

ANGER (Greek)

There are three kinds of anger mentioned in the Bible, and confirmed by observation and experience.

The first two words are found in

[Ephesians 4:31, 32](#)

*Vs. 31 "Get rid of all bitterness, rage (**thumos**) and anger (**orge**), brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Vs. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you"*

- I. The first word is "*thumos*", which means "*a turbulent commotion, an explosion of temper or rage*". This is the pit bull kind of anger; it is the rage that *DESTROYS*, the rage that *ABUSES*, perhaps more emotional than "*orge*".
- II. A second word is "*orge*", which means "*a long-lasting attitude that continues to seek revenge*"; it could also be defined as "*RESENTMENT*". This kind of anger reminds us of the cobra, which carries out its schemes with cunning, methodical, devious, emotion-less planning. This kind of anger can abuse, deceive, and blame without a twinge of conscience. What distinguishes it from "*thumos*" (the pit bull anger) is that "*orge*" is usually not out of control. In fact, the person with this kind of anger takes pride in his ability to remain calm and collected as his schemes are carried out. He is the kind of person who will clean his gun in the presence of his wife, just to remind her of what could happen were she to defy him!
- III. The third Greek word for anger is *aganaktesis* ([2 Corinthians 7:11](#)), which means "*indignation*". It is the kind of indignation that usually brings about more appropriate behavior. Of course, there is not a neat division between these kinds of anger in real life. Some abusers might act like a pit bull one day, a cobra the next, and be appropriately indignant the day after that. In any case, the person who is filled with rage might be charming or intimidating or cunning – and maybe all three at once.

Interestingly, in the Old Testament Hebrew, the word most often translated "*anger*" is *APH*, which means "*nostrils*". This is a word picture of someone whose nostrils are flared or snorting with *ANGER*. We sometimes speak of someone who is "hot under the collar" – that is, someone whose blood vessels are inflamed because of *ANGER*.