

# HOW TO: Combat the Spirit of Offence

Taking offence<sup>1</sup> is a very strong mindset that many people have, and it isn't missing from believers either. I would say the majority (if not 100%) of the Christians I meet with every day are affected by this habit. This should not be the case.

Like Jesus of Nazareth, our prototype, Kingdom sons are not to fall into the trap of 'taking offence'. Like self-pity, this emotional propensity originates in the 'flesh' and is manipulated by the enemy. Its end-purpose is to destroy relationships, especially between those in the Kingdom.

Here are a number of ways offence will affect your life.

**1. Mind** – Offence takes root through your mind. **You actually make a decision to be offended, it's not an accident of circumstances.** Once you submit to offence, a considerable amount of your mental capacity will be transferred to 'feeding' the offence. You will toss it around in your mind continually, even in your sleep. Guard your mind so this doesn't happen.

**2. Sight** – Your mental vision is impaired once you take offence. You begin to 'see' things that are not. You will see many things as direct attacks against you when they are not. This intensifies the offence, increases the pain and moves you more into irrational behaviour. You will find that this makes you unable to see what you are doing.

**3. Heart** – Once offence seats itself in your heart, every single thing you do and say becomes toxic. Why? Your heart becomes so septic that your spoken words and actions destroy everyone who comes in contact with you.

**4. Relationships** – When offence touches your relationships it will put a wedge between you and others, even your family or friends. You will abandon them and begin to search for people who will listen to you tell your view of the 'story', because your previous acquaintances have become your enemies.

**5. Hearing** – The spirit of offence will impair your hearing so you hear a distorted account of what others say. Your spiritual 'hearing' will also be extremely tainted and become untrustworthy. You will be hearing lies of the enemy and interpret them as the voice of God.

**6. Time** – Offence uses up your time which should be spent on Kingdom matters. You become consumed with proving others wrong and yourself right, with paybacks, and how you can be compensated for your perceived wrongs. Your #1 priority will become yourself.

**7. Health** – Offence produces intense negativity which manifests as bitterness, unforgiveness, rage, frustration, groundless worrying, strife, etc. In the end your mental and physical health rapidly declines.

The spirit of offence's purpose is to destroy you – that's always the enemy's ultimate plan. Offence will also provide an open door for other demons to work on you or to take possession of you. So, **guard your heart and guard your mind.** Also, know that **you make the choice of whether you take offence or not.**

Here's an interesting scripture that relates to offence:

**Matthew 18:15-17** (ISV) – *If your brother sins against you, go and confront him while the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. But if he doesn't listen, take one or two others with you so that 'every word may be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If, however, he ignores them, tell it to the congregation. If he also ignores the congregation, regard him as an unbeliever and a tax collector.*

A different side of the issue. Very interesting.

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28-11-2017

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