

He'll make a way

introduction

Today's devotional is a topical study about how we should respond to anger and frustration that comes our way.

message

Today's devotional is about responding to anger, frustration and perhaps even guilt. We all deal with these issues. Perhaps the most important thing is not what we are going through, but how we deal with what we are going through. What should our course of action be when times get tough, when relationships are not what they should be or when we feel as if we have been wronged?

1. Never give up. The Bible says that God will supply all of our needs (Philippians 4:19). You may feel like giving up, but God's Word encourages us to hold steady because Jesus Christ is working on our behalf. A student once had a disagreement with his girlfriend. To solve the disagreement he decided to leave school and simply never see her again. He gave up, ran away from the issue and thought the problem would just go away. He may have escaped dealing with one particular girl, but he'll eventually find similar issues wherever he goes. So, look for opportunities to grow in relationships. Never give up. There is always hope. The Bible says, "I can do everything through Him (Christ) who gives me strength." Another verse says we should press on toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). At first, it seems much easier to run away and escape. But when we consider the final product, it is much better to just keep going.
2. Never be bitter. The Bible tells of a young man named Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers. He was then falsely accused by the wife of his master Potiphar, the captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Talk about having a reason for bitterness. However, Joseph responded in godly fashion. After a time in prison, he later was reunited with his brothers. He told them, "Do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you" (Genesis 45:5, NIV). Joseph had been given the job of being caretaker of all the harvest. Through God, he was able to know that a great famine was coming. By storing much of the harvest, he saved many lives, even the lives of his brothers. Looking back on his brothers' earlier actions, Joseph remarked, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what now is being done" (Genesis 50:20, NIV). Joseph's response was incredible. He saw the events of his life through the eyes of God. He knew that God had everything under control.
3. You decide. Are you choosing to be bitter over something that, in the end, could make you a better person? Perhaps God is working something out that you are not aware of. Besides, he knows all, and His ways are different from ours. What man may mean for evil, God may use for good. We can have that confidence in Him. Before you decide to be bitter about something or at someone, ask yourself these important questions:
 - a. Lord, what are you doing in my life right now?
 - b. What are some lessons that you want me to learn?
 Bitterness is a choice. Don't be bitter. Rather, look to God for the lessons He wants to teach you.



pinch hitters

challenge

Let's take a few moments to evaluate our lives. Are we holding grudges? Are we full of bitterness? Are we trusting God or trusting ourselves to work things out?

Think about relationships and events in your life that have brought out bitterness in you. Has your response helped? What are the benefits of responding in bitterness? God is more concerned with your response to a situation than he is in your getting even.