

# The Torch

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## STOP THE BLAME GAME



The man said, “The woman you put here with me  
—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

- Gen. 3:12 NIV

**T**he Almighty God had taken a decision to make man the caretaker of the Garden of Eden. He was to till the ground and ensure that all was in order – Gen. 2:15. There was also the fringe benefit of being able to eat any fruit of his choice in the garden. Any fruit that is, except one which he said was the tree of knowledge of good and evil which he pointed out clearly to Adam – Gen. 2:16. Being the head of his family, he would be expected to convey this instruction to his wife, when she was eventually created, which he obviously did –

Gen. 3:1-2. However, the devil showed up in the absence of Adam to convince Eve of an act that was completely against the instruction of God – Gen. 3:4-5. It was an instruction and not a suggestion so it was not about the result of eating the fruit but the consequence of disobedience and disrespect to the instructions of the Almighty God. She did not only yield to the suggestion of the devil, but also sold the idea to her husband, Adam, who bought the idea thereby joining in the act of disobedience and dis-respect for the Instructions of

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God – Gen. 3:6-7.

All these happened with all parties very conscious and willing to accept the suggestion of Satan, so it was surprising to hear the comments of Adam and Eve when God showed up. Adam blamed his wife for his dis-obedience, who in turn passed the responsibility for the dis-obedience to the Serpent – Gen. 3:12-13. This blame transferring game did not cut any ice with the Almighty God who punished each one accordingly – Gen. 3:14-19.

Many Christians however have refused to learn from this experience of Adam, Eve and the Serpent as they continue to believe that passing the blame for an erroneous act to someone else is sufficient to exonerate them. They are quick to find a scapegoat for all the misfortune that they are going through without realizing that they own their lives and no one else. They only should therefore be responsible for how it is run especially with regards to adherence to the instructions of the Almighty God. It is simply impossible to blame anyone, pastors or spiritual leaders inclusive, for an error of judgement that has produced negative repercussion.

Just like in the case of Adam, the instruction of the Almighty God is usually very clear and direct, that is for those who honestly want to walk in them. They can be classified into two groups; general instructions and personalised instructions. The general Instructions are as stated in the scriptures which is available for all to read and get used to. There may be the need for a mentor, to have a proper understanding of the scripture, and this for any Christian may be a human mentor or the Holy Spirit, the latter being a better option. The specific instructions are given to the individual concerned directly and cannot be applied to another person's life. None of these options however, should eliminate the fact that man, by the eating of the fruit in the garden of Eden, acquired the ability to know good and evil – Micah 6:8; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 10:16-26. Not even Adam and Eve could excuse their actions as they were being directly mentored by the Almighty God. He was always available and accessible for them to confirm any action before carrying it out, especially when it seems to contravene what they heard from him. No matter the amount of influence any human being may have, all he/she can offer remains only suggestions as it was still left to the individual to take a decision. God only reacts to decisions and not suggestions so one wonders how the Christian expects to be excused from the blame when it was an act that was

voluntarily carried out by him/her.

The Christian instead of waiting to blame anyone for the errors of judgement he/she committed can prevent such regrets if such can be pro-active by:

1. Taking every opinion of men, irrespective of their spiritual standing as what it is, which is a mere suggestion.
2. The Christian should place such suggestions side-by-side with the instructions of the Almighty God, received either directly, or proven by His Words in the scriptures.

The Christian will then be in a position to take a decision and should be ready to take responsibility for any decision taken. It may even be possible for the Almighty God to exonerate the individual from the consequences of the error of judgement, on the basis of a clear conscience leading to the error, rather than expecting that blaming another will be valid. Such third party may be in error also but it will never exonerate him/her from the implication of a wrong decision.

Be honest with your life and take responsibility. Avoid the thinking that blaming others will help as all you will get is an emotional consolation that will not eliminate the consequence of such a wrong decision on your life.

May God help you to take full charge of your life in all circumstances in Jesus name. Amen.

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# ANGER AND THE CHRISTIAN 2

In the first part of this article, it was made clear that every living being has the potential to be angry and so should prepare for the proper management of anger which will eventually arrive, depending on the tolerance level of each individual.

Below is the concluding part of this article. The first part can be downloaded from the following site address:

Do all you can to prepare for it and manage it well when it comes but because, again you are human, there is always the chance of failure, which is why Counsellors in anger management in human beings can also be found getting angry so one will need to rely on Him that can help one through those times, not because He does not get angry too, but because what gets Him angry is what you are avoiding when you submit to Him. The Almighty God gets angry with men when they ignore Him and all He offers, believing they can live a perfect life without His guidance. All kinds of theories are postulated to give the impression that men can live a life independent of their creator. It is simply impossible for man to live a perfect life without operating with the guidelines of the creator.

