

# ME, OFFENDED?

*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare [entrapment] of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2:24–26, EMPHASIS ADDED

*[Read chapter 1, stopping at the heading “The Heart’s True Condition.”]*

ANYONE WHO HAS TRAPPED ANIMALS KNOWS THAT A TRAP needs two things to be successful: It must be hidden in the hope that an animal will stumble upon it, and it must be baited to lure the animal into the trap’s deadly jaws.

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Many people are unable to function properly in God’s purpose and calling for their lives because of the wounds, hurts, and offenses in their lives.

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Satan, the enemy of our souls, incorporates both of these strategies as he lays out his most deceptive and deadly traps. They are both hidden and baited. Along with his cohorts, Satan is not as blatant as many believe. He is subtle and delights in deception. He is shrewd in his operation, cunning and crafty.

One of his most deceptive and insidious kinds of bait is something every Christian has encountered—offense. But if we pick it up, consume it, and feed on it in our hearts, then we become offended. Offended people produce much fruit.