

BIBLE STUDY SERIES



**ANGRY
WITH GOD**

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On occasion, I have inserted italics and brackets in Scripture quotations to enhance understanding, not to change the meaning.

May God bless you as you study this fascinating topic!

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Angry With God

People may be angry with 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 booklet will be helpful.

Consider these real life situations which may cause one to feel angry toward God.

- A. God allowed my child or my loved one to suffer and die.
- B. God allowed my child to be born with a birth defect.
- C. I prayed for deliverance from a bad habit and God did nothing.
- D. I trusted God and He let me down.
- E. I hate the body God gave me.
- F. God did not protect me/my child/my spouse/a loved one from disaster or accident.

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

H. God burns people in hell for eternity.

Because this study incorporates many Bible texts, read each text and contemplate the following six points. Also, ask this relevant question: *Is my anger toward God justified?*

1. God is Holy

Before we approach God with our petitions, it is helpful to understand a few facts about Him. No one in the universe is like Him.¹ He created everything and owns everything.² He rules the universe and calls each star by name.³ 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.⁴ We cannot live like the devil in willful rebellion and expect God to pay attention to our requests.⁵ If we have cherished sin

1 Isaiah 46:9

2 Isaiah 40:28-41:4

3 Psalm 147:4

4 Matthew 5:23-24

5 1 John 5:14-20; Hebrews 12:28-29

in our hearts, He will not hear our prayers.¹ Therefore, approach Him with humility and respect.² He is the King of kings!³

We cannot expect God to respond to our request if wrongdoing is involved. God will have nothing to do with evil intent.⁴ 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 must trust Him. Total surrender is allowing God to have the final word.

Finally, when we present our requests as He invites us,⁵ 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.”**⁶

1 Psalm 66:18-19

2 2 Chronicles 7:14

3 Malachi 1:4; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16

4 Isaiah 45:21; Proverbs 6:16-19

5 Matthew 7:7-8

6 James 4:3

2. God is Not Santa Claus

God's ways are not our ways.¹ God never sleeps. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, He is everywhere and sees everything.² God is always on His throne and teaching us to trust Him is His greatest concern. Although it is not our fault, Adam and Eve's sin separated us from God³ and we do not naturally obey and trust God. We do not want to have fellowship with Him⁴ due to our sinful nature; so He pursues us.⁵ This is difficult because He wants to bring us into a process of communion and fellowship with Him without gratifying our sinful nature! God wants to refine and purify us and this is contrary to our sinful nature. God pursues us because He knows the closer we are to Him, our true joy and happiness will be greater. He gives each born-again person the "fruit of the Spirit" which includes love, joy, peace, and self-control.⁶ This gift is so powerful it will make anger disappear. When Moses experienced God's goodness on Mt. Sinai, he wanted to stay with God. He begged, **"If you are pleased**

1 Isaiah 55:8-9

2 Psalm 139:7-10

3 Genesis 3:22-24; Romans 5:12

4 Romans 8:5-9

5 Romans 5:6

6 Galatians 5:22-23; John 14:27

with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.”¹

3. God Has a Specific Purpose for Each Person²

We will only fulfill His purpose if we obey the Holy Spirit’s voice whenever He speaks to us.³ If we walk before God in righteousness and truth, He will direct our paths⁴ and answer our prayers.

“I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”⁵ 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.”⁶ However, the Father’s will was that Jesus should die on the cross. The Father sent an angel to strengthen Jesus so He could carry out His purpose⁷ and

1 Exodus 33:13

2 Jeremiah 1:5

3 Romans 8:14

4 Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Jeremiah 17:10

6 Luke 22:42

7 Luke 22:43

God will do the same for anyone 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.¹ If God were to reveal His plan for our lives prematurely, we would probably run away as well. 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 blessing!

God will shepherd us if we are willing for Him to lead us step-by-step into the fullness of His purpose for which He gave us life.² We cannot see the future, our need for transformation, or our faults and failings as God sees them. If we could see our true condition before God, it would be overwhelming. Isaiah cried out when he saw God's throne, **“‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘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.’”**³

1 Jonah 1:1-3

2 Psalm 23

3 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.¹ On the other hand, we know that if we humbly approach Him, honoring Him as we know to be right and true,² He will consider our petition and He will do what is best! He has promised.³ 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!⁴ Trust in God! **“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”⁵**

4. God Will Fulfill Beneficial Requests⁶

If God 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

1 Isaiah 45:9

2 John 4:23

3 John 15:16

4 Matthew 6:8

5 2 Chronicles 16:9

6 Matthew 7:11

same time, He will set a process in motion to fulfill our request. From our perspective, it may seem that God said “No” to our petition because it was not fulfilled immediately, but in reality He responded to our request. He just plans to answer our request later. Looking back, I see God wanted me to experience patience, faithful endurance, and learn some lessons before my requests could be answered. I am thankful God waited to fulfill my requests because, in every case, His fulfillment was so much better than what I originally had in mind!

