

## Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity



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## Chapter 10: The Limitations of Retaliation

“Have you ever lost your temper?”

“Have you ever been so busy that your prayers got squeezed out of your priorities?”

“Ever worried so much that you felt sick inside?”

“Ever eaten too much that you put on weight?”

“Ever found thoughts of envy and anger and materialism and lust coming back, even though you told the Lord, ‘This is going to be the last time I’ll have to come to You with this problem?’”

“Ever said too much and then had to go back and try to make it right, even apologize, only to say too much again a little later on?”

“Ever driven faster than the speed limit?”

### The Temptation to Go Too Far Pages 153-155

~ What do you tend to go “too far” with? Why is it such a struggle for you?

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### The Key to Holding Back Pages 155-157

“Self-control is managing our attitudes, feelings, and actions so they serve our long-term best interests and those of others. Self-control comes to people who learn discipline and social skills. It increases in those who accept God’s grace in their lives and who seek to know and apply divine truth in a disciplined manner.”



~ Be honest here. Do you have a tendency to want to retaliate when someone has done something wrong to you? What is your first reaction when someone says something against you? Is it love or retaliation? Do you follow through?

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The Jews Who Were Freed in Persia  
Pages 158-165

~ When in the past, have you retaliated against someone who did wrong to you? What did you do? Would you change anything about how you reacted?

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~ Does your inner strength shine through even in the hardest of times? How do you handle the concern you have for wicked plans against you? How do you display your concern for your loved ones? Do you have wisdom with the timing of your silence and speech?

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The Offender

Disapproval begins

Disapproval intensifies and grows into hatred

Hatred begins to be expressed

Extreme punishment becomes a way of life

The Offended

Awareness of disapproval

Inability to change the thinking of the angry person

Beginning of mistreatment

Inability to defend oneself leads to a sense of helplessness, thoughts of retaliation intensify



### The Tables Are Turned

Fear of revenge from the offended

Expectation of revenge

Full scale acts of hatred or violence experienced

### The Tables Are Turned

Opportunity provided to get even

Uncontrolled rage surfaces

Retaliate with full-scale vengeance

### The Christian Who is Free Today Pages 165-168

Romans 12:

1) We are to be \_\_\_\_\_ from the world.



2) We are members of the same \_\_\_\_\_.

3) The Lord is your \_\_\_\_\_.

