

Deal With Irritations

What irritates you about other people? What is it about them that ‘drives you mad’? Is it:

- How they talk?
- How they do their hair?
- How they eat their dinner?
- How they chew with their mouth open?
- How they drive their car?
- That they don’t do what they say they will do?
- That they’re lazy?
- That they fail to fulfil their responsibilities?
- That they allow their dogs to bark incessantly?

Whatever these are, these irritations destroy our relationships, even in an *ekklesia*.

For the past 6 months, Father has been working on me to stop being irritated by people and situations. That’s on top of training me not to give in to disappointments, regrets, and focusing on the past.¹ It hasn’t been easy, but I am making progress with all of these. Unfortunately, when I think I’ve ‘arrived’, I get tested again, and quite often fail. Still, I’m pressing on, because I can’t enter what Father has for me until I’m more healed up and more in control of my feelings, which get in the way.

Irritation, like regrets and disappointments, are negative feelings which ‘open the door’ to allow the enemy to work at producing chaos in our lives and taking away our peace. Through my testings I’ve really seen how those three cause me to quickly get ‘off track’. The upshot is that it takes me a day or two to restore my peace, so I can stabilize myself again.

My advice to everyone is to ‘knock them on the head’, as soon as they manifest. The sooner that’s done, the quicker the victory and there’s less recovery that needs to take place.

My learning from the above training that I’ve been going through has shown me that what I get irritated about, disappointed in and what I regret, are usually tiny things that don’t really matter in the big scheme of things.

Father recently gave us some schooling on dealing with what irritates us:

*“You continue to fuss over things that you have no control over and get irked at people who do not meet your expectations. But, I say to you, **refuse to become irritated about things that really do not matter in the long run**. Give others the same respect and consideration as you desire for yourself. When you sow goodness, you will reap the same.”²*

As a wise friend of ours instructed us in how to raise our young children back in the 1970s: “Major on the major things. Don’t major on the minor things.” (or something similar).

Laurence

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – “No Regrets, No Looking Back” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/6b-No-Regrets-No-Looking-Back.pdf

2 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (September 30, 2021) www.ft111.com/straws2021.htm