

Foundations of Christ - Part 12

Be Not Soon Angry

The disciples of Jesus were angry that the Samaritans were showing disdain to Jesus because He had His face set to go to Jerusalem (Luke 9:52-56). They felt He was not interested much in them and showed Him little honor. Jesus' disciples became incensed at their contempt and wanted to command fire down on the whole village to destroy them much like Elijah did to the wicked prophets of Baal. Jesus reminded them that He came to save people and not to destroy them.

His rebuke to His followers was that they didn't know what manner of spirit they were of. This question comes to us often in our daily lives.

When our prized values are rejected, we can become offended to the point of anger. Anger brings with it some form of retaliation. It conveys the 'I will get even' attitude that is the beginning of trouble for everyone. Proverbs tells us that an angry man stirs up strife (Proverbs 29:22) and that anger rests in the bosom of fools (Ecclesiastes 7:9). The devil wants you to get angry. He can work you over that way.

Jesus said that His disciples didn't know what manner (kind) of spirit they were of. He was saying that if they acted in accordance with the spiritual condition that now prevailed in men and women who were born of His Spirit, then they would act in accordance of that spirit. Why we forget this so many times, I don't know. We are like the early disciples sometimes, ready to fight and retaliate at the drop of a hat.

Staying in touch with our reborn spirit can mean the difference between entering needless fights, saying stupid things, and creating strife which will have no end to it unless someone decides to let it go. The beginning of strife is like releasing water, like a crack in a dam that only gets bigger (Proverbs 17:14). We see this in the world. But our spirits are poised to respond to the Spirit of our Lord, to think and act like Jesus. Let's not forget this.

The world is an angry place. It flows according to the prince of the power of the air. We need to learn how to navigate a different course. If you are around angry people, here is what the Word says - *don't make friends with angry people, you could learn of their ways and get a snare for your soul* (Proverbs 22:24-25). Instead, make friends with Holy Spirit and those who walk in the Spirit, and thereby keep your spirit in concert with God.