

Are There Reasons to Be Angry at God? (Part 1)

Author: Larry W. Wilson

Part I

Many people might have a reason to be angry with God. Just think about these real life situations:

1. God allowed my child or my loved one to suffer and die.
2. God allowed my child to be born with a birth defect.
3. I prayed for deliverance from a bad habit and God did nothing.
4. I trusted God and He let me down.
5. I hate the body that God gave me.
6. God did not protect me / my child / my spouse / a loved one from disaster or accident.
7. I prayed for healing / a job / a relationship / a passing grade and God did nothing.
8. God burns people in Hell for eternity.

People can be angry at God, but there is not much any person can do about this anger until he chooses to let it go. If you or someone you know would like to deal with being angry, this Bible study may be helpful.

Because the study incorporates many Bible texts, get your Bible out and read each text as you go along. An easier way to do this is to read this article on our website (www.wake-up.org) and as you hover your mouse over each reference, the Bible text will “magically” pop up in a small window.

As you read, contemplate the following six points. Also consider the relevant question: Is your anger toward God justified?

1. **God is not like us.** Before we approach God with our petitions, it is helpful to understand a few facts about Him. God is not like us. No one in the universe is like Him. (Isaiah 46:9) He created everything and owns everything. (Isaiah 40:28-41:4) He rules the universe and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4) Therefore, we should not treat or approach God as an equal. Before approaching Him, we should prepare ourselves. If you want God to give special attention to your request, make sure that you have made things right with God and your neighbor. (Matthew 5:23,24) We cannot live like the devil in willful rebellion and expect God to pay attention to our requests. (1 John 5:14-20; Hebrews 12:28,29) If we are living in sin, He will not hear our prayers. (Psalm 66:18,19) Therefore, approach Him with humility and respect. (2 Chronicles 7:14) He is the King of kings! (Malachi 1:4; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16)
We cannot expect God to respond to our request if wrong doing is involved. God will have nothing to do with evil intent. (Isaiah 45:21; Proverbs 6:16-19) Our requests must be pure and honorable in His sight. Although it is very difficult, each petition we make should be made with total surrender. God has infinite wisdom and foreknowledge so He

knows the best solution for each petition. Because God is a God of love, He uses infinite wisdom and omnipotent power to bring about the best outcome. We have to trust Him in this regard. Total surrender requires letting God have the final word.

Finally, when we present our requests (He invites us to do so – Matthew 7:7-8), our motives should be as pure as possible. James wrote, **“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”** (James 4:3)

2. **God is not Santa Claus.** God’s ways are not our ways. (Isaiah 55:8,9) God never sleeps and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, He sees everything and He is everywhere. (Psalm 139:7-10) God is always on His throne and His highest concern is teaching us to trust Him, now and throughout eternity. Although it is not our fault, Adam and Eve’s sin separated us from God. (Genesis 3:22-24; Romans 5:12) We do not naturally trust God. Neither do we want to have fellowship with Him (Romans 8:5-9) due to our sinful nature; so He pursues us. (Romans 5:6) He wants to bring us into communion and fellowship with Him without gratifying our sinful nature! This process is difficult. God wants to refine and purify us and this is contrary to our sinful nature. So, God pursues us because He knows that the closer we come to Him, our true joy and happiness will be greater. He gives each born again person “the fruit of the Spirit” which include love, joy, peace, and happiness, etc. (Galatians 5:22,23; John 14:27) This gift is so powerful that it will make anger disappear. When Moses experienced the goodness of God on Mt. Sinai, he wanted to stay with God. He begged, **“If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.”** (Exodus 33:13)

3. **God has a specific purpose for each person.** (Jeremiah 1:5) We will only fulfill this purpose if we are willing to obey the Holy Spirit’s voice whenever He speaks to us. (Romans 8:14) If we will walk before God in righteousness and truth, God will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5,6) and answer our prayers. **“I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”** (Jeremiah 17:10) God will subject each petition we make to His infinite wisdom. It can be difficult to believe that in our darkest moments, God sees our peril and anxiety. During Jesus’ anguish before going to the cross, He sweated great drops of blood. He did not want to die and He cried out, **“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”** (Luke 22:42) The Father’s will was that Jesus should die on the cross. The Father sent an angel to strengthen Jesus so that Jesus could carry out His purpose. (Luke 22:43) And, God will do the same for everyone who surrenders to His will.

