

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

I was in a prayer group one time when a young man confessed his sin of anger. He didn't elaborate, and we didn't ask him to, and so we just prayed for him. We prayed that God would help him overcome the anger and—whatever the source of his anger was—that God would help him deal with that issue. Some days later, I was thinking about that prayer request. It's interesting that we just assumed his anger was wrong.

Anger is a God-given emotion. In fact, God gets angry. There is a righteous indignation, but anger in and of itself is not necessarily sinful. Ah, but anger must be managed and controlled. Let me say that again. Anger must be managed and controlled.

That's why we're told in Ephesians chapter 4, verses 26 and 27; “Be angry, and yet do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.” Paul says, “Go ahead and be angry. Be angry, but don't you sin!” There is a difference. He says, “Don't let the sun go down on it, and don't give the devil opportunity.”

Let me make three quick observations. Number one; don't allow anger to drive you to sinful behavior. Number two; anger and the issue contributing to the anger must be resolved. Thus he says, “Don't let the sun go down on your anger.” Then thirdly, when we're angry, we're vulnerable to Satan's attack. We need to be careful. We can get angry and start acting irrationally, as if we don't have any spiritual common sense.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Anger is a God-given emotion to help us deal with issues and situations in a godly, responsible way. However, there is a warning. Don't allow anger to push you into rage and irresponsible, sinful behavior.