

# PSALM 116:1-2 (NIV)

- 1 I have the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.
- 2 Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.



When I Feel Bitter

Psalm 36

Feel Better

## Where is bitterness in this Psalm?

(Discerniveal writing?)

What is the position of this person?

What is the FCF?

(Faith Condition Focus)

Sometimes we're told

Psalm 36

Something that would cause us to distrust ourselves and distrust God's goodness. Something that makes us a schemer, and takes no joy in God's great goodness and delight.



**Genesis 4**  
Bitterness becomes  
wrath and murder

**Exodus 15**  
Bitterness becomes  
grumbling and rebellion

**Bitterness:** How does it work?  
Why is it so poisonous?

**Malachi 2:15**  
See that no one misses the grace of God and that  
no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile  
many.

**Root plant:** Everything needed to grow is  
stored in the root. It's just waiting for the  
right moment to sprout up.



Like fear and pride,  
bitterness is a

**"denial condition."**  
Mud we have it because it's a  
fundamentally unspiritual  
condition.

To us imagine it isn't there —  
though it's obvious to everyone else.



## 1. See by the light of the fear of God bitterness is blindness.

No fear of God before their eyes

In his own eyes he flatters himself  
so he can't see his sin or hate it

Wicked mouth, ceases to be wise or do good

Broods on his bed planning wickedness

### Psalm 36:9

For with you is the  
fountain of life;

**in your light we see light.**

## 2. See by the light of God's goodness see something BESIDES our bitterness.

Heavenly Father, I pray that you will  
show me your love and grace, and  
help me to live in your light.

Heavenly Father, I pray that you will  
show me your love and grace, and  
help me to live in your light.

## PSALM 116:1-2 (NIV)

- 1 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.
- 2 Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.



Feel

Better



When I Feel Bitter

Psalms 36

Feel Better

# Where is bitterness in this Psalm?

*("Occasional writings")*

What is the occasion of this poem?

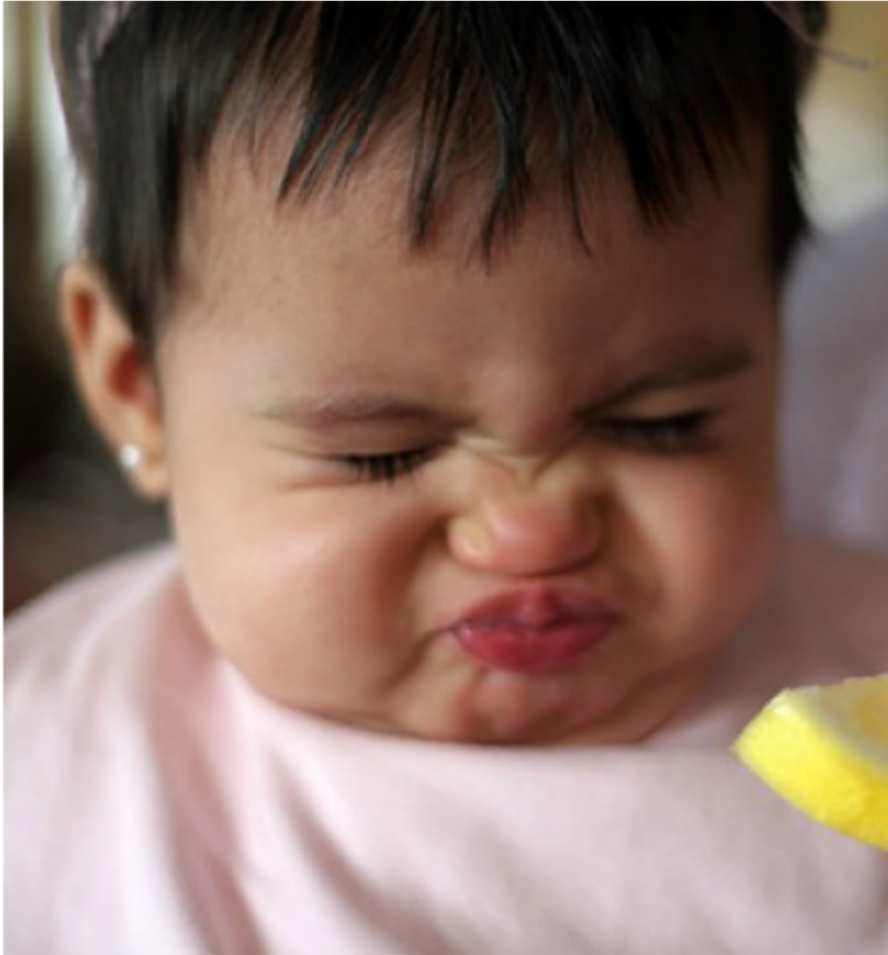
**What is the FCF?**

*(Fallen Condition Focus)*

Sometimes  
we're told

Psalm 51  
Psalm 34

Something that would cause us to deceive ourselves and distrust God's goodness. Something that makes us a schemer, and take no joy in God's great goodness and delight.