When God called Jonah to preach in Nineveh, Jonah ran away because he did not want to go to Nineveh. (Jonah 1:1-3) If God were to reveal His plan for our lives prematurely, we would probably run away too. God’s plan for tomorrow and *our* present condition are rarely agreeable, so He fulfills His plan for us one step at a time. We cannot see the future that God has for us and this is a good thing!

God will shepherd us if we are willing for Him to lead us step-by-step into the fullness of God’s purpose for which He gave us life. (Psalm 23) We cannot see the future, our need for transformation, or our faults and failings as God sees them. This is a good

thing. If we could see our true condition before God, it would overwhelm us. When He saw God's throne, Isaiah cried out, “ **‘Woe to me!’ . . . ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.’** ” (Isaiah 6:5)

When we make our request to God, we can be intense, but we cannot be demanding. The pot cannot demand anything of the potter. (Isaiah 45:9) On the other hand, we can know that if we humbly approach Him, honoring Him by living up to all we know to be right and true (John 4:23), He will consider our petition and *He will do whatever is best!* He has promised. (John 15:16) Therefore, prepare yourself and present your request appropriately. Leave it with Him. God is alive. He is not impressed with chants or endless repetition. He hears and He sees. He even knows our situation before we ask! (Matthew 6:8) Trust in God! **“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the Earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”** (2 Chronicles 16:9)

4. **If God determines that a request should be fulfilled as presented, He will gladly do it!** (Matthew 7:11; Judges 16:28.29) If He knows that a request is not beneficial, He will deny it. For example, no loving parent allows a small child to play with a sharp knife. If God determines there is a solution to our request, but the solution will take time, He will give us grace and strength to deal with our circumstances. At the same time, He will set a process in motion that will fulfill our request. From our perspective, it may seem that God has said “No” to our petition because it is not fulfilled immediately, but in reality He has responded to our request. He just plans to answer our request later. Looking back, I see that God wanted me to experience patience, faithful endurance, and learn certain lessons before my requests could be answered. Knowing what I now know, I am very happy that God waited to fulfill my requests because, in every case? *His fulfillment is so much better than what I originally had in mind!*

5. **We do have a carnal nature.** Our sinful nature is the main problem when it comes to being angry with God. God is always righteous and fair. He does no evil and He loves each of us enough to die for us! God is not arrogant or arbitrary. He is faithful, changeless, and trustworthy. He is unbelievably generous and selfless. When something painful happens, He shares in our pain. (Genesis 6:6; Matthew 6:24-34) Our sinful nature is selfish to the core. Our nature wants what it wants and when it cannot have it, we become angry and determined (if possible) to get what God has denied us! When God does not answer their prayers, some people retaliate by cursing Him or doing evil to get even with God. These acts do not make the heart joyful. **“The mind of sinful man is [destined for] death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is [filled with] life and peace.”** (Romans 8:6, insertions mine)

God understands our sinful nature. He understands our natural rebellion, selfishness, impatience, intolerance, and desire for instant gratification. He knows that *each* sin is a seed that will eventually sprout and hurt the sinner. Whatever a man sows, he reaps. (Galatians 6:7) Therefore, God reasons that if our anger toward Him means separation, He will wait. Maybe a painful harvest from our sin will soften our heart and allow us to receive His offer of peace and joy. God wants to win us over so that we will trust Him! God wants us to love Him so He showers His love on us even *before* we love Him. His desire is to make our love for Him sprout within us. (1 John 4:19) God blesses the

righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:45) God wants us to forsake our sins because sin always produces a harvest of pain, sorrow, and suffering. (Deuteronomy 28:15-20) God delights in showing each person His personal interest and love. Yet, to see the invisible hand of God in our lives, we have to search for God with all our hearts. **“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”** (Jeremiah 29:13) Spiritual eyes see spiritual things and it takes some time and effort to understand God’s ways. (1 Corinthians 2:13,14)

There are two realities. We can see the temporal reality with the naked eye, but the eternal reality requires the “eye of faith.” Currently, God lives in the second reality and when a person becomes born again, God gives him eyes to detect God’s presence (2 Kings 6:17), but **“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”** (Psalm 14:1) Faith in God is much more than knowing about God. The devil used to live with God in Heaven and he knows all *about* God. (James 2:19) The devil became angry with God when he could not have his way. His anger began the curse of sin.