5. Man Has a Carnal Nature

When it comes to being angry with God, the main problem is our sinful nature. 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 a painful event occurs, He shares in our pain.¹ 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

¹ Genesis 6:6; Matthew 6:24-34

cursing Him or doing evil. These acts do not make the heart joyful. **“The mind governed by the flesh is [destined for] death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is [filled with] life and peace.”**¹

God understands our sinful nature and our natural rebellion, selfishness, impatience, intolerance, and desire for instant gratification. He knows each sin is a seed that will eventually sprout and hurt the sinner. Whatever a man sows, he reaps.² Therefore, God reasons that if our anger toward Him means separation, He will wait. Perhaps a painful harvest from our sin will soften our heart and allow us to receive His offer of peace and joy. God wants us to trust Him! God wants us to love Him so He showers His love on us even before we love Him. He desires to make our love for Him sprout within us.³ God blesses the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴ God wants us to forsake our sins because sin always produces a harvest of pain, sorrow, and suffering.⁵ God delights in showing each person His personal interest and love. Yet, to experience the invisible hand of God in our lives, we have to search for God

1 Romans 8:6, insertions mine

2 Galatians 6:7

3 1 John 4:19

4 Matthew 5:45

5 Deuteronomy 28:15-20

with all our hearts. **“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”**¹ Spiritual eyes see spiritual things and it takes time and effort to understand God’s ways.²

We can see temporal reality with the naked eye, but eternal reality requires the “eye of faith.” God lives in eternal reality and when a person becomes born again, God gives him eyes to detect God’s presence,³ but **“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”**⁴ Faith in God is much more than knowing about God. The devil used to dwell with God in heaven and he knows all about God.⁵ 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 God will do what is best. If we are to wait, He will give us grace and strength to wait. For a person controlled by a sinful nature, 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**

1 Jeremiah 29:13

2 1 Corinthians 2:13-14

3 2 Kings 6:17

4 Psalm 14:1

5 James 2:19

him must believe that he exists and that *he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*¹ If you are angry with 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.² God always rewards those who earnestly seek Him. **“The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.”**³

6. God Cannot Do Certain Things

For example, God cannot override a person's free will. If a person chooses to stay angry with God, God cannot override that choice! God is unable to do several things and when He does not do them, people become angry with Him.

Their anger may be due to the following belief system: *“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 prayers using this belief system if He could, but He cannot! The reason is a bit complicated, but important to understand. Even

1 Hebrews 11:6, italics mine

2 Romans 2:4

3 Psalm 25:14

though God is all powerful and a God of love, the curse of sin limits what God can do.

God, in His infinite wisdom, is following His plan which will keep the universe free from the curse of sin forever. Long before Adam and Eve sinned, God predetermined to 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.¹ We can estimate the value and significance of His plan by considering the personal price He has paid in sacrificing His own Son. 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 When God separated Adam and Eve from the Tree of Life,³ He 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

1 Acts 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:26

2 2 Thessalonians 2:7

3 Genesis 3:22

passed to Adam's offspring. His first-born son became a murderer. Of course, there are self-inflicted consequences for wrongdoing, 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 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 is that a God of love cannot and does not show favoritism.¹ Jesus said the Father sends the rain on the righteous and unrighteous.² 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 with God

¹ Acts 10:34

² Matthew 5:45

because He treated me as He treats everyone else? God knows 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.¹ 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 and it hurts Him deeply.

