



Is being Passive Aggressive Addressed in the Bible? Consider Fear, Deceit, and Rebellion

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Expanded Version

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The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart:

his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Psalm 55:21 KJV

A common behavior pattern that subtly causes problems in personal and faith community relationships is that of being passive aggressive. Over time, it may become very overt. It is associated with great pain and anguish for both those who behave in these ways as well as those close to them. It happens occasionally for nearly everyone but I see it as on a continuum. It can become a pervasive and destructive means of coping or more accurately, a failure to cope well. Many people have a great deal to say on the subject. Yet many fellowship leaders and members resist discussing or considering these things openly. It seems as though admitting these behaviors are problematic is considered to be a failure of some kind or as mentioned later, belief that such secular understandings have no place in a faith community.

My purpose for addressing this subject is consistent with my desire to assist the Body of Messiah toward personal and spiritual maturity, both for individuals and for communities. Acknowledgement of personal responsibility for such behavior is paramount in order for restoration to even begin, but community leaders and members also have a role to play in refusing to go along with it in a YHWH honoring way that will encourage the individual(s) to address the matter. I will examine some of the usual terminology and patterns before considering whether or not it is a Scriptural concept. The subject matter is far too complex for this to be a definitive work, but my hope is that it will contribute to insight for community leaders and members to see a way to move toward restoration.

If you are familiar with secular terminology and personal descriptions involved and would like to go directly to the discussion of Scriptural relevance, please [click here](#).

Definitions of many mental health related issues are in flux right now as the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 5* is being implemented. In fact, whether or not this behavior is really an illness has been controversial for many years. At the same time, there is no doubt as to the relational problems involved. The Mayo Clinic has stated that passive-aggressive behavior is “a persistent pattern of communicating your feelings in a roundabout way rather than candidly stating them.”¹ The National Institute of Health (NIH) goes another step further and calls it a personality disorder which is a long term chronic pattern. Their description: “a person appears to fulfill the needs and wishes of others, but in fact passively defies them, typically becoming upset and hostile.”² In their opinion, the causes are not clear but seem to be related to both genetic and environmental factors. If one does not know what is happening, the person who is in close relationship with someone who is passive aggressive will often feel confused and frustrated. *What is real? Was the person really helping me? If so, why do I sense a lack of respect toward me?* Even with knowledge, it can be difficult to maintain personal peace when someone we trust seems to be behaving in such contradictory fashion. Some authorities have seen the self-protective efforts that may lead to these behaviors as well, and observed that “first born children” are prime candidates, as they may have had loving but demanding families, expecting more than they perceived was manageable.³ I would also add that such previous experiences, though they may or may not be valid, are then often projected or brought into the present and applied to current circumstances. Again, they may or may not actually be valid interpretations but the behavioral response remains the same. Anyone with authority may well be considered to be too demanding or threatening, whether or not that is true.

The majority of resources are written with the focus of addressing men with this issue since it is more frequently found among men. There are women who behave this way as well as at least one writer has identified. Interestingly, the few comments on this article are from women about men in their lives.⁴

Considering some possible origins I suggest the following:

It *may* be a form of feeling inadequate, I think, unwilling to commit to something one feels uncertain about in themselves.

It *may* be related to fears of one kind or another, which need to be brought into the light and addressed in order for the behavior to stop. This, too, requires the encouragement and support of a community as people are unlikely to do it on their own.

¹ Daniel K. Hall-Flavin, M.D.; <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/passive-aggressive-behavior/AN01563>, July, 2013.

² http://www.ehow.com/about_5530851_causes-passiveaggressive-behavior.html#page=0. This website provides links to a number of very relevant and helpful articles for identification and coping with passive aggressive behavior.

³ http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/16/health/psychology/16pass.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

⁴ <http://www.eharmony.com/dating-advice/relationships/defusing-the-passive-aggressive/#.Uewkp20bi1w>

It *may* be related to immaturity, no matter the chronological age. This kind of behavior is often related to issues with authority as well. *If someone else is "getting away with something" why shouldn't I?*

Worst scenario, to me anyway, is when someone is intentionally unwilling to commit to something because their desire is to keep other people waiting, "on one foot," uncertain of whether the person is really dependable or not. What is the benefit?