Faith in God is a matter of choice. If the Spirit leads us, our faith knows that God will do whatever is best. If we have to wait, He will give us grace and strength to wait. For a person who is controlled by a sinful nature, his faith in God is destroyed when God *appears* to do nothing! This is why Paul wrote, **“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”** (Hebrews 11:6, italics mine) If you are angry at God, the best antidote is faith. If you are willing to let go of anger long enough to experience God’s goodness, the Holy Spirit will melt your anger away. (Romans 2:4) God *always* rewards those who earnestly seek Him. **“The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them.”** (Psalm 25:14)

6. **God cannot do certain things.** In our next study, we will discover that Almighty God cannot do certain things. For example, God cannot override a person’s free will. If a person chooses to stay angry at God, God cannot override his choice! Unfortunately, God is unable to do several things and when He does not do them, people get angry at Him. We will discuss this in our next study.

Are There Reasons to be Angry at God? (Part 2)

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Last month, we considered reasons why God may not answer prayers the way we wish. Some Christians become angry at God when His actions do not meet their expectations. Reasons 1-4 below are possible events that may make us angry. Reason 5 is quite different from the first four and follows later in this article:

Why Hasn't God Acted

- 1. God allowed my child or my loved one to suffer and die.**
- 2. God allowed my child to be born with a birth defect.**
- 3. God did not protect me / my child / my spouse / a loved one from disaster or accident.**
- 4. I trusted God and He let me down.**

Their anger may be due to a belief system that goes something like: "God is all powerful. I have tried to live right and please Him. I have prayed and prayed and He has done nothing. God let me down and I am bitterly disappointed with Him." Please understand, God would have answered your prayers if He could, but He cannot! The reason is a bit complicated, but important to understand. Even though God is all powerful and a God of love, the curse of sin limits what God can do. Long before Adam and Eve sinned, God predetermined He would allow sin's curse, as painful and deadly as it would be, to run its course for 6,000 years. When Adam and Eve sinned, God became bound by His plan. Therefore, He cannot *cancel, override or alleviate the sorrow, sickness, pain, and death that comes from the curse of sin until the time He has established arrives*. (Acts 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:26) God, according to His infinite wisdom, is following a plan. When His plan is completed, it will keep the universe free from the curse of sin forever. We can estimate the value and significance of His plan by considering the price He has paid personally. Also consider the amount of sorrow, sickness, pain, and death that sin has created over the past 6,000 years!

Sin's power is a mystery. (2 Thessalonians 2:7) When God separated Adam and Eve from the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:22), He also separated them from the divine power required to sustain life. This separation allows random chaos, mutation, and death at the cellular level! This is how everything and everyone dies. The curse of sin passed to Adam's offspring. His first born son became a murderer. Of course, there are self-inflicted consequences for wrong doing, but the curse of sin is different. It injects random defects into the reproductive process (damaged genes and chromosomes), spreads diseases of all kinds, and it somehow kills the righteous as well as the wicked! Sin's curse temporarily imposes limits on what God can do because He

cannot override, cancel, or alleviate the curse of sin just yet.

One limitation God has is that a God of love cannot and does not show favoritism. (Acts 10:34) Jesus said the Father sends the rain on the righteous and unrighteous. (Matthew 5:45) A father is not loving and fair if he exclusively favors two of his five children. God loves everyone equally, and Jesus would have died for any one of us. Given that God's *love is impartial*, consider the following questions: Why should God save *my* child or loved one when He has not done this for the rest of humanity? Why should *my* child be born without defect when God has not prevented defects in other children? Why should God protect me / my child / my spouse or a loved one from disaster when He has not done this for others? Am I angry at God because He treated me as He treats everyone else?

God knows that the death of a child or a loved one can be more crushing and painful than words can describe. He also knows that when a person is broken with unbearable heartache and grief, that person may be angry because the sinful nature is spring-loaded for retaliation. One child hits another and the victim naturally hits back! God understands our sinful nature, but no one properly understands God's love. For thousands of years, the Father has felt and experienced greater pain than human beings can comprehend. He observed the world's violence and wickedness in Noah's day and it made Him sick. (Genesis 6:5,6) The Father could barely watch as His chosen people practically beat His "beloved Son" to death and then crucified Him to the cross. Additionally, the Father has witnessed every injustice, all the sexual abuse, and every crime committed on Earth. He has felt every pain that victims suffer. God is not removed from our suffering; He hurts deeply because of it.

