

SPIRITUAL OFFENSE

Disappointments and frustrations are a part of daily life due to the fallen world we live in.

Focusing our attention on these negative situations allows the spirit of offense to settle down within us, form our attitudes, take control of our reactions to situations and shape our character.

The Israelites in the wilderness were frustrated and offended at God because God wouldn't move the way they expected.

Cain felt offended at God and murdered his own brother because God rejected his offering and accepted Abel's.

Absalom's offense against David

2 Samuel 13:20-22 "So her brother Absalom said to her, "Has your brother Amnon been with you? But now keep silent, my sister; he is your brother; do not take this matter to heart." So Tamar remained secluded in her brother Absalom's house. ²¹ Now when King David heard about all these things, he was very angry [but failed to take any action]. ²² But Absalom did not speak to Amnon either good or bad; for Absalom hated Amnon because he had violated his sister Tamar." **AMPLIFIED**

According to Jewish law, Amnon should have been executed for the rape of his sister.

2 Samuel 15:1-12 AMPLIFIED

Absalom carried an offense against his father king David because of his failure to punish Amnon for raping his sister Tamar.

Absalom took matters in to his own hands and avenged Tamar by putting Amnon to death.

Later he rebelled against David his father and temporarily removed him from the throne.

Ahitophel's offense against David

2 Samuel 15:12 AMPLIFIED

Ahitophel was David's most prominent counselor,

2 Samuel 16:23 "The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if a man had consulted the word of God; that is how all Ahithophel's counsel was *regarded* by both David and Absalom." **AMPLIFIED**

He was Bathsheba's grandfather and carried an offense against David.

When crisis emerged he switched sides and became the chief advisor for Absalom.

Consequences of Carrying Offence

Feeds unforgiveness: Absalom didn't take rest until he avenged Amnon.

Deceives: Absalom's offense removed his father from the throne which amazed everyone but his success didn't last long.

Divides: Ahithophel joined Absalom in rebellion against the King.

2 Samuel 17:1-2 “Then, Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Please let me choose 12,000 men, and I will set out and pursue David tonight.² I will strike while he is weary and exhausted, and terrify him; and all the people with him will flee [in terror]. Then I will attack the king alone.” **AMPLIFIED**

His agenda was to take revenge on David.

Israelites that lived in the mainland followed him in large numbers,

2 Samuel 15:5-6 “And whenever a man approached to bow down before him, he would put out his hand, take hold of him, and kiss him.⁶ This is how Absalom dealt with everyone in Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.” **AMPLIFIED**

Offense unites people of like mind but their destinies are doomed.

Self-dependence: Absalom forgot that God is in control of every situation. He took matters in to his own hands and it created more problems.

Pride: The downfall of Absalom was caused by the very thing that made him attractive, popular and powerful. Hidden behind his beautiful hair was the spirit of offense.

2 Samuel 14:26-26 “Now in all Israel there was no man as handsome as Absalom, so highly praised [for that]; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.²⁶ When he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of each year he cut it, because its weight was heavy on him) he weighed the hair of his head at 200 shekels by the king's weight.” **AMPLIFIED**

2 Samuel 18:9 “Now Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a massive tree, and his head was caught in [the thick branches of] the tree; and he was left hanging [in midair] between heaven and earth, while the mule that had been under him kept going.” **AMPLIFIED**

The spirit of offense is everywhere

Certain people are always talking about what is not right about the church.

Complaints turn to murmuring which eventually results in offense.

Some husbands and wives see only the failures of their spouse ignoring the great number of good things he or she has done.

People like to criticize the government instead of praising God for the good things God has accomplished through political leaders he appoints.

How do I overcome the spirit of offense?

Focus on Celebration

We feed the spirit of offense every time by focusing on what is not happening and on what God has not done in our life.

We must shift our focus from the negative to positive things and the good things that God has already done and thank Him.

The Bible calls this celebration.

Why is celebration important?

In ministry, celebration helps us to direct our energies and attention to fulfill what God wants us to do.

Focusing on good things results in celebration, gratitude and faith.

Regular celebration keeps us from being unfaithful and ungrateful to God.

It also helps us to remember that God is in control of every situation.

How to celebrate in the midst of perfection?

You can celebrate as long as you learn to focus on good things.

The human eye and its ability to focus.

Focusing involves the use of muscles in your eyes.

You must choose to exercise the Word of God in your life so that you can have greater control over your focus on the issues of life.

Take time to regularly give thanks and celebrate the good things God has done.
(sharing testimonies)

What prevents us from celebrating?

Forgetting the good things.

The human mind tends to forget good things and focus on the bad.

“Yahweh, you are my soul’s celebration. How could I ever forget the miracles of kindness you’ve done for me?” **Psalm 103:2 TPT**

Associating with ungrateful people.

Be in the company of celebrators and it will positively affect you.

Complaining and grumbling.

Ask someone to hold you accountable for your attitude of gratitude.

Let them correct you when you complain and grumble.

Failing to guard your life from offenses.

Keep your life protected from offenses; it is easy to have them but difficult to get out of them.

Unforgiveness: Learn to forgive and let go of your past hurts.

Israel was commanded to hold many feasts every year with the primary purpose of corporate celebration which preserved the unity of the Nation.

King David enlarged this and made it a common practice to celebrate God’s goodness and praise Him continuously which resulted in joy, hope and optimism.

His wider view of God’s greatness, purposes, and workings in life made it possible for him to experience life in its fullness.

I encourage you to develop a life of celebration which will give you the ability to live a life of fullness.

“Let joy be your continual feast. Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.”

1Thessalonians 5:16-18 TPT