

# Operation from Within

Ephesians 4:26-27, 31

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## Introduction

- Threat of Terrorist attack
- Satan as the Ultimate terrorist
- Possibility of demonic infiltration of believers

## Operation from Within

### A. Setting Up the Base—Ephesians 4:26-27

- Ephesians 4:26-27 -- *“Be angry and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down upon your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”*
1. **Satan is looking for a ‘place’, a base of operation in our lives.**
  2. **We must open the door to demonic infiltration and influence.** Cp. Acts 5
  3. **What about “ancestral spirits”?**

### B. Base of Operation: Suppressed Anger

- Ephesians 4:26-27-- *“Be angry and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down upon your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”*
1. **Anger, as a human emotion, is NEUTRAL. It can be either good or bad.**
    - a. Two Imperatives: *“Be angry”* and *“Do not sin”*
    - b. The word “anger” signifies a *deep seated, determined, and settled conviction*”. The state of being *“mad about something.”*
  2. **Times when it is appropriate to be angry.**
    - a. **When others are mistreated.**
      - Mark 3:1-5-- *“And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. So they watched him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. And He said to the man with the withered hand, ‘Step forward.’ Then He said to them, ‘Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?’ Bu they kept silent. And when he had looked around at them with anger, grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.”*
    - b. **When God’s person or Word is maligned**
      - John 2:13-17 -- *“Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these thing away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!’ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for Your house has eaten me up.’”*

3. **Times when anger is sinful or wrong.**

a. **Jesus modeled selfless anger**

- 1 Peter 2:23 -- *"Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously."*

a. **Self-serving, undisciplined, vindictive anger is sinful and can lead to murder.**

- Matthew 5:21-22 -- *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."*

4. **Suppressed anger is DANGEROUS for it opens the door to demonic infiltration.**

- Ephesians 4:26 -- *"Be angry and do not sin.: do not let the sun go down upon your wrath."*

a. **Proverbial saying, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath"**

- 1) Plutarch: *"If led by anger into recrimination, the sun should never go down before the involved parties joined hands, embraced one another, and were reconciled."*

- 2) Biblical support:

- a) Not keeping a "pledge" or collateral overnight

- Deuteronomy 24:12-13 -- *"And if a man is poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight. You shall in any case return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment and bless you; and it shall be righteousness to you before the LORD your God."*

- b) Paying workers at the end of the day

- Deuteronomy 24:15 -- *"Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you."*

b. **Bottled-up anger is the leading cause of much mental, emotional, and physical illness.**

c. **Bottled-up anger fomented into other forms of deep-seated anger.**

- Ephesians 4:31 -- *"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice."*

- 1) Bitterness—a "poisoned spirit"

- Hebrews 12:14-15 -- *"Pursue peace with all people and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."*

- 2) Wrath or rage

- 3) Clamor or brawling or fighting

- 4) Evil speaking or slander

- 5) Malice