



The Fiery Fervent

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Eternally Speaking Now

I don't know about you, but sometimes I get angry at the devil.

Yes, Adam and Eve had a human will and made the choice to disobey God in the Garden of Eden. Yes, their choice invited sin and death into the lives of every person, including ours.

But the devil is the one who started it all by tempting, enticing, and deceiving Eve to eat from the forbidden Tree.

Yes, we each must take responsibility now for our own personal sin, *but the trouble we're in today began with satan's rebellion against God*, and he's been using us to hurt our Father's heart ever since.

Does this stir up within you any anger at that slithering serpent?

I hope it does.

Not because I want you smothered by bitterness and malice, but instead, the opposite: **filled and bubbling over** with freedom, joy, and **fervent** love in the Holy Spirit.

It all hangs on the word **FERVENT**.

Fervent is the word God gave me for 2023. Would you like to know its definition? Here it is:

**Having or showing great emotion or zeal; ardent.
Extremely hot; glowing; boiling; burning**

Strong's Concordance goes further and lists the biblical usage of the word fervent (*which comes from the Greek root word, zeo*) to include,

"used of boiling anger, love, zeal, for what is good or bad"

We would be wise to observe two things here:

- **Fervency** can be used for good or for bad
- Anger is inherent to the word **fervent**

Anger is a natural human emotion, and it can be used for good or for bad.
So, how can we make sure to use it for good?

God has shown us.
He Himself, who is pure and holy, experiences anger.
In fact, His Word permits it, *as long as it is not tainted by sin.*

**“Be angry, and do not sin”:
do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
nor give place to the devil.
*Ephesians 4:26-27***

Did you notice that last phrase, "...nor give place to the devil"?
Please don't miss this.

If we sin in our anger,
if we neglect to bring it into the light and deal with it before the Lord,
we give place to the devil.

Do you know who the devil is?
He is the one who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. *John 10:10*
His goal is to irritate you and ruin your life.
He wants to wreck you and all your 'places'.

Remember, he started this mess of sin and death.
Do you want to surrender the territory of your heart and home
to the one who is hell-bent on demolishing it?
I don't.
I've resolved to *make sure* I don't.
You, too?

If so, then it's time to **boil** with **fervent** anger.
Not anger for bad, like getting mad at God, at people, or at ourselves;
rather, an anger for good-- *in a way that gets back at the devil.*

Yes, it's time to get mad at satan for all the
sin,
lies,
deception,
tragedy,
pain,
cruelty,
selfishness,
insensitivity,
sickness,
misery,
and
death.

But don't stay in that anger.
No, we mustn't let it **fester** with bitterness and revenge.
*That would be a fervency for bad.
That would be giving place to the devil.*
Instead, let holy anger **fuel** you to
live in a constant state of
zealous love.

CHALLENGE

In a way, you could say the enemy is **fervent**, is he not? He is a **fiery** snake, using his rage against God to stir up *fervency for bad* in our lives.

Let's not imitate him.

Instead, let's allow **fervent**, righteous anger to
set aflame an **earnest determination**
to get back at the enemy for all his crimes done against humanity.

What may this look like?

The moment you notice or are confronted with an evil, an injustice, a fear, a worry, an offense, a bad diagnosis, a loss, a grief-- anything that's the result of sin and death in this world-- don't get angry at God, at others, or at yourself. Get angry at the enemy, *and be **fervent** for good.*

How?

Use your frustrations and hurts as **kindling**
that **ignites** more passionate and authentic
prayer, worship, and Bible study:

Pray. Boldly. Out loud.

Dare to believe you have what you are praying for in Jesus' name.
The greater the evil, the more fervently we pray.

Stretch out your arms to the Father. Hug Him. Worship Him.

Sing to Him, and mean what you're singing.
The greater the evil, the more fervently we worship.

Read the Bible. More than ever before.

Memorize God's words to you!
Hide Scripture in your heart so you don't sin against Him.
The greater the evil, the more fervently we seek God.

It's like responding to negative situations by saying,

"Oh, yeah? Then I'll pray ten times for that person today, not just once."

Or, *"Fine! Then I'll worship God at this very moment, and out loud!"*

Or, *"So what? Then I'll get my Bible right now and not only read it,
but also read it out loud-- and not only that,
I'll memorize a new Scripture, too."*

Romans 12:9-21 summarizes this with what has become a type of checklist for me to **live fervently** in 2023. ([You can read the entire chapter here](#), which I highly recommend. I've printed it for myself and have committed to memorize it this year.)

For now, here are verses 9-13.

Let love be without hypocrisy.
Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.
Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love,
in honor giving preference to one another;
not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation,
continuing steadfastly in prayer;
distributing to the needs of the saints,
given to hospitality.

What a beautiful picture of the **fervent life**.

In closing, let's remember this powerful truth:

The destiny for the devil and his demons is the **lake of fire**, where they will **burn** forever. Did I say **burn**? Yes, **burn. Forever**. They will be **consumed** in an eternal **inferno**. *(God came up with that, not I. Isn't He ingenious? See Revelation 20:13-14)*

The Lord God Almighty will ultimately give the enemy what he deserves.

Until then, be a **fiery, fervent servant** of the Lord Most High.

Burn for God.

Don't hold back.

Surrender to Jesus,

let Him fill you,

then be His vessel

for that **hot,**

glowing,

lava-of-His-Spirit

to lovingly burst out of and flow

from every part of you.

Let's **inflame** every piece of ground we step on,
leaving a **firestorm** behind us that engulfs the enemy!

I pray this **resolve** catapults each of us into and through 2023,
stoking an uncontrollable blaze for Christ that is
contagious and **spreads like wildfire**.

Flashback: Read this writing about anger while I was ill with Covid. I just reread it myself, and it complements this blog wonderfully. Praying it double blesses you!

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