

Anger

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

And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. Mark 3:1-5

-Anger is not necessarily evil. Man's anger is always wrong because it is centered in the wrong thing. God's anger is always pure because it is centered in His holy character. A person needs to be sure that when he gets angry that it is for the proper reason.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Psalm 103:8

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

-God's nature is to be slow to anger. Man's nature is swift to be angry. Men must emulate the nature of God.

And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. Numbers 20:11-12

And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. Numbers 25:6-8

Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them. Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed. And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore. They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips. Psalm 106:29-33

-Phinehas was able to act in righteous indignation for a righteous cause and God blessed it. Moses acted in rebellion to God's command and exercised disbelief in God because of the heat of the moment. Man's anger works death, but godly anger brings cleansing.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. Proverbs 25:28

-A man who is quick to anger and allows his temper to rule him is as vulnerable to sin's attacks as a wall-less city is to its invaders.