



Eagle Vision Partner Letter

Enduring to the End

July 2006

Dear Partner,

I pray this letter finds you encouraged and focused on good things! Jesus very rarely said the word "impossible" but in **Luke 17:1** it says **Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come:**... The word *impossible* here in the Greek has a different meaning than all of the other places that it occurs in the New Testament. It means, *you might as well accept the fact that times to be offended will come your way*. Picture this--a trap that is set outside to trap an animal...you have the box and it is propped open by a piece of wood that is used to keep the trap door open. When the animal walks into the trap and accidentally bumps into the piece of wood, he causes the trap door to close causing him to be trapped inside. This is the picture that is being painted here. The word **offence** in the Greek (*skandalon*) literally means *trap-stick, snare, stumbling block*. It's where the word scandal comes from. This same word is used in **Matthew 16:23** when Jesus is talking to Peter...actually He's talking to **Satan (the source of offences)** letting him know that He knew he was trying to trap Jesus by getting Him off focus. (Also See **I Peter 2:8** and **II Timothy 2:23-26**--- *notice the words stumbling, offence and snare.*)

Do you realize that being offended is a part of what Jesus said would happen in the last days. I don't know about you, but I don't want to be on that end of the last days prophecy...I want to be on the side where we are bringing in the harvest of souls. In **Matthew 24:4-14** Jesus speaks of things that will happen in the last days, but let's look at **verses 10-14** **¹⁰And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.** Did you notice that it said many shall be offended and the love of many shall wax (become or grow) cold? This tells us that many people were walking in love at some point in their lives, but they allowed it to grow cold. You know, even if you have been walking in love for the past 15 years, what matters is "Are you walking in love now?" Sometimes because of iniquity, people's sins, we can allow ourselves to grow cold to their need and say "Well they deserve it." "I tried to be there for them, but forget them." Have you ever been there? We cannot allow ourselves to get out of the love zone by becoming cold towards people. A lot of times, when we do, we have a selfish motive because we want to protect our own feelings. I want to bring balance to this message by saying there are times that you do need to separate yourself from things and people. **Romans 16:17** tells us to avoid people who cause divisions and offences contrary to the Word of God and **Matthew 7:6** tells us not to cast pearls before swine; but when applying these two scriptures in your

life, don't allow yourself to grow cold to the needs of people. *When we grow cold and stay offended, we are giving the devil an open door to walk into our lives and entrap us!* Ephesians 4:27 says **Neither give place to the devil.** This means it's up to us whether we open the door to allow him in or not. I want you to get this---when you allow yourself to be offended you are saying "Here devil, have place in my life!"

I challenge you to study the following scriptures **Matthew 13:21, 57** and **John 6:1** along with all of the other scriptures that I've mentioned. In the above (3) verses, the word offence means to entice to sin, entrap, to stumble. When you see Jesus saying that many shall be offended because of "me" you can say it this way---many shall be offended because of "the Word" (because He is the Living Word.) Many people will be offended because of God's Word, but we can endure to the end by the following:

Steps to Endure to the End

1. Forget things that have happened in the past (**Philippians 3:13**)
2. When your mind starts to replay an offence or past hurt, keep your mind on God's Word and speak the scripture out of your mouth. Only allow yourself to imagine good, Godly things. (**Isaiah 26:3, II Cor. 10:5 & II Cor. 4:13**)
3. Stay clear of strife when it comes your way (**James 3:16**)
4. Do not try to justify yourself nor repay those who have wronged you. (**Isaiah 53:7 & I Peter 3:8-10**)
5. Remember, when you allow yourself to stay offended, you are seeking your own way (**I Cor. 13:5**)

In His Righteousness,

Deirdre S. Council
Co-Pastor

MINISTRY UPDATE

As always, thank you for your prayers and financial support. We are currently waiting for the City of Raleigh to permit us to begin the renovations. Pray about sowing a seed into our building fund.

Join us for our first *Marriage Conference*, Wednesday, September 13th – Friday September 15th.

Pre-service prayer begins nightly at **6:30pm-- Services** begin at **7:00 pm-- Speakers** will be **Pastors Harold & Deirdre Council & Pastor Brenda Timberlake.** All are welcome—Married Couples and Singles. Make plans to attend this conference!

Due to all of our Partner Letters being available on-line we will be modifying our mailing list. Also, there is an archive option available on-line to read any letters from previous months. For more information, call the church office or continue to visit www.EaglesChristianCenter.org for new updates.