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Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Scripture reveals that Jesus was an even-tempered person. In the accounts when His anger is evident the differences between His righteous or godly anger, and our sinful anger is shocking. This is true of believer and nonbelievers.

When Jesus was angry, His faith in the Father enabled anger to be holy. It was untainted by sin. His anger never was unfocused or misdirected. Jealousy, greed, and self-interest was not part of Jesus' display of anger.

How was this possible? Even though Jesus was fully human and was tempted as we are, he never gave into Satan's call to transgress God's law. (Matthew 4:1-11) The Son knew the Father and the Son's faith was perfect, never changing or wavering like ours.

Jesus' perfect faith in God the Father allowed him to place His trust in God, remain obedient to the Father, and therefore demonstrate perfect love towards the Father. Because of this perfect love for the Father, there was no fear of the Father.

If we contrast Jesus' walk with ours, we see how far astray we have been led by Satan. Because we have a severe handicap (our sin nature) we are unable to know, trust, obey, or love God in a manner that is pleasing to Him. In this state we cannot help but be

fearful of the Father. He is holy and we are sinful. We cannot stand before a righteous and holy God drenched in sin.

Our fear creates insecurity within us, and we become unable or simply unwilling to stand up for what is right. How could we when we fail to do what is right in our own lives? We have nothing solid and firm to place our trust in. We do not know God, and so we are caught in the wave of culture being tossed back and forth. Never able to find a secure anchor.

The anger that is prohibited and condemned by Scripture is that which is produced by the "old self." If we have come to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we have put off the old and are now a new creation. This "new self" is a product of the Holy Spirit, Who has transformed our heart of stone and given us the mind of Jesus." (1 Cor. 2:16.)

Because Jesus is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," our "new self" can and should, if we do not quench the Spirit, display godly anger, which is rooted and grounded in the truth. The Apostle Paul shows us the way to godly anger in Ephesians chapter 4.

Paul tells us what we were like and exhorts us to a better way. **Ephesians 4:17-19 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

He goes on to explain how through the grace and mercy of God we have been transformed by the knowledge of Christ.

Ephesians 4:20–24 (ESV)

*²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!—
²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were
taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off
your old self, which belongs to your former manner
of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,
²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,
²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the
likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

The Apostle finishes by showing us how much better the “new self” is when compared to the life we lived before we learned Christ.

Ephesians 4:25–27 (ESV)

*²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each
one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we
are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not
sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and
give no opportunity to the devil.*

Jesus’ anger was based on or comes from His speaking truth into our lives. This type of anger is not only honest but also humble. We need to apply these qualities to our anger as we speak into the lives of those around us. Even more importantly, we must be honest and humble enough to let Jesus’ truth and godly anger speak into our own lives.

It is from these virtues of humility and honesty, along with the ability to speak in truth that we find ourselves qualified and compelled to claim this world for the Kingdom. Jesus’ victory over sin and death gives us the “moral authority” to proclaim the good news to the world.

To stand by and watch Satan, our great adversary continue unabated is disobedient to God. As we Read in **2 Timothy 1:7**, ⁷ *for God did not give us a*

spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ¹(NRSV)

Although we are weak, He is strong. God has demonstrated throughout history that he will fight our battles for us. We just need to show up in faith. He knows our human frailties and our limitations, but because of His great love for us, the Father will provide for, and protect us.

Yes, we must strap on the whole armor of God. But all of it, even the sword is for defensive not offensive purposes. We are not commanded to charge forth and take every hill after donning God’s armor. We are to “stand against,” and “stand firm.”

The reasoning behind this command is that God understands the true nature of the battle, while we do not. We are not equipped to wage this type of warfare. **Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV)**

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Corinthians 10:4–6 (ESV) ⁴ *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.*