

Stirring Up Anger

You have an easy choice to make. What's that? **You can either turn away from wrath or stir up anger.** Is that really an easy choice to make? **What do you think?** Well, it may be an easy choice to make away from the heat of a battle. During an argument or debate, it is a very difficult choice to make. **Why is that?** I like to win arguments and debates. **I've noticed.** Sometimes, I will go to great lengths to win an argument or debate. **How so?** In the heat of an argument or debate I will sometimes say things that I know I will deeply regret later. But, I will completely lose perspective. **What do you mean by that?** I will make winning an argument or debate my only goal. I will use words I shouldn't have used. My words have done damage that is hard to repair. I will have said things that are difficult to retract. Whoever said, "sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me," was an idiot. Words do hurt. Words do cause damage. **Yes, they do.**

Why must you win every argument and debate? That is a very good question. **You don't have to think twice about your answer, do you?** No, I do not. It is my pride that drives me to want to win every argument and debate. That sounds and is pathetic, I know. **Yes, it is. Can you lay down your pride? Can you humble yourself before me? Can you make better choices that will allow you to be my witness in the world?** That is at issue here, isn't it? **Yes, it is. You cannot be filled with pride and driven to win every argument and debate and still be a bright and shining witness for me in the world. You cannot stir up anger and bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name. No one is drawn to stirred up anger. I cannot use a pride filled, angry, argumentative person. That is not who you want to be. That is not who you are. That is not the kind of life that I have called you to live. I get that. I want that. I know.**

I want you to make some decisions in advance. Like what? **Make serving me your goal. Choose to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name. Set aside your old sinful desire to win every argument and debate. Walk away from wrath. Choose to not stir up anger. Have a higher purpose in mind. Allow me to work in and through your life. Shine brightly for me in the midst of all the wrath and anger that is in the world. Will you make these decisions so that you can serve me? Will you make these decisions so I can use you?** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, without your help there is no way I will be able to answer anger with a soft answer. I would rather fight fire with fire. Give me the strength to be your witness by answering anger softly with the grace and mercy you provide. Amen

Wisdom *A Gentle Answer*
A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
NIV Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Soft Answer*
A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
ESV Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Gentle Answer*
A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.
NLT Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Soft Answer*
A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
NKJV Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Soft Answer*
A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
NRSV Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Gentle Response*
A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire.
MSG Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Soft Answer*
A SOFT answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.
AMP Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Gentle Answer*
A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words cause quarrels.
TLB Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Gentle Answer*
A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
NASB Proverbs 15:1

Wisdom *A Gentle Answer*
A gentle answer will calm a person's anger, but an unkind answer will cause more anger.
NCV Proverbs 15:1

A Gentle Answer

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Wisdom – Proverbs 15:1

In Context: *Read Proverbs 15*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

A gentle answer | turns away | wrath, | but a | harsh word | stirs up | anger. Proverbs 15:1

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, without your help there is no way I will be able to answer anger with a soft answer. I would rather fight fire with fire. Give me the strength to be your witness by answering anger softly with the grace and mercy you provide. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How tempting is it for you to fight fire with fire when you are in a heated argument?

When has a harsh answer of yours stirred up the level of anger in an argument?

How will stirred up anger damage and destroy relationships with other people?

How hard is it to repair relationships with other people once anger has been stirred up and enflamed?

How has the Lord helped you to choose to answer a heated argument with a soft answer?

When have you answered a heated argument with a soft answer that turned away wrath?

How will answering a heated anger with a soft answer protect your relationships with other people?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Ask the Lord to help you to use words that turn away wrath rather than stir up anger.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will give you words to speak that will turn away wrath rather than stir up anger.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord used your words to turn away wrath.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May your gentle words turn away wrath rather than stir up anger.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, help my gentle words to turn away wrath rather than stir up anger.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what gentle words can I speak today so that I will turn away wrath rather than stir up anger.
