

We do not read the Bible very long before we see that there are two attitudes which God may take toward us. If we are in rebellion against His righteousness -- if we harbor sin in our hearts -- then He is a consuming fire, and His Word shows how futile it is for us to attempt to fight against Him. If we are in the relation to Him which children bear toward a father, He is the source of all comfort and joy.

It is a wonderful privilege to have God as our Father. Isaiah 63:9 gives a beautiful picture of His relation toward His own: "In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old." The man who truly knows and trusts God has a factor in his life that means joy in the midst of trouble, and satisfaction in the midst of chaos. Though the storms may beat around him, he need not fear, for the director of all the universe is his friend.

The next verse in Isaiah 63 shows the other side of the picture: "But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them."

It is useless to try to fight against God. Only misery can result. Man in a state of rebellion against God is hopelessly ruined. Only by unconditional surrender can he avoid utter disaster.

The Bible has the answer to this problem, which faces every human being. God has provided a means of redemption. He has sent His unique Son, to be the propitiation for the sins of all who will believe on Him -- of all who take Him as Savior and Lord.

Are you living in defiance of God? Are you omitting from your planning this most vital of all factors? Or have you received a new life through Jesus Christ? Are you one who knows and loves God, and receives comfort and blessing from His Word? "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."