

Bitterness

Bible Examples / Shoots / Results / Symptoms / Healing

Bible Examples of Bitterness

- Women are bitter because they cannot have children (1 Samuel 1:10),
- A foolish son is bitterness to his mother (Proverbs 17:25),
- Divine discipline (chastisement) of the Jewish people caused bitterness. This demonstrates the weakness and failure of the people. Bitterness destroyed the people's spiritual lives. The Jews brought on self-destruction by their bitterness (Lamentations 1:4; Amos 8:10; Ezekiel 27:30; Isaiah 33:7; 2 Kings 14:26),
- Slavery causes bitterness (Exodus 1:14.3),
- Suffering causes bitterness to people who do not understand problem solving devices, principles, and give number one priority to relationship with God (Deuteronomy 32:24),
- Ridicule is a source of bitterness - the people ridiculed Jeremiah because of their bitterness toward him. When truth is taught, people react in bitterness (Lamentations 3:14),
- Consummate human pride is a cause of bitterness (Acts 8:23),
- Degeneracy is a source of bitterness (Romans 3:14),
- Cosmic involvement is a source of bitterness (Ephesians 4:31),
- Husbands and wives are a source of bitterness toward each other (Colossians 3:19).

Root of Bitterness Has Offshoots

- Unforgiveness,
- Personal justification,
- Alienation,
- Self-pity,
- Selfish attitude,
- Superior attitude,
- Self-righteousness attitude,
- Inconsiderate of others,
- Prideful ambition,
- Un-teachableness,
- Retaliation,
- Murder (including gossip),
- Reviling,
- Revenge,
- Poisonous speech / Slander,
- Antagonism,
- Malice,
- Cruelty,
- Violence,
- Anger,
- Hate,
- Resentment,
- Rage,
- Obsessions / Evil thoughts over remarks and actions,
- Compulsions / Unbecoming behavior,

Biblical Results of Bitterness

Bitterness is antisocial. A bitter person is selfish, inconsiderate of others, withdrawn from society, indifferent or adverse to conformity with conventional standards of social behavior:

- Even strangers avoid bitter people: "The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy" (Proverbs 14:10). No one is happy around bitter people,
- Bitterness is a sign of the fragmented life: "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the LORD God of hosts" (Jeremiah 2:19),
- A bitter person rejects Bible teaching: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth" (James 3:14),
- Bitterness shows total lack of grace orientation. A bitter person does not understand the Plan of God, let alone how it affects individuals. In Job 9:17-18, Job's complaint against God: "For he ... multiplieth my wounds without cause ... but filleth me with bitterness" is a statement of bitterness,
- Bitterness accompanies the sin unto death: "And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul" (Job 21:25),
- Bitterness motivates complaining: "I will complain in the bitterness of my soul ... I will speak in the bitterness of my soul" (Job 7:11, 10:1). People who habitually complain are bitter people,
- Bitterness motivates gossip: "Who whet his tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words" (Psalm 64:3),
- Bitterness fragments other people's lives: "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled" (Hebrews 12:15):
- Bitterness is self-induced misery, and it produces chain sinning. Bitterness is misery to others in the periphery. But two wrongs never make a right. You cannot build your happiness on someone else's unhappiness.

Symptoms: Behavior

- Obsessive detailed memories,
- Critical,
- Unwarranted attacks,
- Making evil good,
- Heart and mouth speak about it in obsessive way.

Healing: What We Must Do:

- Identify,
- Confess,
- Repent,
- Renew the mind,
- Forgive,
- Reconcile if possible,
- Make restitution when possible,
- Depend on the Holy Spirit for strength,
- Depend on the love of God towards you.

(Source Unknown)