



Do you see God as angry,
punishing individuals and nations?
Actually, God put all the punishment people deserve
on Jesus and He suffered it.
God now looks on you with nothing but love.

Find out how this can be true,
and be encouraged to leave the guilt behind
and receive God's unconditional love.

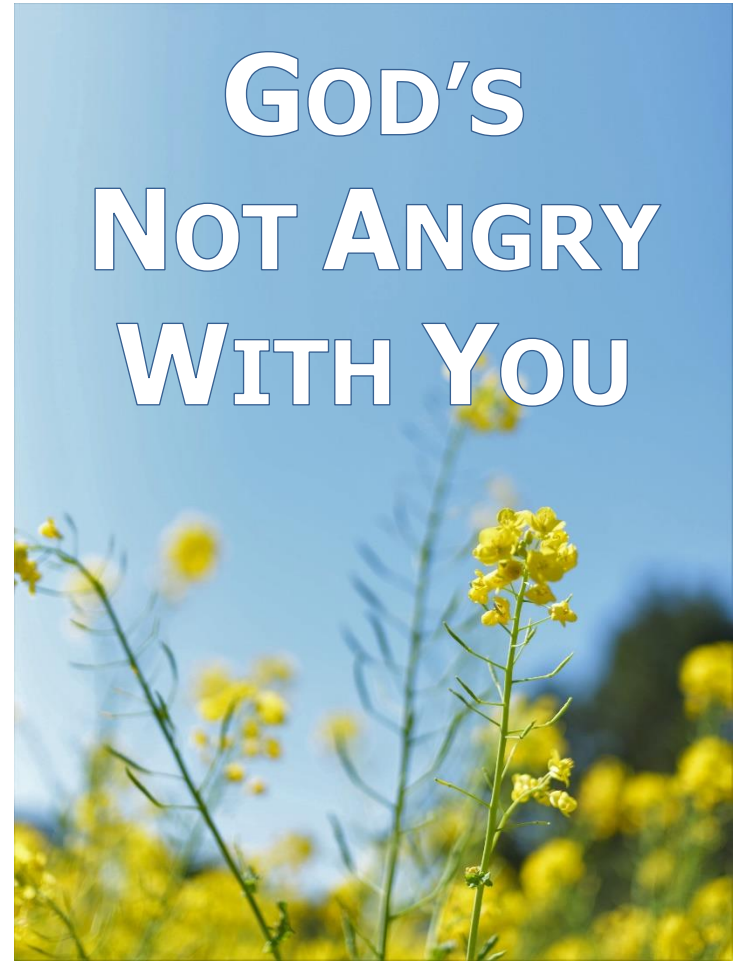


Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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GOD'S NOT ANGRY WITH YOU



Katherine Hilditch

LifeinJesus.net

'God's Not Angry With You'
by
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Life in Jesus

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Unless otherwise indicated
all Scripture quotations are taken from
the World English Bible British Edition (WEBBE)
(Any words in brackets are not in the original text
but are included to help understanding)

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Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you’ve done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you’ve ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you’ll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God’s love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

GOD’S NOT ANGRY WITH YOU

God’s not angry with you. Does that surprise you? You probably know of stories in the Old Testament of the Bible where God was very angry with people. But in the New Testament we find a God of love. And yet the Bible tells us God never changes.

The Bible says that God is always slow to anger and abounding in love. He wants to reconcile everyone to Himself, not to hold people’s sin against them. Sin is what the Bible calls all the things people do, say and think which are wrong. Reconciliation is God’s heart throughout the whole Bible and it is still so today.

When did Sin Begin?

God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, and put them in a perfect beautiful place. He only gave them one rule - not to eat the fruit of a certain tree, but the devil tempted them and they broke that one rule. God had to start putting His plan into action to deal with sin. So let’s look at how it worked.

The Law

As people sinned more and more, they got to a stage where many didn’t even recognise what sin was. So God gave them His law explaining in detail how they should live. He also established a system of animal sacrifices through which they could gain God’s forgiveness. In this booklet ‘the law’ always refers to God’s law, not to the laws of any country today.

From this time on, throughout the Old Testament, the Bible gives many examples of God’s anger directed against sin, and

therefore on the people who had committed the sin. What the law did was bring people to a place where they realised they were sinners and that they could never live perfectly and earn God's forgiveness by their own performance. It showed them that they needed a Saviour.

The Cross

God dealt with sin once and for all through the Cross, as Jesus became the one final sacrifice. He took the punishment for all sin. God poured all His anger against sin on Jesus. Because of this, He isn't pouring His anger out on people anymore, either as individuals or as nations. We'll come back to look at this in detail, but first I want to mention the final part of God's plan.

The Final Day of Judgement

On the final day of God's judgment everyone who hasn't accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour will then suffer the full and eternal anger of God. But for those who have accepted Jesus and been born again there will be no anger. Instead there will be the joy and peace of living forever with God and Jesus. They will be made perfect with no possibility of the devil spoiling things again. He will be banished forever to hell. (To read about being born again go to the end of this booklet.)

Focus on the Cross

So let's go back and look at the Cross in more detail. We live in the part of God's plan between Jesus' death on the Cross and the final day of judgement; therefore you can be free from the law, and live in the victory Jesus has won for you.

He is of course at work in our world in answer to prayer and in response to faith. We have His promise that He will always work for good for everyone who loves Him, even in the bad things, but He did not send the bad things. He has already meted out all His anger and the punishment, and put it all on Jesus and it was enough. Everything He does for you is good, done out of love, free from anger.

What's the Conclusion?

