

Demolishing Strongholds Confronting Anger

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Righteous Anger vs. Unrighteous Anger

How can I know if my anger is righteous or unrighteous?

Ephesians 4:26-27, 31 - "In your anger do not sin" Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Jesus' anger was never self-centered.

James 4:1-3 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Jesus' anger was directed toward sinful behavior and true injustice.

Matthew 21:12-13 - Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³"It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers."

Jesus' anger was not guided by bitterness or hatred.

Mark 3:1-6 - Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. ²Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." ⁴Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. ⁵He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. ⁶Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Jesus' anger did not turn to bitterness or a grudge.

Matthew 18:21 - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Jesus justified his anger with the Word of God.

James 1:19-21 - Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.

Proverbs 29:11 - Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

Psalms 37:8 - Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm.