



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High.

**Title:** The Unknown God, Part 1

**Lesson:** 90

**Text:** Acts 17:16-34

**Date:** Dec 15, 2024

Acts 17:16–34 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols. 17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. 18 And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,” —because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?

20 “For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.” 21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.) 22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' 29 "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this." 33 So Paul went out of their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Acts 17:16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

**"provoked"** [paroxynomai]

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## Anger that is \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Do not be eager in your heart to be **angry**,  
For **anger** resides in the bosom of fools.

Proverbs 22:24 Do not associate with a man given to **anger**;  
Or go with a hot-tempered man,

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and **anger** and  
clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all  
malice.

Galatians 5:19–20 Now the **deeds of the flesh** are evident,  
which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry,  
sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, **outbursts of anger**,  
disputes, dissensions, factions,

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children  
to **anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction  
of the Lord.

## Anger that is \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 7:11 God is a righteous judge, And a God who has  
**indignation** every day.

Isaiah 5:24 Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble  
And dry grass collapses into the flame, So their root will  
become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust; For  
they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts And despised  
the word of the Holy One of Israel.

25 On this account the **anger** of the Lord has burned against  
His people, And He has stretched out His hand against them

and struck them down. And the mountains quaked, and their corpses lay like refuse in the middle of the streets. For all this His **anger** is not spent, But His hand is still stretched out.

Mark 3:5 After looking around at them with **anger**, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

John 2:14–17 14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.” 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume me.”

Revelation 14:9–10 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His **anger**; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

**What about us?**

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

**Genuine love includes a holy \_\_\_\_\_  
for evil and a clinging to what is righteous.**

**Holy anger is the \_\_\_\_\_ response  
to what angers God Himself.**

Ephesians 4:26–27 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

1. Holy anger is expected and it is not sinful.

2. Even holy anger can become sinful.

2 Samuel 12:5 Then David's **anger** burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.

Acts 17:16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being **provoked** within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

Isaiah 65:3 A people who continually provoke Me to My face, Offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks;

17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.

1. Righteous anger is not irrational, explosive and full of rage.
2. Holy anger can move our hearts into constructive action.

## Implications

1. Holy anger should not be our \_\_\_\_\_ demeanor.
2. If exercised in the right way and for the right purpose, holy anger will be rooted in godly \_\_\_\_\_.

## Discussion Guide

1. As it relates to evangelism, why is it important not to put our head in the sand regarding culture?
2. What is the difference between holy and sinful anger?
3. Is there one particular category of sin that provokes you to holy anger? Why?
4. What is the benefit if we are provoked to righteous indignation?
5. What was your main take-away from today's message?

**ANSWERS:** Holy Anger, sinful, righteous, hatred, correct, normal, love