I think that it *may* well be that they want to appear to be a hero who "comes through at the last minute." In effect, a power play...*no one can control me or have expectations of me. I am my own boss...*and so forth.

There may be another aspect involving hatred of others when the behavior is more overtly contemptuous than simply aggressive. *(I don't have to be accountable or dependable to others because they are all beneath me. Or No one is to be trusted so I don't have to be trustworthy.)*

A few other descriptions, personal and professional, for your review:

In its milder forms, passive-aggression will manifest itself merely as polite and innocuous attempts to steer clear of uncomfortable topics or encounters with others. However, in its more insidious forms, passive-aggression can rise to a level of interpersonal hostility and contempt that embodies a "whatever" response to the views and opinions of others. In this way, the passive-aggression label can be misleading; a more accurate description would be passive-hostility or passive-contempt.

A passive-aggressive person will generally deploy such behavioral tactics as: keeping one's distance and remaining silent or aloof; hiding one's true thoughts, feelings, or emotions; suppressing, setting aside, or ignoring issues that otherwise should be addressed; postponing or ignoring decisions; resisting change and otherwise championing the status quo; citing rules, policies, procedures, or higher authority as both a defensive and offensive tactic; and providing little meaningful or worthwhile feedback⁵

In simplest terms, a passive-aggressive person is someone (most often, men, but anyone can engage in passive-aggressive behavior) who will not (or cannot) deal with anger, conflict or negative emotions in a direct manner. Rather than expressing directly what is bothering them, they will usually deny there is a problem, likely serve up a heaping portion of guilt your way for even suggesting there is, and then set out to stick it to you in very covert, stealthy ways.

While many of us engage in some form of passive-aggressive behavior at times, someone who is truly passive-aggressive creates an environment that makes it virtually impossible to interact in a normal, healthy way, through very subtle, almost sleight of hand, sabotaging behavior.

In fact, passive-aggressive people have a way of carrying out their attacks on you, such that, it appears they have your best interests in mind and would never do anything to cause you harm.

⁵ <https://www.sunstonemagazine.com/passive-aggression-among-the-latter-day-saints/>

Therefore, the unspoken message that is communicated is that you should feel ashamed for even questioning or doubting their integrity and then, round one goes to the passive-aggressive.

Trying to deal with a passive-aggressive person very often leaves you feeling confused and perplexed, questioning yourself and never quite able to put your finger on what the problem really is. They rarely own up to any responsibility in conflict and they always have a way of making you feel completely at fault. This is of course, exactly how they want it.

In short, a true passive-aggressive effectively creates a constant state of ambiguous chaos which enables them to hit and run completely undetected, leaving you feeling like the bad guy.

One of the more maddening elements of passive-aggression is that they very often appear to be a genuinely 'good guy', with a very calm and even disposition. They could even be a Type-A personality, who is dutiful, responsible and hardworking.

Outwardly, they appear to be highly cooperative, congenial and helpful, rarely saying no to anything that is requested of them, nor will they openly express displeasure or anger in any way. Instead, they will quietly procrastinate, innocently forget or engage in some other type of obstructionist behavior that will enable them to register and vent their anger or negative emotions toward you without doing so directly.

If confronted, they might react with offense that you would question their motives or they withdraw behind a wall of silence to punish you. They might even become sullen and stubborn. They avoid personal responsibility through denial and blaming others for their problems. They can be incessant complainers with negativistic attitudes who see themselves as victims and martyrs, continually put upon by others and unappreciated for all that they do.

