

ANGER



***Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger,
for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God.***

James 1

Not since the Thirty Years' War has there been so much anger among Christians!

Look at our hard-set faces.

Listen to our shrill voices.

Observe the wounds we inflict on believers and nonbelievers alike.

Notice how far into the wilderness our anger has carried us.

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood.”

Our present conflicts are definitely of flesh and blood.

Demonic darkness may be behind our anger; but it is wounding flesh-and- blood people.

Our anger is tearing families apart, dividing churches, covering the land with a mean-spirited despair.

The time has come to back off, close our mouths, and listen to the voice of the Spirit.

Let every believer be quick to hear.

Quick to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus.

For too long we've been quick to hear the voices of wrath and suspicion...

...and slow to hear the voice of the Master.

The same Lord who said to the storm, *"Peace, be still!"* is now saying to us...

"Peace, be still!"

"Put your sword away!"

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5

Let every believer be slow to speak.

We need to make sure that the words we speak are coming from the Spirit of God.....

...since we are accountable for every word that comes out of our mouths.

"You brood of vipers! how can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 12

It's far better to hold our peace than to blurt out words that will one day be our downfall.



Let every believer be slow to anger.

.....For the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God.

If we are crucified with Christ,

If it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us,

If the life we now live in the flesh is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us,

the Lord himself will keep us slow to anger.

Why waste time accusing each other?

Each of us will answer before the Lord for our own anger.

Each of us is under the judgment of God for the harsh words we speak.

When Jesus says to us,

“Peace be with you!”

....it is not only a blessing.

It is a command.



*REB: September 2021
Featured Art: Melani Pyke*

*Prayer- Lord we cannot find the peace you call us to when we are wounding others, when we are mean spirited, and tearing others down. Holy Lord so many of us have been stirred by anger that the powers of darkness are luring us to. Forgive us Lord, O forgive us, free us from anger. And yes, help us to back off, close our mouths and listen to your Spirit. Help us to be still and to put our swords away. We cannot do this unless we draw close to your heart, to your perfection... until your nature not only fills us but flows from our lips. So draw us Lord, draw us to you....help us to truly find the peace you command us to embrace.
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