

"BAD
A BAD TEMPER."

A PASSIONATE DISPOSITION.

A WRATHFUL MAN STIRRETH UP CONTENTION; BUT
HE THAT IS SLOW TO ANGER APPEASETH STRIFE.

Proverbs 15:18.

Bad temper causes more suffering than ~~the~~ all the sickness in the world. Bad temper is in a home what toothache is in the body: the pain is insufferable and yet it is not treated as serious. A Passionate man or woman spreads a pervading sense of irritation in the house or on the job, and all the other occupants of the place are as if they dwelt in a country subject to earthquakes; life for them is divided between anxiety to avoid the explosion and a painful effort to repair its devastations. We are not severe enough on these faults of temper in ourselves or in others; we are too prone to excuse them on the ground of temperament, as if we were no more responsible for outbreaks of passion than for the colour of our hair or the tone of our complexion - folk say my mother or my father had a bad temper - failing to correct their own..

I have for your consideration several proverbs which remind us how irritating an angry disposition is; it is the constant occasion of strife, it grows itself by each fresh annoyance that it gives, so that it quickly becomes ungovernable, and thus "the wrathful man aboundeth in transgression," A fierce ungovernable temper will set a whole city in a flame, and lead to disasters of national and even world-wide extent. There are always hot embers which wise men are earnestly trying to damp down. there are trivial irritations, petty annoyances, incipient envies, which are only too easily inflamed; the cool spirit and the conciliatory word and the ingenious diversion of thought will keep the embers choked until the heat dies away but "as coals to hot embers, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to inflame strife.

We may well be cautioned to give such an inflammatory character a wide birth. In fact Proverbs admonishes us: Make no friendship with a man that is given to anger; and with a wrathful man thou shalt not go: lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul." You one cannot avoid becoming somewhat like folk you associate. Even a sweet temper may be chafed into peevishness by constant irritations; with passionate people the gentlest become passionate in self-defense. When this unbridled illdisciplined nature approaches, we should ~~xxxx~~ avoid it as if it were a bear robbed of the young, for such is this fool in his folly.

The bible says, " He that is soon angry wisdom must condemn, - He that is slow to anger is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly." So any one with a grain of sense will put a check upon his rising temper; his discretion makes him slow to anger, and he never feels to have won such true glory as when he bridles his wrath and passes by an offense without a sign of annoyance or resentment. You may ~~almost~~ be sure that a man is wise if you find that he has a cool spirit. When you see a person who cautiously avoids the ground where strife is apt to be excited, and builds his house on a spot wher contention is impossible, you instinctively respect him, for you ~~see~~ know it betokens wisdom; but when you see a man or woman always getting into quarrels, always showing his teeth; you rightly conclude that he is a fool. " A fool - says the Book - A fool uttereth all his anger; but a wiseman keepeth it back and stilleth it." If nature has made one naturally irritable, wisdom will incline us to avoid occasions which excite us. Learn to be quiet - learn to walk away, learn to avoid. Learn to keep a watchful guard over our spirits where the occasions are inevitable. If we neglect such precautions we shall justly be counted fools, and the consequent outbreaks of passion will lead us into fresh y exhibitions of folly, and more completely justify the harsh judgement which has been passed upon us.

Any one whose spirit is without restraint is forcibly compared to a city that is broken down and has no wall. every foe can go up and possess it, every thoughtless child can fling a firebrand into it, the barest word, hint, smirk, shrug of the shoulders, any unintentional slight of reflection. nay even silence itself, will suddenly set the powder-train on fire. and the consequent explosion will be more destructive to the city itself than to those who are outside it.

Let us suppose, that you are easily entangled in a quarrel - some folk have a natural desire to quarrel. If this is true to your nature you must prepare yourself before you go out into the business of the day." Go not forth hastily to strive, lest// What wilt thou do in the end, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.? This acceptance that you have a nasty temper will act as a check upon it. Or if the contention has been sprung upon you unawares, take care that over the floodgates of your passion has been written this wholesome warning, " The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water; therefore leave off contention, before there be any setting of the teeth. knowing your danger you must summon to your aid all the heroism of your nature, and remener that this is the time and the occasion to exercise it. For unless a man or won can reign over self - he cannot reign at all. If you are disposed to be angry with men, fill your spirit with love for them; that will soothe your irritable nerves, so that they will cease to annoy. you because you cease to see them for love covers a multitude of sins.. Love enables us to bear all things.

Let us suppose, your anger is not of the passionate kind, but rather stern and resentful arising from an exaggerated sense of self-importance. If this be your reason- if you thought less of yourself, you would not so frequently feel your dignity offended. Pride, the subtle enemy of our souls - ~~Reading~~ Some folk parade their so-called importance. Meek shall inherit the earth.

But now we come to the important question.. How are our evil passions to be cured , And I must frankly admit - that I have no tested and final method to apply. Analysis indicates that in order to avoid it we must be vigilant to mark and control the first risings of passion. I have mentioned that if we are truly humble, the resentments which stir our anger would have nothing to feed upon. But this does not tell us how to become watchful, humble, and loving.

Conclusively, if your anger, our temper, our pride is something out of our natures. If we say it is something in our very natures that is a part of us.. a change of our nature must be effected. " The Bible says: " We must be born again." For it is only a regenerated heart which will have the impulse and the ability to watch against the eruption of a passionate disposition. It is only a regenerated heart which can love in such a way that irritations cease to fret, or that can be humble enough to escape the exasperations of wounded pride. Jesus says. " Learn of me: for I am meek and lowly of heart." Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. When a Child of God is Born again - his life is hidden with Christ in God.. For our evil tempers, our passion, our wrath, our sullen pride, our fretful irritability, our outbreaks of sarcasm , our malignant ~~smirks~~ sneers, there is only one possible cure, we must bring the heart, out of which all evil comes, to Jesus Christ., that He might create it anew, we must accept our failures as evidence of an imperfect surrender., and come afresh with a more insistent - " I remember a song - that we sing sometimes - A lady in my home church - Each Communion Sunday - ,would sing this hymn.. I want to be more and more like Jesus. I want to walk, talk, live, treat folk, One Sunday - I heard a man behind me wisper to his companion: But Not Now.. So many Christians want to be like Jesus, humble, loving, meek... considerate - but not right now..