At its core, passive-aggressive behavior is based in fear and a need to control. Though they will never tell you directly that they are hurt, offended, and afraid or admit to controlling you, by continually shifting the focus of blame and responsibility to others, they let themselves off the hook and play you like a puppet in the hands of a marionette. All with a smile, of course.⁶

Just the title of one article conveys the message: *Oh, Fine, You're Right. I'm Passive-Aggressive*⁷

Scriptural Relevance

Hopefully, this brief review has provided you with some points of reference to consider in your own relationships as well as to look to other's experiences. Now I will begin examining the ways in which it is consistent with Scriptural concepts. Scripturally based people often reject psychological sounding terms. A common belief is that if people will simply become genuine believers, all such inappropriate behavior will automatically cease. However, it doesn't take very long to hear story after story about disorder and fragmentation within faith communities, whatever their tenets might be. I suspect that this issue may be underneath much of that conflict. When this pattern of behavior is characteristic, the confusion and pain in the wake of

⁶ <http://voices.yahoo.com/the-passive-aggressive-husband-you-7008448.html>

⁷ By BENEDICT CAREY Published: November 16, 2004.

http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/16/health/psychology/16pass.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0 Found online, July, 2013.

it can be widespread. It is not “undone” by trying to tolerate or excuse the poor behavior. I do not believe this is what is meant by the Scriptures referring to “love covers a multitude of sins” though that it is one way it is often interpreted. My understanding is that we are both immediately sanctified in faith and BEING sanctified as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Therefore, each individual is not at the same place of being able to recognize and yield to the work of the Spirit in them. I have not seen that the regeneration of the spirit automatically takes care of issues of mind, will and emotion. In the words of E. James Wilder, PhD, author of *The Life Model* there is both God’s part (spiritual regeneration) and our part (growing up/maturing process.)⁸

Fear

As several professionals or authors observed, one source of passive aggressive behavior may be an effort to avoid conflict out of personal fear of consequences of even expressing any difference of opinion. It may also be based on a history of being disregarded or even abused if they did not follow the lead of those in authority. (Interesting observations from the LDS groups in one cited resource on this matter.) In this case, we could easily see that fear is a major factor here. Fear bonds are powerfully influential in how we relate to people. If the source of passive aggressive behavior is fear it will require a somewhat different response than some other types. It will depend as well on whether that fear leads to a timid, personally avoidant response or an overt, hostile, aggressive and avoidant response. I suggest reading my article on [Love and Fear Bonds](#) in faith, as one may be considering the origin of passive aggressive behavior for themselves or others. There is a great deal to say on this subject, too, and many other resources both in our materials and elsewhere, particularly in *The Life Model* materials previously mentioned.

In any case, we know that our Abba has included the admonition that we are not to walk in fear repeatedly throughout the Scriptures. Surely He knew it would be an issue for us or He wouldn’t have mentioned it so often. It is not a divine suggestion, but a command. If we think that He would set us up by telling us to do something that is impossible, we would be maligning His character, making Him out to be a cruel master. Believers might allow themselves to think this way or be unaware of it but few will openly admit it. (Yes, it IS possible to be passive aggressive toward our Elohim, too.) One often quoted example:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 KJV

The subject of dealing with fears is enough in itself to deserve the vast number of books written about it. For our purposes here, we are considering the ways in which fear leads to passive aggressive behavior and how it can be addressed. It is a conundrum in many ways. When someone behaves this way and anyone, especially someone in authority, tries to help them identify and address it, it triggers the very behavior itself. Fear feeds on itself as well as feeding

⁸ *The Life Model*, Wilder, E. James, PhD. The Shepherd’s House, Pasadena CA. www.lifemodel.org

others. My article on [Talk To Yourself Much?](#) may be of some help here for the individual. I would also suggest the [To Whom Do You Cling?](#) teaching. As I write this, it will be found near the bottom of the page linked here and eventually will be in our audio teaching section. The connection I see here, is that fear does not always result in timidity, but sometimes in desperation, behaving in ways to save oneself which would otherwise not be considered.

Though our tendency is to be sympathetic to one who lives with fears, there comes a time for helping the individual to face and overcome it. As believers, we have the authority and the ability to do so in our relationship with Messiah Yeshua if we will only begin to walk in it.