God has given people freedom and we are accountable to Him. He allows people to commit murder, cheat the elderly out of their life savings, sexually abuse children, and commit adultery. He allows

¹ Genesis 6:5-6

predators to prey on the weak and wicked cities to flourish. However, each person will face God and give an account for their actions!¹ Now, consider the liberty that God has given to the curse of sin. There are random birth defects, famines, plagues, earthquakes, pandemics, fires, floods, wars, and many other catastrophes. 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. God must allow the consequences of sin to mature to achieve this goal. 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 thankful for 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 This enables people to overcome the world, including every painful challenge that sin creates,

1 Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:37

2 2 Corinthians 12:9

just as Jesus did.¹ 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.² 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!³

People who are angry with 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 God is executing a wonderful plan and does not show favoritism, and if that person is also willing to receive grace (divine power) to overcome his pain, the Holy Spirit will deliver a peace that passes understanding!⁴ Each person can rise above the pit of anger. We can be happy and joyful again through God's amazing grace.⁵ He will remove heartache and bitterness.⁶ We can rise above the waves of de-

1 John 16:33; 1 John 5:4

2 Romans 1:16

3 John 16:24

4 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

5 2 Corinthians 5:17; 9:8

6 Titus 2:11-14

spair and “walk on the water” just as Peter did¹ if we will reach out in faith and take hold of the Master’s hand.² He will lift you up!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?

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

1 Matthew 14:29

2 John 14:16-18; 1 John 3:1

3 Psalm 40:1-3

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.”¹

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.”² “In 2015, the number of people in the United States identifying as gay is about 3.8% of the population”¹ and “The

¹ References available at wake-up.org/studies

² References available at wake-up.org/studies

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.”¹

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.² We can be 100% sure that Jesus will deal fairly and appropriately with each human being when the time for judgment comes.³ 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.⁴

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 glo-

1 References available at wake-up.org/studies

2 Romans 3:23

3 John 5:22-23, Acts 17:31, 2 Corinthians 5:10

4 Leviticus 18; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Revelation 22:15

rifies 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 stumble, 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 stumble, 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."**¹

God will give those who ask grace and strength to live an honorable life. Living life to the fullest with contentment and joy is possible even when celibacy is required. Paul testified to God's sustaining grace when he wrote, **"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."**² **"I wish that all of you were [happily single] as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."**³ 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

1 Matthew 18:8-9

2 Philippians 4:13

3 1 Corinthians 7:7, insertion mine

God created you for a specific purpose.¹ 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.² If we choose to walk with God in righteousness and truth, God will direct our paths³ and answer our prayers! **“I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”**⁴

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

1 Jeremiah 1:5

2 Romans 8:14

3 Proverbs 3:5-6

4 Jeremiah 17:10

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 experience! This is what heaven will be like.

We can ask God for anything, but it is important to know that since God loves everyone similarly, He cannot show favoritism.¹ Jesus described this principle when He said the Father causes the rain to fall on the righteous and the unrighteous.² 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 what 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,³ 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.⁴ Jesus also resurrected Lazarus to show the Sadducees that, contrary to their religious beliefs, resurrection

1 Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11

2 Matthew 5:45

3 John 11:43-44

4 John 6:44; John 11:24

was possible.¹ Later, with God's power, Paul raised Eutychus from the dead,² 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.³ God used her resurrection to prove that the disciples' testimony was true and to end the confusion in Joppa over whether Jesus was alive. The leaders of Israel had paid people to spread the rumor that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body.⁴ 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 den⁵ 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 into a fiery furnace. God performed an astonishing miracle and saved His three servants so thousands in Nebuchadnezzar's

1 Acts 23:6

2 Acts 20:9-10

3 Acts 9:36-40

4 Matthew 28:12-15

5 Daniel 6:22

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 perform signs and wonders.”**¹

It seems to be a contradiction in terms to understand that Almighty God has limitations. God cannot show favoritism because He loves everyone. 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

¹ Acts 14:3, insertion and italics mine

like Lucifer chose 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

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

1 1 Corinthians 15:26

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” outcomes.

Many people think 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! 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 the time 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 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 with 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!

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.”**¹ Jesus knew 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

¹ Matthew 16:4

defiant. Therefore, the only sign Jesus would offer Israel's leaders would be the miracle of Jonah. They knew a fish swallowed Jonah and a miracle had delivered him from death.

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 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!

One Miracle

The one miracle 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 he can live a life of victory!¹

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 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!

Finally, some people are angry with 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,

¹ 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

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.”**¹ The penalty for sin is not burning in hell for eternity, the penalty is death!² 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.³ After restitution (justice) has been achieved, the wicked will then die. They will no longer exist

1 Genesis 2:17

2 Romans 6:23

3 Romans 12:19

and will become ashes.¹ Second, after God purifies Earth, He will create a new heaven and Earth with no more sea or lake of fire!² If you are interested in this topic, go to *wake-up.org/studies*

God Can Transform You

I have found 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 He can do something within us that is otherwise impossible. Once you experience His power, you will know 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.³

1 Malachi 4:1-3

2 Revelation 21:1

3 Matthew 25:34

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