## Genesis 4

### Bitterness becomes wrath and murder

#### Ephesians 4:31-32

Get rid of all **bitterness**, rage and anger,

brawling and slander, **along with every form of malice**. Be kind and compassionate to one

another, **forgiving each other**, just as in Christ God forgave you.

## Exodus 15

### Bitterness becomes grumbling and rebellion



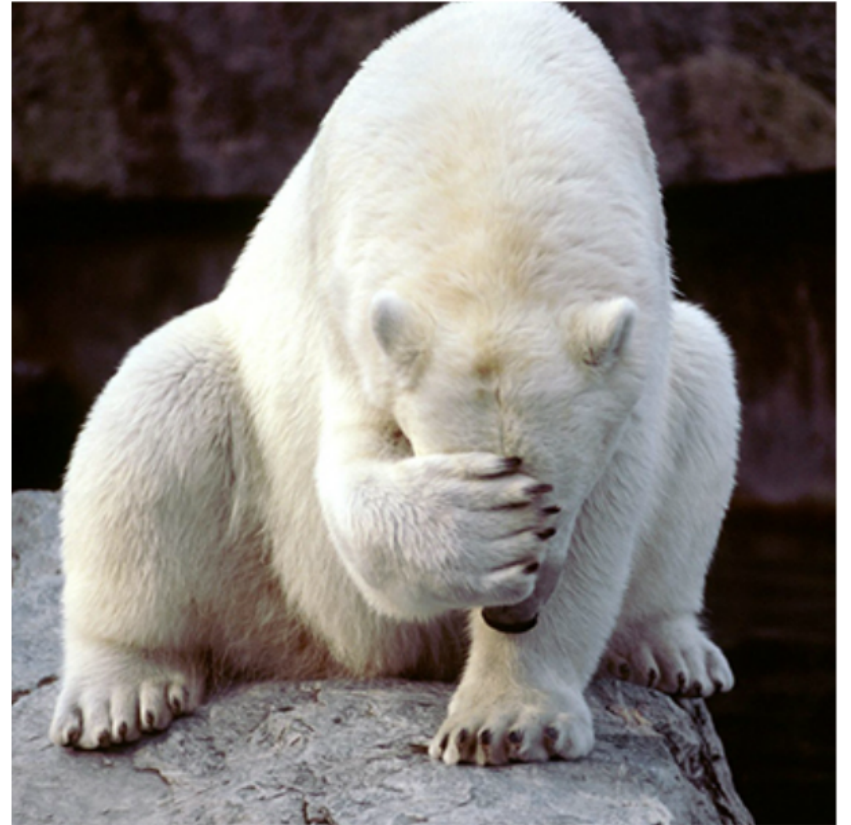
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Like fear and pride,  
bitterness is a  
**"denial condition."**  
We deny we have it because it is a  
humiliatingly unsophisticated  
condition.  
So we imagine it isn't there —  
though it's obvious in everyone else.






# **Bitterness:** How does it work? Why is it so poisonous?

## **Hebrews 12:15**

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no **bitter root grows up** to cause trouble and defile many.



**Root plant:** Everything needed to grow is stored in the root. It's just waiting for the right moment to sprout up.



Broods on his bed planning wickedness

**Psalm 36:9**

For with you is the  
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# 1. See by the light of the fear of God *bitterness is blindness.*

No fear of God before their eyes



In his own eyes he flatters himself  
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**Proverbs 1:7**  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

**Proverbs 9:10**  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and  
knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

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knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

# 2. See by the light of God's goodness

*see something BESIDES our bitterness.*

## Three Anti-bitterness Attributes

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Love and Faithfulness     | ← Parallel attributes      |
| 2. Righteousness and Justice | I have not been wronged.   |
| 3. Preservation              | I have not been abandoned. |

We should **VALUE** them

How precious is your unfailing love!  
Your right and righteousness have triumphed by the way of your word.  
They heard  
your voice, O Lord,  
and your voice brought them out of darkness into the light.  
For you have said, "Your word is truth."  
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For you have said, "Your word is truth."  
For you have said, "Your word is truth."

# Three Anti-bitterness Attributes

1. Love and Faithfulness ← Parallel attributes

2. Righteousness and Justice

I have not been wronged.

3. Preservation

I have not been abandoned.





# We should **VALUE** them

**Psalm 36:7**

How priceless is your unfailing love!

Both high and low among men find refuge in the  
shadow of your wings.

**Psalm 36:8**

They feast

on the **abundance** of your house;  
you give them drink from  
**your river of delights.**

**Psalm 36:9**

For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

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Psalm 140:1-3  
Do not let my anger  
burn like fire,  
and do not let my wrath  
flame up against me.

**Psalm 36:9**  
For with you is the  
fountain of life;  
**in your light we see light.**

## 2. See by the light of God's goodness *see something BESIDES our bitterness.*

These 800 different Psalms  
Lamentation  
Praise  
Wisdom  
Love

We should **VALUE** them  
because they are  
the best of the best



Feel

Better

