

# CLEBURNE COUNTY BAPTIST CHURCH

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## MY JOURNEY TO THE ROOT OF ANGER

*Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

*Neither give place to the devil. Eph. 4:26-27*

I feel totally inadequate to write about the subject of anger, but I will say that God has me on a journey to understand myself. Understanding me will help you understand you, or it will help you understand others like me. A recurring anger problem is much more than just “pulling yourself up by your bootstraps” and trying to do better. Many times, there are deep wounds in a person's life. God desires to heal these wounds.

Fathers are entrusted with painting a picture of the Heavenly Father – whether they know it or not. Usually, a child will view God as they have viewed their father. For example, a distant father who never engages in a loving relationship with their child will deeply affect them. Most likely, the father's father was the same, and on it goes. As a result, anger is produced. Coping mechanisms are put in place such as drugs, alcohol, over-eating, pornography, and the list goes on.

Just like any real physical wound, you need to go to the doctor, get the medicine, and give it time to heal. God is the capital “D” Doctor! His medicine is knowing Him, and His healing is believing Him.

I'm going to take a position that may not be the most popular amongst Christians today. Some believe Ephesians 4:26 gives a person liberty to be

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angry. “You just have to direct it somewhere else,” they say. Like, be angry towards sin, the devil, etc. If you take that view and it drives you to your knees and gives you victory, praise God! Hallelujah! Stick with that, but it doesn't work for me. I want to know the deeper problem. The phrase “Be ye angry” is one Greek word “orgeizo” which means to be provoked to anger.

Verse 31 of chapter 4 says to “put away all bitterness, and wrath, and anger.” Therefore, it can be understood as “be ye being angered or be provoked to anger.” Verse 26 goes on to say, “and sin not.” Romans 14:23 says, “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Sin is disobedience to God's Word, while faith is taking God at His Word. The rest of verses 26 and 27 says, “Let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.” So, let's put it all together. We are going to be provoked to anger even if it's just the feeling of anger for no other reason than that the devil sent it by way of a stronghold we have given him because of past disobediences. If we go to bed angry, we give the devil more ground in our lives. So, what is the sin in verse 26? Numbers 20:1-13 shows us the sin. Moses became angry over something that we might see as a good reason to be angry, but God rebuked him for it. (Pay attention!) God said, “Because

ye believed me not." Psalm 106:32-33 show us that Moses was provoked. It "went ill" with him, and he "spake unadvisedly with his lips." God was not pleased with his anger, but the root of his anger was unbelief. Hebrews 3:12-19 says, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief... lest any of you be hardened through the deceiffulness of sin. ...And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?" We see that they could not enter into rest because of unbelief. So... what am I supposed to believe about God? Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Ephesians 5:20, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." James 1:2-8, "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (tests); Knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience." You may say, "How can God work this out for good?" I want to give you this thought. God has a plan for you and has had this plan since the moment you were conceived. His plan is that you would come to Him in faith believing only on Him for

salvation and you have a unique way to reach certain people. You will go through things everyday that will be used of God to help you reach people, and you must believe that! "God, I don't understand this, but you're going to work this out for good. It is not my business to know how you're going to do it, but it IS MY BUSINESS TO TRUST YOU."

Many today have grown up in broken homes and have deep wounds in their soul. God wants to heal us! Will you go to the Doctor, The Great Physician? Will you let Him operate on you? Having a head knowledge of God and having a heart knowledge are two totally different things. A person does not just go from a hard life to a "no problem" Christian. There is a healing or growing process God wants to take you through so that wounds are healed and your new identity in Christ is established properly. For someone whose Father abandoned them, they will struggle with the thought that the Heavenly Father is not always there for them. For those whose Father was there but never engaged them in a real loving, affirming relationship, they can struggle with "Yeah, God says He loves me. I know that, but in the hard times I struggle fully believing it."

I have been saved for around eight years and was keeping all these wounds down deep not letting anyone in. I felt like if I did, people would hurt me, and I can't take being hurt anymore. God delivered me from meth and other things in 2013, but there were areas of anger and so much more that I would not share with anyone. After hearing a preacher preach on wounds from childhood, God began to operate on me. God is showing me the truth about all the lies **satan has used** to wound me. In short, God has taken me on a journey that has revealed the root of my anger problem is unbelief – not believing God has the power to work all things together for good in my life. My prayer is like the man who cried out to Jesus in Mark 9:24, "Lord I believe, help thou mine unbelief." It is my business to take the medicine of truth and pour it in the wounds. God has said that He loves us with an everlasting love. To those that will receive God and become one of His children, God is now their Everlasting Father. He is the capital "D" Doctor! His medicine is knowing Him, and His healing is believing Him.

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