

The Tyranny of Uncontrolled Emotions

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

At one time or another, we have all become offended by words spoken by others. Sometimes, it was on purpose and sometimes it was due to having misunderstood what was said. Whether intended or not, we were filled with a great wrath that nothing could appease. This is the natural reaction of the carnal mind to having had its pride offended but what are truly converted Christians to do?

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary)).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [I,Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., nothing existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and

no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no biblical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate

and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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The human mind is a mixture of logic and emotions. Usually, the logical part of our mind is not a source of problems for us; however, the emotional part of our mind often cause us to ignore the warnings of our logical mind and act in ways that are detrimental to us, physically and/or mentally.

The logical or rational mind's standard of truth is knowledge that can be demonstrated to remain the same for everyone such as the law of gravity. The proof of the matter can easily be demonstrated by simply letting go of an object and watching it fall to the ground. No matter who tries it, the result is always the same.

But when it comes to our emotional mind, we enter a totally different world where feelings dominate and causes us to understand things in ways that are not logical. Our logical mind is still feeding us information but our feelings cause us to react differently from the way we would if emotions were not also involved. Emotions like love, anger, pride, vanity, jealousy, envy, hate, etc. can and do override the warnings being given us by our logical brain. They are extremely powerful and very difficult to manage.

Whether we like it or not, emotions are part of just about every decision we make and affect how we view the world. They can be a source of great pleasure and, as well, cause us a lot of misery. What results we achieve depends on us. We are not able to prevent emotions from influencing our thinking but we can certainly pay attention to the warnings of our logical minds and act in such as way as to avoid people, places, situations that will cause our emotions to run wild and get us into trouble.

Ruling our Spirit

The Bible refers to our personality, character or temperament as being our spirit.

Pro 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

God strongly recommends us to not let our emotions get control of us. If they do we then become like a city without walls. Anciently, cities were protected from invaders by great walls that surrounded them. Cities without walls could easily be taken over, looted and its inhabitants taken in captivity.

Ecc 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Some people easily become angry over small inconveniences. We see it today in the phenomenon of “Karens” who are women who easily get upset over little things and who proceed to lash out with all their might against whoever is preventing them from doing what they wanted to do or felt they should be able to do. Road rages over small incidents sometimes lead to the offended person aggressively pursuing the person having upset them and in an uncontrolled fit of rage, killing them. After, they come to their senses and cannot believe that their anger over a small slight culminated in them killing someone. They were hasty and did not rule over their spirit.

Pride

Another sad reality about human beings is no matter how smart or unintelligent, how pretty or ugly, how strong or weak, how important or not, whether living alone in the wilderness or among other men, we all have pride.

Pride is the self-image that we have of who we are and of where we stand with respect to others. It is how we see ourselves, rightly or wrongly, in terms of how important, intelligent, good looking, popular, etc. we are. It is what we broadcast to others and that we want others to acknowledge openly or tacitly. Problems occur when others do not treat us according to the image that we have of ourselves. We always need to be attentive to the signs that show that what we are doing or saying is not respecting people's self-image if we want to maintain their friendship, collaboration and good will.

Regardless of who and what we are, rich or poor, famous or unknown, beautiful or not so beautiful, etc. we all see ourselves as individuals whose self-image MUST, did I say MUST, be respected. Although we may be fully aware of our limitations, we will not accept that anyone point them out to us. Anyone, knowingly or unknowingly, infringing our personal standards of how we expect to be treated will have committed the unpardonable offense of having hurt our pride. We will either physically or psychologically strike out against them. The offender will deserve a punch in the mouth and/or the cessation of any friendship that may have existed up to that point. Our pride has been offended and the offender has to be made to pay a price for their offense even it means cutting ourselves off from people who are beneficial to us. Avenging our wounded pride is massively more important than all other considerations.

Pro 11:2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

When we act out of pride we bring shame upon ourselves. When after we have vented our fury on the one who offended us and have come back to our senses, we find ourselves ashamed and often, regretful of what we have done. But, the lowly, someone who is humble and refuses to be easily offended, there is wisdom.

Pro 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: [heated disagreements] but with the well advised is wisdom.

How do people who are perfect strangers come to intensely dislike each other even to the point of sometimes coming to blows? They consider that their pride has been hurt by the other. But with a person who is well advised or as we would say today, who knows better, there is wisdom. They are not easily offended by others disagreeing with them.

Pro 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Friendships, marriages, harmony and peace between people are destroyed because of pride and haughtiness (being full of contempt for others we think to be inferior to us or unworthy of our time and attention).

Pro 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

The foolish will strike out against anyone by whom they think their pride

has been hurt by their words or deeds but the wise by what they say in response to words or actions which may have hurt their pride will keep them from becoming offended and acting foolishly.

Pro 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Our pride if left unrestrained will bring us low. We will say and do things which we will later on regret. We will have ruined marriages, friendships and business relationships that were beneficial to us to satisfy our need to avenge our hurt pride. The humble, someone who is not quickly offended and remains open to respectfully and calmly work out whatever may have become an issue or appeared to have been offensive will be able to maintain peaceful and harmonious relationships with others which is the honorable thing that he does.

Anger

Another emotional response that can create a lot of problems for all of us is anger. It is an intense response to something we find physically or emotionally unpleasant and which, if left unrestrained, leads to verbal and/or physical aggression.

Controlling this emotion like all other emotions is easier said than done but God tells us that it is something that can be achieved.

Pro 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty;
and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city

One who controls his anger is better than the mighty. In doing so, he is ruling his spirit, he is keeping himself under control and God says it is a better accomplishment than someone who is able to conquer or take a city.