Though the words are easy to write, the process will probably not be easy. Here, a leader may well have to be firm and exhort someone who dwells in fear, which in this case, can easily trigger the passive aggressive avoidant behavior. My thought is that this is one of those matters that cannot be easily resolved within the casual relationships that are so much the nature of faith based groups. It seems that deeply engrained fears and behaviors respond to both the Presence and Shalom that our Messiah can offer directly when the person is willing to seek and receive, but also through the development of YHWH honoring covenant relationships. Our discussions on the [differing levels of community development](#) and [What Shepherds Need to Know](#) introductory comments about them as well as the [Messy Expectations](#) series will be helpful to consider here. Leaders and members may need to gain clarity on the difference between sympathy and empathy so as not to inadvertently encourage the fearful behavior, which then shows itself in passive aggressive ways.

Deceit and Rebellion

In light of our recent community studies in Jeremiah, it quickly became clear to me that deceit and rebellion are also associated with this topic. One who is behaving in a passive aggressive fashion is not being straightforward about their true feelings or beliefs but rather covering them. They may also present themselves as hearing from YHWH when in fact they are not. Whether it is done out of fearfulness or defiance or a combination of both, it is still deceit. Doing things our way with disregard for YHWH and others is the substance of rebellion.

Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.

Jeremiah 9:8 KJV

Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 6:9 KJV

Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Jeremiah 16:16 KJV

Some additional relevant Scriptures as follows:

*He who hates, disguises [it] with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself;
Proverbs 26:24*

*[Though his] **hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed
before the assembly.**
Proverbs 26:26*

And lest we think that deceit isn't really such a big deal, remember the company it is found in, Check out Romans 1, particularly 28-32.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Merriam Webster says that "deceive" has several archaic meanings "to ensnare" "to be false," "to cheat," "to while away" and the ongoing meaning is said to be: "to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid." Per the Blue Letter Bible, there appear to be five Hebrew words used that are related to deceive or deceit, including "beguiled" which is the word used by Eve to describe satan's approach to her. There are six related words for "deceive" in Greek, with all having the same meaning of deceive, and two that also include concepts of being silly or negligent. I found several words listed in the same category as "deceit" to be of interest and applicable to our study of passive aggressive behavior.

"Malignity" refers to subtlety or malicious craftiness according to the Outline of Biblical Usage. Trench's Synonyms has a detailed described of *kakoetheia*, G2550, including the following observations:

We shall scarcely err then, taking *κακοήθεια*, at [Rom. 1:29](#), in this narrower meaning; the position which it occupies in that dread catalogue of sins entirely justifying us in treating it as that peculiar form of evil which manifests itself in a

malignant interpretation of the actions of others, a constant attribution of them to the worst imaginable motives.

Nor should we take leave of κακοήθεια without noticing the deep psychological truth attested in this secondary meaning which it has obtained, namely, that the evil which we trace in ourselves makes us ready to suspect and believe evil in others. The κακοήθης, being himself of an evil moral habit, projects himself, and the motives which actuate him, into others round him, sees himself in them; ...

so that which is itself thoroughly evil finds it impossible to believe anything but evil in others⁹

The Greek word translated as “debate” is *eris*, Strong’s #2054. To my ears, “debate” doesn’t seem such a terrible thing, until I see that it refers to wrangling and contentiousness. It brings to mind those that will not accept information, direction or confrontation from anyone else, preferring to strive and wrangle against them. And if it is combined with malignity, which we here locally have considered to be “an absence of good will” we see that the wrangling is entangled with the determination to believe the worst possible intentions of others.

And finally, here is a consequent matter that is very sobering yet will need to be addressed personally and corporately in any community in which passive aggressive behavior becomes entrenched. It is not a topic, or conclusion, to be addressed lightly but carefully with much prayerful discernment. We want to share what we have observed and experienced to help others in their relationships in community.