God has given people freedom and we are accountable to Him. God allows people to commit murder, cheat the elderly out of their life savings, sexually abuse children, and commit adultery. God allows predators to prey on the weak and wicked cities to flourish. However, everyone will have to face God and give an account for their actions! (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:37) Now, consider the liberty that God has given to the curse of sin: There are random birth defects, famines, plagues, earthquakes, fires, floods, wars, and catastrophes of all kinds. An infinitely wise God permits these events because He is following a comprehensive plan that will secure the universe eternally from defiant sinners and the curse of sin. To achieve this goal, God must allow the consequences of sin to mature. After God destroys sin and sinners, He can justifiably and righteously terminate any future sinner on the day he sins. Everyone will be sad for the sinner who deliberately chose to sin, but delighted with God's response. After God eliminates sin from the universe, His created beings will perfectly understand why God terminated sin's curse before it could infect anyone else.

Today, while sin's curse is ravaging Earth, God is willing to give each sinner a marvelous gift of "sufficient grace." (2 Corinthians 12:9) This gift enables people to overcome the world, including every painful challenge that sin creates, just as Jesus did. (John 16:33; 1 John 5:4) Among Christians, the word grace, like the word faith, has many different meanings. The most common definition of grace is unmerited favor, mercy, and forgiveness. However, the word grace also means an infusion of divine power and uncommon strength. (Romans 1:16) If you want to see God in action, ask Him hour-by-hour, if need be, for grace to overcome a very difficult situation and He will give it! (John 16:24)

People who are angry at God because of sin's curse must understand that God has not let them down. Instead, *their theology has let them down*. God allows people to believe whatever they want, but this freedom does not mean that whatever we believe is true. If a person is willing to understand that God is executing a wonderful plan and does not show favoritism, and if the person is also willing to receive grace (divine power) to overcome his pain, the Holy Spirit will deliver a peace that passes understanding! (2 Corinthians 1:3-6) Each person can rise above the pit of anger. We can be happy and joyful again through God's amazing grace. (2 Corinthians 5:17; 9:8) He will remove the heartache and bitterness. (Titus 2:11-14) We can rise above the waves of despair and "walk on top of the water" just as Peter did (Matthew 14:29) if we will reach out in faith and take hold of the Savior's hand. (John 14:16-18; 1 John 3:1) He will lift you up! (Psalm 40:1-3) This is how God helps us to deal with the awful curse of sin. So, claim His promise and receive the blessing!

Why Did God Make Me the Way I Am?

5. I hate the body that God gave me.

This topic is complicated for Christians. A Christian may self-loath characteristics like skin color, physical build, size, hair, height, or weight. Another more complicated attribute might be an individual who hates being male/female or pretending to be heterosexual. I cannot address the many issues associated with this class of anger in this short article; however, I hope the following thoughts will be helpful for those who have self-loathing issues.

Medical science has discovered that genetics defines our bodies and sharply influences our health. For example, "The average woman in the United States has about a 1 in 8, or about a 12% risk of developing breast cancer. Women who have an abnormal BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene (or both) can have up to an 80% risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetimes."¹ Scientists have also known for years that genetic disorders are precursors for disease and/or birth defects. For example, "Down syndrome can be caused by one of three types of abnormal cell division involving chromosome 21. . . Fifteen to thirty percent of women with trisomy 21 [the abnormal cell division involving chromosome 21] are fertile and they have about a 50% risk of having a child with Down syndrome."²

There is an ongoing debate about genetic influence on human sexuality. A study conducted in 2015 by UCLA molecular biologist Tuck C. Ngun looked at the genetic structures of forty-seven pairs of identical male twins. Thirty-seven pairs consisted of one homosexual and one heterosexual and ten pairs consisted of homosexual brothers. Dr. J. Michael Bailey, a Northwestern University psychologist speaking on the results of the study said, "Our best guess is that there are genes that affect a man's sexual orientation, . . .but the existence of identical twin pairs in which only one is homosexual conclusively suggest that genes don't explain everything."³ "In 2015, the number of people in the United States identifying as gay is about 3.8% of the population"⁴ and "The number of people who identify as transgender [in 2015] amounts to about 1.4 million people or .6% of the adult population in the United States."⁵

