry at an unrepentant world hence His destruction of Sodom because of its persistence in unrighteousness.

In the Old Testament we see God’s reaction which resulted in His anger at the presence of rebellion. *Psalms 78:41, Deut. 9:7, Psalm 78:8, 2 Samuel 6:7*

#### **2. Good anger**

Could there be a good use to anger? Is there a way to channel it? Before we look at the deadly power of anger and how a person who walks under its control can self-destruct, we need to look at this as a positive energy for change.

- a. Jesus admonishes us to be angry and not sin. *Ephesians 4:26*. The understanding of being angry without sinning is the ability to convert your anger to a positive, motivating energy.
- b. Positive means you need to know how to get mad at the devil. *James 4:7*

- c. You cannot go into the place of your anointing without making a demand to enter. Recognise that anger may be a clue to your breakthrough. You would need to hate the negative so much in order to break its grip.
- d. The answer to prosperity is an acute hatred for lack. Anger is the birthplace of change. Until you are angry you may not change the situation.
- e. Situations only change when anger is born. If you are not angry at your current negative location you may never move forward.
- f. Whatever you tolerate never changes and one of the agents of change is the ability to develop a holy dissatisfaction.
- g. The future listens to those who get angry enough and make a demand on it.
- h. Men of wisdom are angered by ignorance – that makes them pursue the acquisition of wisdom.
- i. What makes you angry is a clue to what you have been called to respond to. It is a clue to what problems you were made to solve. A holy anger reveals the anointing you carry.

### **IT TAKES ANGRY PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR GENERATION.**

- **William Wilberforce** was angry at slavery and fought for its abolition.
- **Martin Luther** the reformer was angry at the penance and control of the Roman Catholic Church, he protested and began a reformation.
- **Martin Luther King Jr.** led the activists who demonstrated peacefully asking for egalitarian and a society of equal rights in The United States of America.
- **Rosa Parks** was a woman who sat in the bus on the days of segregation in the United States. She was angry enough to make a change, refusing to give her seat to someone who thought that their colour made them superior. Her anger provoked change.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Apostle James wrote that “human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness” (James 1:20). There is a difference between God's anger and human anger, righteous and unrighteous anger. Not all anger is bad. God is holy and loving and His anger is holy and loving and always good.

Anger can make you repossess what was stolen, misplaced or taken from you. Good anger is necessary for you to make progress.