

Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit: Becoming Unoffendable

Lisa Fulton

3.14.22

Part I: Offense

Being offended is always a sign of immaturity. As we grow in maturity in the Lord, we become more Christ-like and reflect His nature. Even at His crucifixion, Jesus was not offended at the soldiers who were ending His life. In Luke 23:34, Jesus asked Father God to forgive them, for they do not know what they were doing.

We can be angry and sin not.

Psalm 4:4 Be **angry, and do not sin**. Meditate within your heart on your bed, **and** be still. *Selah*

Jesus was angry at the money changers in Matthew 21:12 and drove them out of the temple. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says "For He made **Him who knew no sin to be sin** for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in **Him**." We can become like Him.

Jesus warns us that offenses will come.

Luke 17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no ^[a]offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come!

Offenses are powerful.

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Isaiah 8:14 He will be as a [a]sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of [b]offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

There is a progression that begins with being offended and ends with sin.

Matthew 24:10-12 ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

So, it starts with being offended which leads to resentment and bitterness. Resentment is anger at unmet expectations. The resentment, that is not dealt with quickly, brews and ferments to become bitterness. Bitterness is rooted in unforgiveness. The word says being offended will cause betrayal. You are not just venting to your best friend to get the feelings out. What you are really wanting is to be justified and have another person see your side of the situation. When this venting encompasses your whole circle of friends, the situation has turned to gossip. When you are gossiping about how that person wounded you, you are using your tongue to betray them. We are going to talk more about the tongue in a minute. Going back to verses 11 and 12: ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love

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of many will grow cold." The love of many towards Whom? God. Being offended leads to sin and sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have **separated** you from your God; And your **sins** have hidden *His* face from you, **So that He will not hear.**

We all have needs, prayers, to talk to God about. Have you ever felt like there was some sort of blockage between heaven and earth? His ways are supposed to be our ways, but people often make choices that fall short of the glory of God. However, the road block to our blessings could very well be caused by our tongues.

(Do a word search on "His ways." You will find 77 references to go deeper in the Word of God.)

Part II: My Story

Part III: Tongue

Proverbs 18:21 **Death and life** are in **the power of the tongue**, **And** those who love it will eat its fruit.

Ecclesiastes 5:6 Do **not** let your mouth cause your flesh to **sin**, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be **angry** at your excuse **and** destroy the work of your hands?

Part III: Becoming Unoffendable

Matthew 18:21-22 ²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

1. Forgive
2. Ask Jesus what the root of the offense is so you can deal with it.
 - a. An example, many times people will become offended at the pastor when the message convicts the heart for the need for repentance, but the pride of the convicted person rears its head and the person leaves the church offended

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instead of repenting and dealing with the sin issue. So, you want to ask Jesus, "Is the root cause of the offense me or my pride?"

3. Repent of any anger, resentment, bitterness, offence which is sin.
 - a. If you get mad or upset thinking about this person, that is a hint you need to repent. If your blood pressure goes up on the way to the family picnic because aunt Sally who has never had a kind word to say to you is going to be there, you and Jesus need to have a conversation in the car before you arrive.
4. Repent for your part in the offense.

Part IV: Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

There is Glory found in overlooking offense. Proverbs 19:11 "The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression."

Matthew 10:41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's **reward**. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's **reward**.

John Kilpatrick, speaking about supernatural manifestations of the move of God, "If you do not know it is not of God, keep your mouth off of it. You will not walk in what you do not honor."

We all want to want to walk in the manifest power of God. We cannot do that if we are offended and we chose to allow our tongues curse our blessings. If there is anyone you are mad at or if your blood pressure rises when you think of the person, you need to forgive them. Forgiveness is between you and God and sets you free. If Holy Spirit directs you, go to the person later and talk to them in order to restore the relationship. Sometimes we got to go and Matthew 18 that. Matthew 18 gives specific instructions on how to do that. Some relationships are toxic and those doors need to stay closed. Holy Spirit will lead you and guide you in this. Listen to Him. So, right now, we are going to pray and ask Holy Spirit who else we need to forgive and repent, besides the ones that have already come to mind. If you don't do this and hold on to that offense, which is sin, it will restrict if not quench the flow of the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Prayer

Blessing

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Salvation