Whether a person is born with a predisposition for homosexual attraction or a need for transgender recognition is not a concern. God knows. Each person has a sinful nature because

we are conceived within the curse of sin. (Romans 3:23) We can be 100% sure that Jesus will deal fairly and appropriately with each human being when the time for judgment comes. (John 5:22,23, Acts 17:31, 2 Corinthians 5:10) God foreknew the existence of sexual misconduct long before Jesus created Adam and Eve, and He explicitly defined sexual misconduct so there could be no confusion about it. (Leviticus 18:26; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Revelation 22:14,15)

If a person has a predisposition for a homosexual attraction, he can only live a life pleasing to God if he refrains from sexual misconduct. Incidentally, God also requires the same behavior from heterosexuals. Because God is willing to impart "sufficient grace" to us, it is possible for a homosexual to live a purpose-filled life while remaining celibate. I know this position sounds devastating in a world that glorifies sexual misconduct, but it is not. God's sustaining grace makes living a celibate life not to be the huge problem that defiant people make it out to be. Jesus said, **"If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell."** (Matthew 18:8,9)

God will give those who ask grace and strength to live an honorable life. Living life to the fullest with happiness and joy is possible even when celibacy is required. Paul testified to God's sustaining grace when he wrote, **"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."** (Philippians 4:3) **"I wish that all men were [happily single] as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."** (1 Corinthians 7:7, insertion mine) If you have self-loathing because of your body, ask God for grace to deal with the issue. Tell Him that you want a new attitude and new experience. Admit to yourself that God created you for a specific purpose. (Jeremiah 1:5) Admit that His purpose for you will be fulfilled *if* you are willing to honor Him by doing what is right and obeying the Holy Spirit's voice. (Romans 8:14) If we choose to walk with God in righteousness and truth, God will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5,6) and answer our prayers! **"I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."** (Jeremiah 17:10)

I have met many wonderful, celibate Christians during my past 45 years of ministry. Some were young and some were old. Some were intentionally celibate and others were celibate because of the death of a spouse (widows and widowers). These people stand out because they were living a happy and fulfilled life! They had surrendered to God's will and God had led them into a place or situation that was not utopia, but was perfect for them. It gets no better than this on Earth. *Instead of wanting to be someone else, or live in another body, focus on God's offer of sustaining grace right where you are.* With it comes the possibility of reaching the purpose for which God created you. So, let go and let God! This world and all of its passions will soon pass away. If we allow our Creator to fulfill the purpose for which He gave us life, He will bless us with the same sense of purpose, happiness, and joy that the angels enjoy! **This is what Heaven will be like.**

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¹ Source: breastcancer.org

² Source: americanpregnancy.org

³ Source: [LA Times](http://latimes.com)

⁴ Source: [Gallup Poll](http://gallup.com)

⁵ Source: [NY Times](http://nytimes.com)

Are There Reasons to Be Angry at God? (Part 3)

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This is the final segment in the series that identifies the last three reasons we might be angry at God, and the Biblical responses to their issues. If you have not read the previous two articles in this series, please review them before proceeding.

6. I prayed for a healing / job / relationship / passing grade and God did nothing.

We can ask God for anything, but it is important to know that since God loves everyone similarly, He cannot show favoritism. (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11) What He does for one person, He does for everyone! Jesus described this principle when He said the Father causes the rain to fall on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:45) If you cherish anger toward God because He did not perform the miracle you desperately wanted, it could be that you asked Him to do something that He cannot do!

God does not perform a miracle, except the miracle of rebirth, unless there is a larger purpose for the miracle than the miracle itself. God raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43,44), but Lazarus died again. Jesus resurrected Lazarus to prove to everyone (especially the leaders of Israel) that the Father sent Jesus and that He will resurrect the dead at the last day. (John 6:44; John 11:24) Jesus also resurrected Lazarus to show the Sadducees that, contrary to their religious beliefs, resurrection was possible. (Acts 23:6) Later, with God's power, Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:9,10), but Eutychus died again. Eutychus' resurrection was performed to prove that God had chosen Paul, who had previously persecuted the saints, to be a servant of Jesus Christ. Peter also raised Dorcas (also called Tabitha), but she died again (Acts 9:36-40). God used her resurrection to prove that the disciples' testimony was true and to end the confusion in Joppa whether Jesus was alive. The leaders of Israel had paid people to spread the rumor that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body. (Matthew 28:12-15) Dorcas' resurrection disproved the lie.

