



## *Eagle Vision Partner Letter*

# “Freedom from Offense”

April 2003

Dear Partner,

We pray that this letter finds you prospering and in good health.

I have a question for you. Would you avoid doing something that you knew would hold you back in life? Take a moment and imagine yourself running in a race. Now imagine that you see someone place a huge tree limb directly in your path. The tree limb is so huge that you cannot go around it. Would you keep running directly into it and allow it to cause you to stumble and fall or would you find a way to ‘get over it’? As a Christian, we all should be running in a race, doing what God has called us to do (**I Cor. 9:24-27**), but when things come across our paths that can cause us to stumble, we should imagine those things as hurdles. Don't let them cause you to stumble or fall. When runners are running a race and there are hurdles in their paths, they have to use their strength to propel themselves to get over the hurdle. That's how we should treat offenses.

The definition of **offense** is *to make angry, to hurt the feelings of, to sin, to cause displeasure, an injury, assault or a transgression.* In the New Testament, offend in the Greek means to *entrap, entice to sin, to stumble.* Offenses are designed to block and/or slow down your anointing, favor and blessings.

According to **Mark 4**, when we are offended, we are not good ground, therefore we cannot yield the fruit that was intended for us. **When we stay offended, we are allowing the devil to use our minds and delay God's will for our lives.**

Offenses come to hinder and snare us. When they come, jump over them like a hurdle. Remember, when you jump over the hurdle, it is no longer in front of you, but behind you. The only way that hurdle can be in front of you again is if you turn around. Let's remember what Paul said:

### **Philippians 3**

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting** those things which are behind, and **reaching forth** unto those things which are before.

<sup>14</sup> I **press toward** the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

(Notice the words that I underlined.)

**Let's see how Jesus handled offense in Matt. 16:23.**

### **Matthew 16**

<sup>23</sup> But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Jesus not only put the offense behind Him, but He recognized who the source of the offense was-- Satan! Some of us need to fast from the past. Go thirty days without talking about and without replaying in your mind past offenses and hurts. When the thought comes to your mind, cast it down and think of a scripture to say to overcome that thought. When we dwell on past offenses, we are allowing ourselves to be offended all over again. Even though we think we may have a right to hold something against someone, in reality we are only holding ourselves back. In order to please our Father God, we

must forgive (pardon, overlook) what has been done to us. After all, that is what our heavenly Father does for us!

As a Christian, sometimes we tend to think because we “know” the truth, that it automatically operates in our lives. It’s not just “knowing” the truth, it is “applying” the truth. We know that we shouldn’t dwell on the past. We also know that we should let go of offenses, but are we actually doing it? In John 8:31-32, Jesus said that we are His disciples if we continue in His Word—this means doing the Word. It’s not just knowing the truth that “makes you free”, it’s the continuing in the truth that makes you free! How many people ‘know’ that smoking is not good for them, but they continue to do it anyway? It’s not just knowing, but it’s applying what we know that benefits us. There are people that have been saved for 10, 20 even 30 years that are still battling the same things, but they know what the Word says. Let’s make a quality decision today to be “free from offenses”. Saints, it is time to overcome and be free in this area that Satan has used to trap us so many times. We are accountable for the Word that we know!

#### James 4

<sup>17</sup> Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Let’s use the following principles to help us be freed from offense forever.

- (1) **Forgive & Forget**—Forget your past offenses and past hurts by forgiving all who may have caused you hurt or wronged you. Forget in a way that you don’t allow the thought to stay in your mind and you don’t allow what the person did to affect how you treat them. Refuse to be an instrument of Satan. Don’t let him use your thought life. In **I Samuel 26:9-11**, David turned his offender over to God & allowed God to handle it. **Proverbs 19:11** in the NIV says “A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.” It will benefit you to overlook it and let it go!!
- (2) **Reach-** Reach towards your future by choosing to abound in love. **Philippians 1:9-10**  
<sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; <sup>10</sup> That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. Ask the Father to forgive you for allowing yourself to become offended (**I John 1:9**) and to strengthen you and help you to handle situations when they come.
- (3) **Press-** Press toward the prize (reward). **Psalm 119:165** Great peace (shalom=wholeness) have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. Love God and His Word by pressing towards Him and refuse to allow anything to offend you. When you obey God, He will reward you!

There is so much more that I’d like to share with you on this subject, but this letter would be many more pages if I did. I challenge you to recognize this trap that Satan uses so often and don’t allow him to cause your anointing, favor or blessings to be slowed down for one minute! It may not be easy, but you can do it!! Remember to Forget and Forgive, Reach and Press and you’ll be free from offenses and position yourself to receive God’s reward.

Love,

Deirdre S. Council  
Co-Pastor

#### MINISTRY UPDATE

A total of 34 souls have been saved or restored since October 2002! Praise God! Thank you for your prayers and financial support.