As a community, we at Set Apart Ministries have a commitment to encourage and exhort one another toward maturity in all ways. Despite all good intentions, it is far too easy for such commitments to fade or be entirely lost over time. Recently, we took time to remind and reinforce the importance of that, especially since I have recently sent out articles in part based on our discussions in our study of the prophets, about our understanding that passive aggressive behavior is akin to Scriptural concepts of fear, deceit and rebellion. We have been aware of such behaviors in more minor ways among us for many years and have addressed them from time to time. We also continue our practice to specifically pray that YHWH expose what needs to be exposed among us, and give us courage and strength and joy to resolve it in a way pleasing to Him.

Recently, we have had several clear and powerful Incidents of this behavior in various forms. We were reminded of our thematic studies of the Sevens. In particular, both the seven Spirits of our YHWH as they rest on Messiah Yeshua as well as those opposing behaviors that are described in Proverbs 6: 16-19.

*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

⁹ <http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/trench/section.cfm?sectionID=11&lexicon=true&strongs=G2550>

*An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

Proverbs 6:16-19 KJV

We were reminded that as covenant members of YHWH's family, we tend to the Ruach haKodesh menorah while the Proverbs 6:16 verses are the description of tending to the wrong menorah. We do not necessarily think that these behaviors are themselves demonic entities, but we do see that such behaviors may have both root and fruit in unholy spiritual influences.

Regardless of the origin, fear or defiance, we saw that this behavior of deceit and rebellion falls on the wrong menorah being tended. Failing to be open and straightforward about one's concerns or needs can fall into the area of deceit because it can represent a personal pride or arrogance. A personal idolatry that one's own expectations or needs are the only important matter and that no one else's needs matter can come of it. This is entirely consistent with Trench's Synonyms observations about malignity, which is included with deceit and rebellion. In this way, it represents haughty eyes as well as a lying tongue within the overall structure of falling under the influence of the ungodly menorah rather than remaining under the authority of the Ruach haKodesh.

Though we have considered it only in the context of a behavioral and/or maturity issue over the years, we now have eyes to see that it may indeed be fueled by much more than these human attributes.

*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
1 Samuel 15:23 KJV*

To the extent that it becomes entrenched personally, and is not addressed corporately, we now understand it can represent a demonic stronghold for individuals or a group or both. We should not be surprised given the above understanding of the connection between rebellion and witchcraft. I addressed this particular verse at length in one of the [What Shepherds Need to Know series](#) if you are interested to see more.

We have no desire to tolerate any demonic stronghold among us, personally or corporately. Praise YHWH for the finished work of Messiah Yeshua on our behalf! Once a spiritual stronghold is unmasked, it already begins to lose its power! Though characteristic passive aggressive behavior is very hard to deal with, especially by those who have experienced much abuse in their own past, we newly observed how much this behavior has no place in a community, or a family, that desires to honor YHWH. It is not something that we need to either tolerate or reward. We have an opportunity to learn even more about our personal need and dependence on Messiah Yeshua for our deliverance!

We are like the Israelites facing the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army breathing down our backs.

We are like young David, asking why that Philistine is being allowed to dishonor our Elohim in that it is being allowed to undermine us, His people.

***Our enemy is not flesh and blood, but powers, principalities, thrones, dominions and spiritual forces of wickedness.
Our defense is not of us but mighty through Yah to the pulling down of strongholds.***

From Eph. 6:12 & 2 Cor. 10:4

How ironic is this: SAM was begun with intent to exhort, encourage and support those with a history of trauma toward maturity in Messiah and ability to be in mature, productive relationship with others. I *thought* that we needed to have people without severe trauma histories to be part of the restoration. Along the way I understood instead that the people who were most willing to stand with those in distress were others in distress.

Now we see that we are like the five smooth stones of David...instruments in His Hand to yield to and rejoice in His will as He goes before us and does in His supernatural power what we cannot even conceive of doing!

Yet, not everyone in our little community is at the same point of preparedness and yieldedness.

Those who have consistently participated in the Life Model and related trainings process are far more prepared than others. When wickedness, rebellion and deceit are exposed in the assembly, an assembly needs to be ready to draw on the weapons of our warfare which are not carnal!