Consider two illustrations when God's purpose for a miracle was more important than the miracle itself: First, Darius threw Daniel into a lion's den (Daniel 6:22) and God shut the lion's mouths so the lions did not eat Daniel alive. God performed this miracle so that He could use Daniel to help set His people free from captivity. Second, Nebuchadnezzar threw Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego alive into a fiery furnace and God performed an astonishing miracle. He saved His three servants so thousands in Nebuchadnezzar's government could observe firsthand that the God of the Jews was a living God! The following verse summarizes God's higher purpose for miracles: **“So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there [at Iconium], speaking boldly for the Lord, who *confirmed the message of His grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.*”** (Acts 14:3, insertion and italics mine)

It seems to be a contradiction in terms to understand that Almighty God has limitations. God cannot show favoritism because He loves everyone equally. Currently, the curse of sin limits

God, because He cannot cancel or alleviate the curse of sin for one person until He does so for everyone. For the past 6,000 years, God has permitted the curse of sin to run its painful course on Earth because He is complying with a plan that He prepared before the world was created. When His plan is completed, He will never permit the curse of sin to exist again! This will be a profound accomplishment if you properly understand the ramifications of free will.

Billions of years from now, God's universe will be larger than ever and there will be billions of newly created freewill beings who can choose to sin if they wish. In the past, sinless, perfect, freewill beings such as Lucifer have chosen to sin. One third of the angels chose to sin and so did Adam and Eve. However, once the curse of sin is over on Earth, God will not allow it to exist again. God will attempt to stop any person tempted to sin by sending thousands of ex-sinners to his doorstep. If their pleading testimony about the curse of sin does not dissuade him from sinning, God will justifiably annihilate that person on the day that he sins. A universe of intelligent freewill beings will understand that a righteous God, a God of love, did the right thing! Currently, God is working toward His eternal goal by allowing sin's curse to mature. So, He cannot cancel or alleviate the curse of sin (sorrow, pain, suffering, and death) until He does it for everyone! (1 Corinthians 15:26)

Blessings

A blessing is quite different, but just as valuable as a miracle. A miracle can override favoritism, the curse of sin, and all physical laws because of its high purpose. A blessing does not alleviate sin's curse, does not show favoritism, and does not override any physical law. Only a God of love can figure out how to give endless blessings to His children within these stringent limitations. God reveals His blessings in varying ways. They can be very obvious (on the surface, they can even appear to be miracles) or they can be very subtle and hard to detect (on the surface, they can appear to be an expected outcome). Often, God does not get the credit for the many blessings that He produces because people interpret them as "natural" consequences.

Many people think that they have created their good fortune due to their own prowess. They mistakenly think their achievements are "their" achievements when in reality, God blessed them with opportunity and success. God works through the freewill of people every day to produce blessings for other people. Thomas Edison chose to invent a light bulb because he wanted to, but God used his success for all mankind. Have you ever considered how people end up doing whatever they choose to do, but on the whole, the world benefits in wonderful ways from their successes? I am very happy that some people love to take care of horses. If that responsibility rested on me, the world would not have many horses! Grinning... A God of love distributes blessings and gifts to everyone and brings together the right people with amazing abilities *at the right time* to benefit the world.

When God Says "No" or "Wait"

If God determines there is no solution for our request, He will say "no" and give us grace to deal with the situation. This is where we must have faith in God. If we could see as God sees,

we would agree with Him that “no” was the best response. If God determines there is a solution, but that it will take time to produce the best possible result, He will give us grace to deal with the situation while He implements the process that brings the desired blessing at the best time. If you are angry at God because of impatience, ask Him for grace to trust Him more! You will be blessed if you do and your anger will melt away!

7. I prayed for deliverance from a bad habit and God did nothing.

God does work miracles today, but not usually in a way the world desires. One day, the Pharisees and Sadducees challenged Jesus to prove that God had sent Him. Jesus responded, **“A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.”** (Matthew 16:4) Jesus knew that a miracle proves nothing if the heart is not prepared to receive the larger purpose for the miracle. The detractors had seen many miracles, but miracles only made them more defiant. Therefore, the only sign that Jesus would offer Israel’s leaders would be the miracle of Jonah. They knew that a fish swallowed Jonah and a miracle had delivered him from death.

