

“Son” Flowers... A Devotional by the members of New Hope Church in Cooper, TX

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Scripture Verse Reference: James 1:20 ***“for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”*** (ESV)

The Cost of Anger

This morning, God showed me exactly what my anger costs. As I was feeding the calves, a neighbor drove by and as usual Diogi (dee-oh-jee) the dog was in hot pursuit. My pal Diogi had this habit since he wandered upon my farm as a pup in 2016. Nearly starved, I ran the stray dog off a few times. The next morning, when I came out to feed, he was standing there next to my garage door waiting for me. I gave in to God’s urging and fed him. From that moment, he was my constant companion.

Each morning when I headed out to feed, he would jump into my arms or wrap himself around my legs and just love on me. It was his way of showing his appreciation for my taking him in and giving him love and protection. Next, he would hop onto my ATV and we would be off to feed. He took great delight in herding the cattle into the feedlots by barking and chasing them. Once they entered, he would stop and go sit down outside the fence until I fed and picked him up. He then hopped onto the seat and we were off to the next chore. Often, he would jump off and run ahead of me, knowing our next stop.



Whenever we worked near our gravel country road, he watched for passing vehicles. Although few, when someone would drive by, he would take out after them barking and nipping at their front tire. He did the same thing sometimes to my ATV. I bought a shock collar last year to try to break him of this habit. I just never had the heart to put it on him and shock him into submission. Oh how I wish I had.

For most of my life, I’ve been short-tempered. I’ve been asking the Holy Spirit to help me learn to control these outbursts, as self-control is an important fruit of the Spirit to attain. I thought I was getting better at holding my tongue, but this morning as Diogi took off after my neighbor, in my frustration I said; “Just bump him and maybe he’ll learn!” I never looked to see Diogi stop at the curve in the road and turn back as he usually did. I thought it strange he wasn’t chasing me up my long driveway—racing to beat me to the workshop, as he knew it was now his feeding time.

Instead, this morning, my neighbor drove up my driveway. With tears in his eyes, he told me he didn’t mean to, but he hit and killed my friend Diogi. As I placed my hand on his shoulder, I said; “It wasn’t your fault. I know he does this, just as your dogs do. I bought a shock collar for him, but couldn’t bring myself to harm him to help him.” We both cried, and he kindly agreed to take him off the roadside on my behalf.

God showed me the cost for my hanging onto my angry outbursts that morning. I know God did not cause this, as He loves all His creations. Instead, He uses these tragedies as teaching moments for His children. I am certain I will see my pal, along with other loved pets gone from this earth, at the end of the age. Still, the guilt I feel for having to learn this lesson the hard way shows me the cost of my lack of righteousness and unwillingness to surrender to Him fully.

I pray each of you learns from my heartache and more easily surrenders to God those worldly traits we stubbornly hold onto. Let Him move you closer to Christ’s example in the process.