



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

300 Eagles Nest Farm Road, Hawk Point, Missouri 63349 • Ph: 636-597-3755 • FAX: 636-597-3743

*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

## Letters of Faith

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**“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,  
so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers,  
they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them,  
glorify God in the day of visitation.”**

(1 Peter 2:12)

Dearly Beloved,

How important it is that our behavior always be polite and pleasant under pressure.

Problems are apt to bring to the surface perversity instead of polite perseverance in times of pressure. This perverse tendency to not act with politeness and pleasantness under pressure springs from the unredeemed areas of our hearts, and can by its lack of consideration for others, wreak havoc in the lives of the very people that God has put us among to model the character of His Son, Jesus. God has purposed that our Godly behavior in crunch times shows the people of the world that we Christians are different, and that the difference is admirable and desirable.

Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for otherwise commendable believers to exhibit unsanctified behavior under pressure. Many years ago, a well-known writer and conference speaker accepted our invitation to minister to some business leaders and their wives at a dinner party in our home the night prior to his ministry at a major conference here in St. Louis. His baggage did not arrive with him—a not unusual experience for one who travels a great deal! At the baggage claim counter, to our shock and great embarrassment, he berated the harried agent with the harshest outburst of language we have ever heard that did not include profanity.

All the agent could do was to apologize and assure him that they would get his bags to him at his hotel as soon as possible. But that was not enough for our “important” guest who proceeded to tell the poor lad how famous he was, and if he did not have his suitcase by 5 p.m. he would see that the airline’s president (whom he knew personally) heard about the incident and that would not help the agent’s job security.

We have often wondered what would have happened if that clerk had been a seeker who went to the conference the next day to hear “the man of God” and recognized him as the person who had so unfairly scalded him with his tongue for something over which he had absolutely no control!

We realized that our guest speaker’s mind-set at that moment was totally focused on himself and on his problem; in other words, on the things of the flesh. Out of the limelight, he had reverted to the authoritarian demeanor of the “old” man still in him. This experience shocked us, but God graced us with this admonition: **“For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.”** (Romans 8:5-6)

That “death” can be death to those innocents around us! That’s a Selah!

This incident so affected us as young Christians that we knelt together at the foot of our bed that night and cried out to God to forgive that leader, to convict him of his behavior, and to

comfort the abused airline employee. Then, we asked God to never let us forget the lesson that outburst of rudeness taught us, and keep us from ever being impolite to anyone no matter what their position, gender, age, wealth, race, or health, even when we are under pressure.

It is so easy to overlook someone when we are in a hurry, or stressed by frustration, anger, self-pity, or fatigue. To show our impatience with another's slowness, ineptness, immaturity, or lack of ability to solve our immediate problem is simply immature self-centeredness... that's the mind set on the flesh!

Respect and kindness were some of Jesus' character traits that endeared Him to the ordinary people. Jesus treated the woman at the well with polite respect as He listened to her and conversed with her. He was pleasant and loving to the little children who played at His feet. He did not accuse the tax collector, Zaccheus, of being dishonest, but rather, politely asked to have lunch in his home, and that changed Zaccheus' life forever. He did not treat Mary Magdalene rudely because of her reputation. His uncondemning love toward her shocked His straight-laced host, but won her heart! He did not snarl at the soldiers who beat Him and nailed Him to the cross. Rather, He asked His Father God to forgive them just before He breathed His last. **“Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, ‘Certainly this man was righteous.’”** (Luke 23:47) Jesus' behavior under the most extreme pressure was the witness that opened that soldier's heart to believe the Christ on the cross.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church: **“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain...giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited...”** (2 Corinthians 5:21-6:1&3)

Do you think for a moment that Joseph was rude and unpleasant while he earned his rank of head slave and overseer of Potiphar's house? We must ask our God, Joseph's God, to give us the same anointing in whatever pressure cooker we are in. And in the Name of Jesus, He will do it for us just as surely as He did it for Joseph!

It is God's grace that changes our nature so that we respond His way. The fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) includes peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control; all of which are listed as synonyms for politeness in the thesaurus. We are designed to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, to listen carefully to His instructions, and to allow Him to teach us and to guide our actions into harmony with Jesus.

*Lord Jesus, sometimes it is really hard not to react to other people's rudeness. But we guess we don't have to tell You that. We are in awe of how gently You handled the sinners and how firmly You confronted the religious. Your spirit was never condescending or vicious. Your words and actions were designed to woo and convict those who needed to be saved. Help us be like that all th time! May people never again observe us as we once were before You changed our hearts. May others give You praise as they see what only You could have possibly accomplished in us!*  
*Amen.*

Hugs,



### **Special Post Script:**

As we approach this election, we are praying that our Heavenly Father will rise up righteous leadership for this great country of ours. We encourage you to consider the character and behavior of the candidates you are supporting and plan to vote for in light of the admonitions and examples of righteousness in this letter. Bless you, and God Bless America!