A God of love cannot give a miracle to deliver one person from a bad habit or addiction without working a miracle for everyone. God cannot alleviate sin’s curse today and He cannot violate the physical laws that govern our bodies unless He does this for everyone who asks. God can help a person with an addiction by bringing a tremendous blessing to the addict if the addict will enter into a faith relationship with Him *and* take some necessary steps. In 1935, God gave Bill Wilson (no relation to me) and Dr. Robert Smith a “12 Step Program” to overcome addiction. When an addict carefully follows this program, it is powerful and effective for all types of addictions. I am not aware of any program that has better results. Given that addictions are rampant, every church should offer or support this inexpensive program.

Addictions can start in different ways, but they always produce the same outcome: Slavery. God knows that an addiction overrides freewill (a captive has no freedom), but God has provided a way an addict can become a free-man. The 12 step program teaches addicts how to trust God for divine strength, moment by moment if necessary. The program teaches an addict how to find peace with God, his neighbors, and his past. It also teaches the importance of personal responsibility and accountability to others and last, but not least, humility. Humility is knowing that “but for God’s amazing grace, I am a forever an addict.” Those who succeed in the 12 step program are those who experience the one miracle that God will *always* perform when asked!

The One Miracle God Always Performs

The one miracle which God always performs when properly asked is the miracle of rebirth. When a person comes to a place where he:

- wants to avoid the temporal foolishness and empty pleasures of sin
- feels a deep need for God’s approval

- wants to experience the fruit of the Spirit with God and his neighbors
- wants the assurance of salvation
- wants power to overcome the desires of his sinful nature

and he is willing to give himself wholly over to God – to go, be, do whatever God wants – God responds by working a miracle! He will create a new heart and new mind within that person. God will also give him a “deposit” of the Holy Spirit power to keep him on the right path so that he can live a life of victory! (2 Corinthians 1:21,22)

The wonderful element about this miracle is that if a born again person asks for a daily dispensation of God’s grace, He refreshes each one. God’s grace is much more than unmerited favor. His grace includes the strength to resist temptation, the strength to be honest and forthright, the patience of Job, and the faith of Jesus! If you are angry with God because you prayed for help and are still living as captive to an addiction, there is a way out. Join the nearest 12 step program and participate expecting that God *will* work a miracle within you, one step at a time. He can restore your freedom!

8. God burns people in Hell for eternity.

Finally, some people are angry at God because they think that He will burn people in Hell for eternity. Millions of Christians are convinced that God will burn people with eternal fire, but they are not worried. These Christians believe this punishment does not apply to them because they think God has saved them. When non-believers hear this doctrine, many want nothing to do with God. Through the centuries, the devil has used this doctrine to create a lot of contempt for God by making Him seem cruel and unfair! Even a child understands that fairness or justice require punishment to be commensurate with the crime.

God did state the penalty for sin before sin began. **“But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”** (Genesis 2:17) The penalty for sin is not burning in hell for eternity, the penalty is death! (Romans 6:23) God has postponed the penalty for sin until the time comes for Him to purify Earth. Nobody is burning in hell right now. In reality, if burning in hell forever is the penalty for sin, Jesus did not pay the price required!

The Bible does teach God will destroy the wicked by fire. However, hell will serve two purposes. First, the wicked have to suffer in the fire based on the amount of suffering they imposed on others. (Romans 12:19) After restitution (justice) has been achieved, the wicked will then die. They will no longer exist and will become ashes. (Malachi 4:1-3) Second, after God purifies Earth, He will create a new Heaven and Earth with no more sea or lake of fire! (Revelation 21:1) If you are interested in this topic, please examine this article:
<https://www.wake-up.org/hell/sinners-burn-hell-eternity.html>

God Can Transform You

I have found that most people's anger with God will disappear after they thoughtfully investigate what the Bible reveals about God's ways. If you or someone you know are struggling with anger at God, ask Him for grace. He will bless you by sending the Holy Spirit. It may take a few weeks before the anger is entirely gone, but if you ask Him to transform your feelings, He can do it! In fact, the strongest evidence for proving that God is alive is that God can do something within us that is otherwise impossible. Once you experience His power, you will know that He lives, He hears you, and He sees you. Most of all, He is working out a plan for all of us that will someday prove to be a better blessing than we can imagine. (Matthew 25:34)