

BE PATIENT!

These lessons were designed to encourage believers in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis; and specially to equip believers to share Categorical Bible Doctrine, Truth, with others (2 tim.3:16-17).

Our lesson comes from the context of (1 Thess.5:12-28) where Paul listed 17 Greek imperatives (commands) to deal with crises in a Christian's way of Life.

- The first 16 are in the present tense
- The 17th is an aorist tense (the word "greet" vs. 26).

This lesson will study three aspects of the doctrine of "Be Patient".

1. The Greek verb for "Be Patient" is makrothumeo (p.a.impv.2pl).

There are two Greek verbs used for patience:

- **Makrothumeo** and hupomeno (to abide under; wait patiently; to endure under pressure).
 - **Makrothumeo** is a compound Greek verb which means to be long tempered under pressure.
 - It means to restrain one's temperament in the face of provocation, especially long-term stress.
 - You hear some people say, "It takes a lot for me to become angry" or others say, "I know I am quick tempered, but I can't help myself." This is the Greek word to describe this type of behavior.

2. This lesson will address both sides of this issue of dealing with stressful situations.

Worldly (Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking) and **fleshly** (Old Sin Nature reactions) are both self-restraint type of approaches and stressful coping mechanisms.

Neither **changes the inside struggle**, only the outside response of reaction to the circumstance.

- Whether one bites his tongue and stays hurt inside or whether one lets it fly and must deal with wounding words. (James 3:1-12).

Allow me to address the Let it fly approach to a stressful situation with the example of Balaam and his donkey to illustrate **domestic abuse** (Num.22:22-35).

- Balak was against Israel and hired Balaam to put a curse upon Israel (Num.22:1-6).
- God intervened and told Balaam not to curse Israel (Num.22:7-14).
- Barak offered more money and Balaam accepted it (Num.22:15-21).
- God responded to Balaam decision and sent the angel of the Lord to interfere with it even unto death (Num.22:22).

This brings us to our illustration of domestic abuse. The donkey of Balaam saw what Balaam was blind to see because of secondary negative volition to the revealed truth (do not pronounce a curse upon Israel) (Num.22:23-30). The angel of the Lord stood in the road with a drawn sword which the donkey avoided three times.

This made Balaam grow angry (to the boiling point and blew-up!) so that he beat the donkey; and was willing to even put it to death (Num.22:28-30) But the donkey spoke to Balaam, like the rooster reminded Peter of Truth!

Domestic violence: Balaam took his anger out on his faithful and loyal domestic donkey (Num.22:30).

Domestic violence always rises during times of great stress, whether personal, in our community, or nationally, like during this Covid-19 crisis. Projecting blame, or taking it out on others, does not resolve the problem. In fact, it creates more problems.

“**The Lord opened the eyes of Balaam.**” (Num.22:31)

- The angel of Lord spoke to Balaam the truth of word of God which he had refused earlier.
 - (Num.22:32-33).
- Balaam confessed his sin and renewed his mind towards the will of the Lord.
 - (Num.22:34-35; 1 John 1:9; Eph.4:22-24).

3. Every Church Age Believer has a Spiritual Coping mechanism for dealing with stressful situations. It is walking by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit! (1 Cor.6:19-20).

(Gal.5:16-17) “But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desires of the **flesh (OSN)**, for the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in **opposition to one another**, so that you may not do the things that you please.” (Gal.5:19-21)

Walking in the flesh or In The Spirit is a choice!

- It is a decision made from your inter-dialogue regarding the issue at hand.
- Walking in Spirit is the right choice (John 14:26-27; 15:11; 16:7-9).

The immediate benefit from walking by means of the Holy Spirit is the Fruit produced by The Spirit!

(Gal.5:22-23) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, Peace, **PATIENCE (makrothumia)**, kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, **SELF-CONTROL (egkrateia/ temperate/ inner strength)**; against such there is no law.”

For the Christian, the first line of defense in winning the battle over the war of the flesh (and through the crisis) is choosing to Walk by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit! But how do you do that?

It requires recognition and confession of personal sin, mental thoughts, verbal affronts, and overt actions.

(1 John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”.

(1 Cor.3:1-3) And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

But, for some believers, the battle over these fleshly issues continues to challenge them and the transformational victory, that inner peace in the midst of the storm, has not been truly gained yet!

Truly winning the battle over the war of the flesh (and through the crisis) is WALKING by FAITH in the Word of God (Categorical Bible Doctrine) resident and proven trustworthy in the soul!

(2 Pet.1:4-9)

(2 Cor.5:7)

(Eph.4:22-24)

(Rom.12:2)

