

A Soft Answer

The famous British leader Winston Churchill – Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on two occasions – had just finished a rousing speech.

Upon his final words, the crowd that had gathered to hear him erupted with thunderous applause.

When the clapping and cheering faded, one man, unimpressed by Churchill's rhetoric, began ridiculing him.

The rest of the audience sat in suspense, awaiting the powerful statesman's response to the rude man.



Churchill looked at his tormentor and said, “I know. I agree with you. But what are we among so many?”

Churchill's reply was a hit with the throng, and a potentially tense situation was diffused.

Like Sir Winston, you may occasionally face insults or someone who openly opposes your position on an issue – perhaps in a condescending manner. It's tempting to become angry and lose your composure.

Many of us have been led to believe that – in order to show our strength – we must fight fire with fire. But don't forget the power of humor and humility when dealing with criticism or rudeness.

The Bible promises that a soft answer turns away wrath. Certainly, there will be times when you must forcefully defend yourself or your position on an important issue.

Be watchful, however, or the times when fighting fire with fire will only make everyone hot and miserable, and do nothing to resolve the situation.

A discerning person keeps wisdom in view (Proverbs 17:24 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter