

## 5 Day Devotions, "Emotions: Anger," from Wednesday, January 24, 2024

### Day 1: Harnessing Anger for Righteous Action

Anger, when approached thoughtfully, can be a catalyst for positive change and the pursuit of righteousness. It is essential to be quick to listen and slow to speak, allowing for a patient and forgiving attitude that aligns with the teachings of James. This reflective approach to anger can prevent it from leading to harmful actions and instead be used to address injustices and wrongs. ▶ [\[51:38\]](#)

James 1:19-20 - "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."

Reflection: Recall a recent situation where you felt angry. How did you respond, and how could you have applied the teachings of James to handle it better?

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### Day 2: Confronting Injustice with Righteous Anger

Righteous anger is justified when directed towards injustice and exploitation, especially in the context of faith. It is a reminder to remain vigilant against practices that exploit the devout and to use this form of anger as a tool for correcting wrongs, upholding the sanctity of worship spaces, and ensuring they remain houses of prayer for all. ▶ [\[49:03\]](#)

Matthew 21:12-13 - "Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 'It is written,' he said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

Reflection: Identify a situation in your community where injustice is prevalent. How can you channel your anger to take action and advocate for change?

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### Day 3: Prayer as Intimate Conversation with God

Prayer is an open and direct conversation with God, accessible to everyone equally. This democratization of spiritual communication emphasizes the personal relationship each individual can have with the divine, akin to a conversation with a trusted confidant. It is a reminder that no one has a greater ability to engage with God than another. ▶ [\[39:07\]](#)

Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Reflection: How do you view your prayer life? Consider how you can make your prayers more like an intimate conversation with God.

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#### Day 4: Transforming Anger into Righteousness

While anger is a natural emotion, it should not lead to sin or give the devil a foothold. Paul's teachings to the Ephesians emphasize the importance of renewing one's spirit and embracing a new self that reflects God's righteousness and holiness. This transformation involves managing anger responsibly and speaking truthfully.

▶ [\[55:39\]](#)

Ephesians 4:22-24 - "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Reflection: Think about a time when you felt anger leading you towards sin. How can you work on renewing your spirit to reflect God's righteousness in such moments?

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#### Day 5: Overcoming Evil with Good

Responding to adversaries with kindness and seeking reconciliation is a profound strategy for dealing with anger and conflict. This approach, rooted in repentance and the grace of Jesus Christ, not only leads to spiritual rewards but also contributes to a more harmonious community. It is a call to transform anger into love and act in ways that promote peace. ▶ [\[57:34\]](#)

Romans 12:21 - "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Reflection: Consider a conflict you are currently involved in. How can you apply the principle of overcoming evil with good to this situation?