

Volume 4, Day 17: “Be Angry and Sin Not...” - Part 7 of 10

Anger arises in the soul, when and only when, some other emotion has been hurt. Anger management is what the scripture calls for. However, you cannot manage anything which eludes your understanding. ...

One aspect of anger which is seldom considered is that most anger directed at people has beneath its noisy or violent expression some anger toward God as well. After all, most people believe that God could prevent evil from happening or bad things from happening to good people. In retrospect I could see that nearly all of my prayers were asking God to do something **for me** like taking away problems, or filling my pockets with money. And when God did not answer my prayers with a resounding ‘yes’ and in short order, I was at least a little bit displeased. Most of my prayers up to that point were asking God to do good things and eliminate bad things (as I defined them).

So then, when processing ‘anger management’ techniques, which in this case is diligently striving to change the negativity in my soul into positivity toward myself, others and God, I should strongly consider if and why I might be mad at God Himself. It is likely that I am asking God for things which will not serve His purposes for me.. To that end, this volume of devotional messages includes a series on ‘prayer.’ Our pursuit of a ‘clean’ heart must include dialog with God in every moment of decision. You may even find that you have ‘some’ anger toward God in ‘every’ angry expression.

The most common anger is about one’s sense of fairness having been violated. Now, to be sure, most of us have a similar sense of fairness. But when we do not, it creates conflict of the highest order. Wars are mostly fought over religion or politics, both of which are matters of opinion. But flying in the face of our pursuit of fairness is the fact that Jesus was treated the most unfairly of any human who ever lived. Therefore praying for ‘fairness’ is not God’s desire. Praying for God’s purposes to be fulfilled is most consistent with His desire.