

Angry with God?

One of the most gregarious, intelligent, and capable women I've had the good pleasure of meeting lost her job about two months ago. This is the second time she's been laid-off in the past two years. Her husband past away a while back and she is struggling to keep a house that is \$29,000 away from being paid in full. Can you imagine losing a home when you're that close to owning it outright? It would be devastating to say the least. When she was told she was being laid off, she said she couldn't make her body physically move. She told me that she wanted to turn and walk back to her desk, but her brain wouldn't process any signals.

Nothing was more important to her than keeping the home she had built with her husband, so later that evening she called all the people she owed money and informed them that paying her mortgage would be her main priority. *"If you have a problem with that..."* she told them, *"...you're welcomed to talk to the people that laid me off."*

Once the initial shock wore off, she seemed to handle things okay, but after a week or so, she fell into a deep depression. She told me that her insides felt like putty all the time. She still can't sleep and is always on the verge of tears. Being a Christian woman, I knew that she had prayed about the situation she now finds herself in, but I asked her if she had anyway. I was very surprised to hear her response. She said *"You know, I'm just going to have myself a pity party right now. I told the Father "Now Daddy, I don't know how You're going to get me out of this one, but I know that You will. You always bring me through. And even though I know this, I don't want to talk to You for a little while. I just want to have my little hissy fit, and then I'll get my spiritual groove on when I'm done, okay Father. Just let me be angry for a little bit."*

I must admit that I was surprised by her candor. Whether or not she was truly angry with God per se, I'm not sure, but the fact that she would infer her anger with our

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Heavenly Father so honestly with me was somewhat shocking. Truth be told, many of us who have found ourselves in the midst of adversity have had feelings of anger towards God, especially when we try to treat folks decent and live right. We're like *"Come on, Father, you know me. Me and You are in this thing together. Why are You allowing this to happen to me when You know I'm Your ace boon coon!"* (For all our international readers, ace boon coon is slang for "really good friend")

What really struck me about this woman, was how well she knew herself and how comfortable she was with her relationship with God. She has been at the brink of disaster before. She had been there...done that. So she knew the Father to be a deliverer, a way maker, a burden bearer. He would not let her down, but yet and still she was putting herself through the emotions of doubt, anxiety, and fear. It was yet another rollercoaster ride, and she was very disappointed to have to take it....again.

Yes, life can be a heck of a ride, filled with its share of ups and downs. If you're trying to live a half way decent Christian life, it may seem as if you have more than just your share. Jesus Christ said in John 15:18-19 (The Message) *"If you find the godless world is hating you, remember it got its start hating me. If you lived on the world's terms, the world would love you as one of its own. But since I picked you to live on God's terms and no longer on the world's terms, the world is going to hate you."* The world hates us because we love the most wonderful man who ever walked the face of this earth. If it will do that, then it has the potential to be a pretty mean place. Things are going to get rocky while we sojourn here. We are going to have tough times, nothing like what those who endured persecution in biblical times, but still tough none the less. We're not perfect. We may flake out, but we have to know that if we go down, we are going to come up; Jesus Christ ensured that.

As you are climbing up the rails of that rollercoaster ride, when it's at its worst, raise your hands in the air and release control. 1 Peter 5:7 NLT says *"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you."* Our emotions have the tendency to get away from us when we encounter difficulty. It can feel so bad that you may even convince yourself that your situation is beyond the point of petitioning God, but it isn't. It's a perfect opportunity for Him to prove to you who He is. This is often why

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we get angry, because we forget how much He cares for us, and we allow what we feel to dictate how we respond.

Look at what 1John 4:4 (The Message) says: ⁴⁻⁶ *My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world. These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up. But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception."*

Don't be deceived by the circumstances of your situation. You know the truth, so claim it. You know that God cares for you. He loves you, and He is happy to demonstrate that love. So it's okay to indulge a pity party every now and again, but know when and how to snap out of it. Apologize to God for your momentary lapse and begin to do the things that promote your victory. Don't clam up, but talk about the goodness of Jesus Christ and think about what he's done for you. Be thankful and realize that although it may not feel like it, you've already won.

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