Simply pleading with God and relying on His spiritual guidance during all periods including periods of anger remains the best of solutions. Before anger comes, plead with Him to help chase the spirit of anger away, which the Bible says is the work of flesh, and that He should grant you His Holy Spirit, which has, as part of its fruits, forbearance and self control, both of which remain the only perfect remedies for anger – Gal. 5:19-23. One with both attributes will defeat anger in all its ramifications as they both remain the perfect anti-dotes for anger. Plead with Him to grant you His Holy Spirit and success with this prayer will definitely save you from the negative effects of badly managed anger.

What a simple solution to a very destructive problem but it works. Try it! It really works.

Although it is very important that anger be well managed, it must be stated that one cannot pray not to ever get angry. This is because, like Fear, anger has its advantages that will make it essential for life. As earlier stated, it will be impossible for anyone to avoid been angry, no matter how much preparation one makes to avoid it so beyond taking the steps earlier recommended which are aimed at managing anger, anger is also required for progress in some areas of life. Not only can being angry with people help them to make progress, one may sometime have to be angry with oneself to act as a motivation for better performances in future just as such anger can be directed at people we love.

Like earlier stated, anger sometimes is the result of an under-performance by someone, based on a standard, thus creating some form of hurt or loss. Although it was not clearly stated in the scriptures, the reaction of the Almighty God to the transgression of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden is a typical anger reaction. They both, by eating the forbidden fruit, had shown complete disrespect for the person of the Almighty God by going against His instructions and equally shown lack of trust in Him by believing the story of

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the devil about God not wanting them to be like Him. Similar to what anyone will do in such circumstances, He not only sent them out of the garden but ensured they could not sneak back by placing a cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life – Gen. 3:24.

Also, the Almighty God in a statement that probably reflects his regret at cursing the ground and destroying all living creatures swore never to allow the action of man get Him to take such an action again – Gen. 8:20-22. He had probably not managed His anger very well else he probably would not have gone that far to express his disapproval with the conduct of man.

There was however no doubt that it was in anger He reacted to the decision of the Israelites to get involved with idolatry. He asked Moses to allow His anger burn against them, a request that Moses responded to by pleading with Him to “turn His fierce anger” away from the people – Exo. 32:7-14. More areas of the scriptures can be cited that point to the fact that the Almighty God does indeed get angry and in the process, lots of people and things get destroyed but He remains God and His actions cannot be questioned by anyone.

Man seems equally capable of getting away with anger irrespective of what is destroyed for as long as it is about the protection of the image of the Almighty God. Moses on coming down from the mountain and confirming the act of idolatry by the Israelites got angry and in the process broke the tablets on which the laws of God were written in God's own handwriting, into pieces but there was no record of the Almighty God being angry with Moses – Exo. 32:19-24. If anything, he saw Moses as being zealous for Him and instantly arranged for a replacement of the broken tablets – Exo. 33:1-3.

Although it was the Lord that instructed that no one has a right to kill (Exo. 20:13), with the punishment of death reserved for such (Matt. 26:52), he nevertheless, honoured Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the Priest, for killing both the Israelite and the Moabite woman that were involved in the act of sexual immorality. He regarded him as being zealous for Him (God) and consequently made a Covenant of peace with him – Num. 25:1-13. There was also no record of any negative reaction of the Almighty God to the anger expressed by Jesus Christ when he drove the money changers out of the temple because they were involved in acts that brought the image of the Almighty God to disrepute – Matt. 21:12-13.

He however did not give Moses a second chance when he brought his name to disrepute in the process of

demonstrating his anger with the Israelites for constantly making demands that was beginning to border on excessiveness. The mere striking of the rock in anger instead of talking to the rock was enough to deprive him of entry into the Promise Land – Num. 20:1-13. He accused him of not trusting Him, enough to honour Him.

As far as the Almighty God is concerned, all seems to be well if the Christian in anger breaks any of the rules that He, the Almighty God has established for as long as it was done to bring honour to Him. In that situation, He does not see the action that the anger generated but sees the intention behind the anger which is to bring honour to His name.

Christians must manage their anger when it is a situation that involves their fellow men as the Lord will pronounce judgement based on His laws and being angry will not be an excuse. However, they are to express anger at any act that brings the name of the Almighty God to disrepute if they are to be seen as been zealous for the Lord. Being comfortable with negative acts that dis-honour or disrespect the Almighty God, all in the name of avoiding anger may not be acceptable to him. In such situations, men may praise you for controlling your anger but that may not be the same judgement of the Almighty God.

In summary, anger is not the challenge of the Christian. It is what the Christian allows to trigger anger and what the Christian does in those moments of anger that matters. Motivate yourself and equally demonstrate your zeal for the Lord with anger but control your activities when angry. With the Lord you may get away with it as it will be counted in your favour, especially where it has to do with issues concerning His reputation but you may not be able to get away with uncontrolled actions traceable to anger, with men. With regards to anger, the Christian must be wise as a Serpent and be gentle as a dove – Matt. 10:16. May God guide all our actions especially during angry moments in Jesus name. Amen.

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This is the concluding part of this article. Both parts of the article can be downloaded from our website: **[crossandcrownchristianministry@gmail.com](mailto:crossandcrownchristianministry@gmail.com)**

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