



Deadly Sin Five: Wrath

There are several verses in the Bible where God says his “Wrath burned hot.” In the dictionary I found wrath to have a wide variety of descriptions. One is that it’s intense. Another, leans towards satirical affect “he hid to avoid her wrath.” I’m betting Shakespeare used this word a ton. The Bible uses it a ton too. I suppose we could say there is wrath in actions and wrath in our hearts. Both could be deadly.

Wrath is only used once in the book of Genesis. It is used once again in Matthew. However, we find it 25 times in the Psalms and 20 times in the book of Revelation. Look at Job 16:9 “*He has torn me in his wrath, and hated me; he has gnashed his teeth at me; my adversary sharpens his eyes against me.*” The Wrath of God is a big deal when it comes to anguish. I know a pastor that believed his ailment came from the Lords displeasure of Him. I am not so sure.

Many instances in the Bible has the Lord turning away in his wrath. That use of the word is to show how angry God is. Yet, that word is not used to say God is smiting everything. Usually, God is asking the people to repent to avoid his wrath. Many verses have the people hoping to avoid God’s wrath. It comes back to power. The word wrath is intense power. It’s like an uncontrollable urge to strike out. I believe God turns away to control his wrath. We do the

same when we count to ten or go for a walk. Most people try and control their wrath. Yet, the intensity of it remains.

Wrath is an old word we don't use anymore. Yet, we all have to walk away. People get very angry. I feel it's deadly if left unchecked. Is a serial killer unchecked wrath? Does murder come from wrath that could not be controlled? I knew an instance where a wife had cheated. She was so angry at the situation that she broke out in rage towards her husband. He had done nothing wrong but her actions brought out wrath.

This is a deadly sin because sometimes it can't be controlled. Even God had to turn away. We all get angry. It's the human thing to have passion. When passion turns to wrath we get into trouble. Most people can control it, but not all. Our prisons are full of momentary wrath. This type of anger is a power burst. I bet it is pent up rage too. We all get frustrated. Usually an outburst was brewing for some time. Wrath comes from us but it goes towards others. I am betting the innocent end up in the line of fire of wrath.

Wrath is so intense that it sprays outward. How many men have killed people in mass shootings? Yet, the innocent die most of the time. They call it blind rage or wrath. This word is a deadly sin because we don't allow ourselves to be angry. We are told venting is bad. Further to that is the building up of frustration. Where is the avenue to be who you are? People do have a hard time accepting people. Gods wrath comes from people not accepting him and his way. It's that way with people too. Wrath may be an old word but we still see it played out today in crime rates and mass shootings. It is still a deadly sin.

In Matthew 5, Jesus says to leave your offering at the alter and go reconcile wrongs first. Honestly, from a human standpoint this is a tough call. Reconcile before giving an offering to

God? That is how much God wants us to keep resentment, anger, disappointment, and many other rages in check. Come to God with a soft heart ready to love and listen. A heart with wrath does not care about much. It does not hear, love, or have compassion for others. Wrath wants justice, condemnation, and payment. How interesting. The alter payment is for sins we have committed. Wrath wants payment for sins others have committed against us. Hard to have a peaceful life if you live with wrath. It is truly a deadly sin.