Pro 19:11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

This verse tells us something interesting. The word "discretion" is translated from a Greek word which has as some of its meanings: intelligence and wisdom. So, the intelligent or wise man defers his anger; he puts off or delays acting on it. And God adds, not only does he not immediately get angry, he passes over, does not take note of, a transgression which God says is something that makes him glorious (worthy of admiration). As an example of this process at work in the world, we have what is

done in the army. If someone puts in a grievance the same day something was said or done that was found offensive, the grievance is dismissed. If the grievance is made a day or so after the event took place, it is then taken into consideration. On the spot reactions in the heat of the moment need to be given time to cool down before deciding whether a grievance should be made or not.

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

It is possible for a Christian to be angry and not to sin. Firstly by putting off immediately acting on it and secondly by not letting the sun go down on it which is to say, by not remaining angry.

Time is a great counselor and allows us to calm down and with a cooler head review the words or event that caused us to become angry, and in most instances, decide that there is no need to maintain our anger. To our glory we pass over the transgression (Pr 19:11).

The Tongue

Our emotions find their expression in what we do and in what we say. God tells us that it is very difficult for men to keep their tongues under control which is to say, never to offend others by what we say. In the congregations of God's Church that existed in the first century of Christianity, those who came out of the world at God the Father's calling and who remained faithful to their calling were not as careful as they should have been in what they were saying to and about others in their individual congregations. So James, in a letter he sent to them, explains what the tongue does and how, they, as truly converted Christians, and us today, have to make an effort to keep our tongue under control.

Jas 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

Someone who can perfectly control what he says so as to never give offense to anyone is someone who can control his whole body, its physical passions and its lusts of the mind. This is a roundabout way of saying that no one can perfectly do it.

Jas 3:3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

Jas 3:4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great,

and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Jas 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Jas 3:7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

Jas 3:8 [But the tongue can no man tame](#); it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Jas 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Jas 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Jas 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

Jas 3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Jas 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Jas 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

Jas 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. [\[It is the way of the unconverted world.\]](#)

Jas 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above [God] is first pure, then peaceable [not aggressive], gentle, and easy to be intreated, [it is easy to ask something of them] full of mercy [forgiving what was done to them; not holding a grudge] and good fruits, without partiality, [not showing favoritism to anyone, treating everybody the same way] and without hypocrisy. [being sincere]

Jas 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Harmony among brethren is not the result of chance where all just happen to have personalities agreeable to all. It requires that members be peaceable, gentle with each other, to be someone from which it is easy to get help, that they be forgiving real or imaginary offenses, not holding a grudge or being vengeful, treating everybody the same and being sincere in doing so.

The tongue or what we say is one of the principal way we express and make evident to others how we feel about them. As Christians, we have to constantly be careful to act and speak in such a way as to be among those that make peace among fellow Christians.

The Conclusion of the Matter

As Christians, don't be quick to give offense or to be offended; easy to say, hard to do but we must try to do it.

We have to be careful not to say or do anything that could cause fellow Christians to become offended but as God through James tells us, it is unavoidable that sometimes, in some ways we will offend someone or become offended by someone despite our best intentions not to do so.

God's way is to keep our so very fragile pride under control; not be prompt in acting on our anger and to always try to restrain our tongue so as not to give offense to our brothers in Christ. We can choose our friends but we are stuck with our brothers.

How many times should we forgive a brother?

Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Mat 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Then Jesus spoke a parable containing the spiritual principle in the words He spoke to Peter, the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Christians are God's servants and God has forgiven us our past sins and is forgiving those we continue to make as we live out our natural lives.

Mat 18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Mat 18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

Mat 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

Mat 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Christians whose sins are being forgiven by God must also forgive their brother's trespasses against them if they want God to forgive them their trespasses against Him. However, there is a condition, the trespasser must repent which is to say give assurance that he will not repeat the offence.

Luk 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Luk 17:4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

But if he repeats the offending words or behavior 7 times in a day and repents each time, the offended person shall (a command) forgive him. This is what God does with all of us who continue to be sinners no matter how hard we try not to. Some sins can be quite repetitive like drinking alcohol to excess. No matter how many times it happens God will forgive us if our attitude is to try as best we can to not continue getting drunk.

Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Rom 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet

peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

What this verse is saying that it would be very hard to die even for a righteous man and that it may be possible that some would accept to die for a good man. However, when it comes to what Christ did, He died for us while we were still unrepentant sinners which is something no man would ever do.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We as Christians have to forgive a brother who offended us if he repents. God knows we are only human and that sometimes in some way someone will take offense at what a brother says or does. Whenever someone is offended accidentally or on purpose, steps need to be taken to resolve the matter as stated in Luke 17: 3-4. Staying offended is not an option if there is repentance on the part of the brother from whom came the offence, intentionally or unintentionally. Basically, God's family members like a married couple are not to remain offended.

God commands Christians to love their brothers-in-Christ.

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I [Christ] have loved you, that ye also love one another.

We are to act according to the truth we have received.

1Jn 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

1Jn 2:11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

We are not to render evil for evil unto any man in the world nor to those who are part of God's spiritual nation of Israel, God's Church.

1Th 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

1Th 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

And finally.

Mat 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Mat 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

Mat 5:47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

It is extremely hard to love our enemies but it shouldn't be that hard to love our brothers in Christ even though at times, real or imaginary offenses may occur between them.

1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, **because** we love the brethren. **He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.**

1Jn 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

None of us have had to lay down our lives for our brethren which would be a very difficult thing to do for even the most zealous Christian. The main challenge we have today is something far less demanding and which most of us should be able to do and that is to be willing to be forgiving toward anyone who may have, on purpose or by accident, offended us and for both to work out calmly and peacefully any lingering differences.

As Christians, we are not free to not forgive our brothers' trespasses against us nor to hate him.