Our Life Model and related training experiences: the place where those with what was understood to be the most trauma were most directly supported and challenged toward growth. It is the place in which even those with less trauma began to actively deal with "normal" trauma and all who remain allowed themselves to be stretched. It is those who accept the reality of different levels of maturity and the desirableness of maturing. It is those who are more focused on restoration, more intimately involved in prayer and worship, those who regularly worship with all of their mind, will, emotions and body. It is one result of the shaking out that YHWH uses to discipline His children. These are the instruments that our Abba can pour His power through.

This will be true and needed if a fellowship is dealing with the personality/emotional issues among them, but if needed then, how much more will it be needed when dealing with demonic strongholds! How deeply concerned we are for those fellowship groups who have not yet begun to consider the connections between personal behaviors such as passive aggressive behaviors, maturity, deceit and rebellion!

Conclusions

Hopefully, each of us being better equipped to recognize and deal with it will help all to be aware of such behavior in ourselves or others. As is often said, the way up is down, to humility and recognition of our need of Messiah's work on our behalf. It is still exhausting and demoralizing when people we are close to are unable to express what I call "clean anger" and instead beat around the bush, indirectly coming at things, and in effect, setting up ambushes that come back around at unexpected times. Consider that this behavior can be anywhere from just a passing thing in trying circumstances to an entrenched personal response. When it is entrenched, it may provide the opening for a demonic stronghold. It will be difficult to overcome unless the Holy Spirit does a powerful work and the person is willing to receive it! We also think a YHWH honoring conclusion will have a great deal to do with the community's maturity level and yieldedness to Him and His Presence and authority. If we have trouble looking out for one another now in relatively peaceful times, how will we ever do so when the lion is crouching at our door?

Sadly, just one person behaving in this way can "infect" an entire group. No matter how many walk in righteousness and truth and obedience, it seems that the one person walking contrary somehow attains a kind of "hero" status, especially among immature people. Without being addressed, such people continue to be uninterested in wholesome good things, but sneering at them. The strength and health of the entire community can be undermined over time if this behavior is not "called out" in a productive, caring way.

In work environments there may not be a lot we can personally do to encourage change, especially if management tolerates or is part of it. But we DO need to do something with it in a YHWH honoring community!!! It is part of being and remaining set apart to Him!

A God honoring response would be to exhort and encourage one another toward wholeness and becoming more like Yeshua, rather than just trying to overlook, tolerate or excuse such behavior. **Now...**while there is still time. This can be difficult when the passive aggressive behavior is combined with immaturity because accountability efforts often contribute to the person's move to open rebellion. Perhaps this is better because at least the confusion as to the source of the problem is revealed! The darkness is being brought out into the light, now while there is yet time for restoration all around! HalleluYah!

*Let no man deceive you with vain words:
for because of these things cometh the wrath of God
upon the children of disobedience.
Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord:
walk as children of light:
(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
**And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,
but rather reprove them.***

*For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.
But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light:
for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.
Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give thee light.
See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Ephesians 5: 6-16 KJV

Oh, Lord God of Israel...

Your ways are so far beyond us. We cannot see fully as yet. We do want to walk in Your ways and delight in Your will. We do want to reprove works of darkness, fear, deceit, rebellion...or passive aggressive behavior among us. We do not want to see it take root and bring forth ungodly fruit! We do not want our efforts to be of help to be a cause for harm but for good so that all may grow more and more like Yeshua, our soon coming King. We cannot do this in our own strength or wisdom but are fully reliant on You.

Now, Abba, please give each one in such a situation Your eyes to see and Your ears to hear; and perseverance enough to identify and resolve these situations well. May it be so.

If you have found these observations to be of help:

- *You might be interested in the brief PowerPoint Presentation on the subject that was prepared and presented at our local Prison Aftercare Ministry with that focus of service in mind. Please contact me for details.*
- *You might be interested in the Leadership Coaching Course ["10 Proven Steps Toward a Stable Set Apart Fellowship."](#) It draws on materials from our Set Apart Ministries website but in a guided plan to develop your understanding of actions to consider.*