In the Old Testament God's anger was poured out on both individuals and nations. In the New Testament God's anger was poured out on Jesus. You no longer get what you deserve. You get what Jesus paid the price for – peace with God, free from anger. And it becomes reality in your life when you believe.

The Cross was enough for all sin throughout the history of the world, for all sin that is being committed now, and for all sin that will be committed. It was enough for every person past, present and future. That includes you. It was enough for all time - it will never need to be repeated. It was ONCE - FOR - ALL!

You may have been blaming God for things that have gone wrong. He wants you to understand His heart of love for you and that He only ever does good. He wants you to turn to Him and come into the love relationship He has always wanted with you.

Believe It!

God loves you. As a born-again believer, you are His forgiven child and God is not angry with you. Isn't that wonderful news!

mean you don't, but it means that you are able to say 'no'. You are free to turn away from sin – it is no longer your master. Instead, your new nature is drawing you to holy living. If you sinned you would be pulling against that.

But we all know that we still get things wrong. When you do, you need to confess it to God – that means agree with Him that what you've done is sin. But you don't need to beg God for forgiveness. You can't earn your forgiveness by your attitude. You can never be humble enough or sorry enough or feel guilty enough to earn God's forgiveness. Instead you need to repent – acknowledge it was wrong and turn away from it, and thankfully receive the gift of forgiveness that God has already won for you. You must then allow that forgiveness to take root in you so it can work for good in your life and you can walk in its freedom.

God's Correction

God will still correct and discipline you, but the Bible tells us He does it through the Holy Spirit, through His Word, through Godly leadership and through loving, trusted Christians. He corrects and disciplines you so you can live a happier, more fruitful and victorious life. It is for your good – an act of love, not of anger.

He doesn't punish you and He never sends the bad things. He grieves over tragedies as much as you do, in fact more. He's not punishing you when things go wrong. It's the devil that does the bad stuff. I've often heard it said that God allows something bad to happen, implying that it is therefore God's will, but that's not right. He made a single decision after Adam and Eve sinned to allow the world to run on its messed-up course and troubles of all sorts arise, not as His active or passive will, but because He is faithful to His Word and will never deny you your free will.

How did it start?

In Luke 2:14 the angels proclaimed Jesus's birth saying - '*Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men.*' God was proclaiming that He was willing good towards people through Jesus, not bad, and He was bringing peace. This wasn't to be peace on earth between people – Jesus Himself said that He hadn't come to do that. God was proclaiming that peace was going to be available between people and God again, just as Adam and Eve had experienced before they sinned. A peaceful relationship does not include anger.

How did it work?

Jesus became sin for you and God poured out all His anger against sin on Him, instead of on you. And He did it not just for those who would believe in Him, but for everybody! 1 John 2:2 tells us that Jesus – '*is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.*' God had always required a sacrifice for forgiveness, so He had to find a perfect sacrifice which was able to provide forgiveness for every sin once and for all. There was only one way to do it – He had to send His own Son, Jesus, to die. Colossians 1:20 says that God reconciled – '*all things to himself by him (Jesus), whether things on the earth, or things in the heavens, having made peace through the blood of his cross.*' Jesus took all your sin, all your guilt and all your shame on Himself.

Have you ever woken in the middle of night, overwhelmed with shame at something you've done? Jesus suffered that. Multiply it by all your sins and then add it to the sins of everyone, past, present and future. Jesus suffered it all. And He did it 'once for all'. He did it for all people – everyone who's ever lived and ever will live. He did it for all time – it stands in history at a specific

time and will never need to be repeated. He did it for all sins – past, present and future. What a wonderful Saviour!

His sacrifice had to cover all sins, not just those you know you've committed. There are always some you won't have recognised and therefore haven't said sorry for, so you would still be condemned if they had not been forgiven as well. 2 Corinthians 5:19 says – *'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses.'* If God isn't counting your sins against you, He isn't angry with you. They're not written on a list which He will confront you with one day. They have been punished through Jesus and are now forgiven and God no longer remembers them. He says in Hebrews 8:12 – *"I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more."* There is an important thing to add though. Your forgiveness has been won, but it is only when you receive it through faith in Jesus that it will become reality in your life.

So the God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament. God didn't change His mind about sin at the Cross. He still hates sin, but now the need for people to be punished and suffer His anger has been done away with by the Cross. He meted out the punishment for sin once and for all, and so was able to fulfil His original and eternal intention of forgiveness and bring you into the intimate Father and child relationship He has always wanted with you.

If God was still angry with you, then there would still be something you had to do. You would be back under the law, having to earn your forgiveness. It would mean the Cross wasn't enough. But it was enough – there is nothing you can do to add to it. It's all about what Jesus did, not what you do – how you measure up or how you perform. It's all about love and grace.

What was the result?

Here are some Bible verses which show you the truth that God will never be angry with you because of all that Jesus has done and won for you on the Cross:

'Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's wrath through him (Jesus).' (Romans 5:9)

'For God didn't appoint us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.' (Romans 8:1)

Jesus took all God's anger against sin on Himself – all of it, not just some of it. He did it for you, so you would never experience God's anger yourself. So how can God be angry with you? If He was, it would be unfair to you and unfair to Jesus. And God is faithful and just.

So What About When You Do Sin?

All this leads to the seemingly logical question - if your sin is already forgiven and doesn't make God angry, why not carry on sinning and do what you want? The answer is a very strong "No!" Sinning will not change your relationship with God. You would still be His forgiven child, but it will hinder your experience of it.

There are many other reasons not to sin – It can give the devil a way into your life; it has damaging consequences for you and often for others; but also – if you are born again your old sinful nature was crucified with Christ and you were given a new perfect spirit – it is no longer your nature to sin. This doesn't