

Angry at God - James 1

July 27, 2017

James 1:13-16 NASB

13 **Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.**

14 **But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.**

15 **Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.**

16 **Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.**

We can often respond to the stress of the trials carnally and sinfully. We respond with selfishness and pride, becoming frustrated, irritable, angry, bitter, depressed, impatient, unforgiving, fearful, accusatory, paranoid, defensive, argumentative, indignant, etc.

Trials will also expose the idolatry of our heart, trusting in the arm of the flesh and earthly wisdom for solutions, turning to carnal pleasures for comfort, instead of trusting in God.

Then we blame God and justify our sinful response by saying the trial is unfair, too difficult and too grievous. If only God would have prevented the circumstances, or would have taken the problems away, then I wouldn't be responding this way.

The trial is not causing your carnality. The trial is exposing your carnality. It's not God's fault, nor the fault of the circumstances. God is pinpointing what needs to be crucified in you.

Don't become angry at God, accusing Him of tempting you with evil, because He allowed this to happen.

Hebrews 3:7-19 ESV

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "**Today, if you hear his voice,**

8 **do not harden** (*sklērynō* - to become obstinate, stubborn, harden) **your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,**

9 **where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.**

For 40 years, God demonstrated to Israel that He would supernaturally guide, protect and provide for them, in the impossible circumstances in the wilderness. Yet for all He proved to them, they still did not trust Him. Rather, they became angry with God and hardened their hearts because they didn't like being in the wilderness.

Hebrews 3:7-19 ESV

10 **Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'**

What are God's "ways?"

1. He demonstrates His great love and power for His people through impossible situations.
2. He tests and exercises His people's trust and faith through impossible situations.
3. He exposes the hearts of His people through impossible situations.
4. We walk by faith, not by sight. We fix our eyes on Jesus, looking away from circumstances.

Hebrews 3:7-19 ESV

11 As I swore in my wrath, **They shall not enter my rest.**"

Matthew 11:28-30 NASB

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 "**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

30 "**For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NASB

9 And He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**" Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, **so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.**

10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; **for when I am weak, then I am strong.**

How to prevent hardness of heart and anger towards God:

1. **Surrender your will to God's yoke.**

Matthew 11:29 NASB

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 26:36-44 NASB

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?"

41 "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

43 *Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.*

44 *And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.*

2. **Cast the care onto God.**

1 *Peter 5:6-8 ESV*

6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,*

7 *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

8 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

6 *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

7 *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

3. **Fix your eyes on Jesus, not circumstances.**

2 *Corinthians 5:7 NASB*

7 *for we walk by faith, not by sight--*

Hebrews 10:38 NASB

38 *BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.*

Hebrews 11:27 NASB

27 *By faith he [Moses] left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.*

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

2 *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

2 *Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV*

16 *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.*

17 *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,*

18 *as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

4. **As revealed by the trial, what part of me needs to be put to death?**

John 15:2 NASB

2 *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.*

1 Peter 4:1-2 NASB

1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

5. Stay in close fellowship.

Hebrews 3:7-19 ESV

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.