

ANGER

By Steve Stutzman

Anger is an emotion we feel when our soul is violated. Like pain stabs us when our body is pierced, poked, or slapped, so anger stabs us if our soul feels wronged. And, just like pain seems to creep up with no known source, so it is also with anger.

If you have an injury on a finger or hand, did you ever notice how frequently it seems to get hit? Actually, it gets hit LESS than normal, but it FEELS like more, because of tender flesh.

And so it is with the soul; if we have received a wound in an area of life, and it is not yet healed, we tend to over-respond in anger whenever we feel offense in that area. We are sensitive there. We may not see or realize we are over-reacting, because in our mind it is all justified. We KNOW the feeling is real, (or think we do) because we are the ones feeling the pain.

All this makes anger look good, and justified. However, anger also has a very dark side to it. It is and provides a seed-bed for much sin. The Bible does not forbid anger, or condemn it. It does, however, forbid us to hold onto or harbor the emotion. We are to let it go before the sun goes down, so as not to give Satan a foot-hold, or a place to stand, in our lives to annoy and harass us. Eph 4:26-27 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the Devil.

When anger is allowed to remain in a life, it acts much as infection in a wound. It inflames, prevents healing, causes sickness, and pollutes the body. It creates in, as well as far around, the original wound an “untouchable” area and it responds violently if that area suffers offense.

This offense and anger cause us to feel and think and SAY things about others we should not. Thus, the Scripture says, we “give place” to the Devil, (Greek: Diablos) literally, an

accuser. The anger and accusation compel us not to forgive. Anger, caused and unforgiven, becomes bitterness.

Since many strong holds in the life are built through repeating an evil over and over, this anger - accusation - bitterness pattern soon becomes a strong hold. Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; When this reality is established in a generation, those who come after often suffer from it. The following are common struggles faced by those trapped in a generational curse of anger.

- Unexplainable, explosive fits of anger. Sometimes they will appear to other around them to be completely unprovoked. These fits may be silent and hidden, or include violent displays.
- Unwillingness, or inability, to forgive. Forgiveness is not intended to be extremely difficult, or to drag on for months and years. Jesus forgave before the nails were all the way in.
- Collection of grudges. If someone does not forgive and carries a collection of grudges, there will often be a list of physical ailments with it – many of them unexplainable.
- Broken relationships. Responses of anger, and not forgiving, have a rather obvious way of creating a chain of broken relationships.
- Shame. Even as an infant, our spirit knows we should not be feeling these blasts of rage. Efforts to subdue them produce shame that results in bed-wetting, bloody noses, etc.
- Sarcastic, biting speech

- Pull toward violence – movies, fights, music, military that represent violence or bloodshed.
- Withdrawing
- Jealousy
- Drivenness – a drive to excel and overcome can be anger-motivated
- Hatred – channeling the anger out at a gender or race

Ask those close around you if they see these elements in your life. Be honest about it yourself, as you look at your own responses. Many of us were not taught how to deal with anger at a young age and still don't know how. The Bible teaches us to put off anger, wrath, and malice, so there must be a way.

Try to come to one of the conferences. We teach extensively there about addressing these strong holds and spirits, both in our lives personally and in our generations. Pick up the book Pigs in The Parlor. It explains some of this. We are NOT advocating anger MANAGEMENT, but rather a healing to the core that brings freedom from the ravages of anger.

Please do not do nothing. Do something. It has not changed this far in your life by being ignored, and ignoring it further will cause ignor-ance. The pain you may be causing those you love is far greater than you can imagine.

Charity suffereth long and is kind. Believe in, hope in, a life free from compelling impulses of anger.