

JG Story

A number of years ago the Lord used my wife and I to initiate a commercial project here in Nairobi in which we invited three other Christian families to join us as partners.

Soon after the project began we noticed that one of the other three men in the partnership was very hostile to me. In our meetings he would often say very unkind, hurtful, and rude things to me. Esther found this very upsetting and distressing and would sometime be reduced to tears.

Our other partners did not understand how I could so patiently endure the hostile partner's unfriendly treatment without lashing or hitting back at him. Of course I found his inexplicable response to me very puzzling and painful. The Lord had used us to begin this project that was going to be a big blessing to our families, and here he was not only not showing any gratitude for this, but actually treating me so unkindly.

This went on for at least three years. Esther and I made this a regular item of prayer. Then, gradually, this partner's hostile attitude began to change. He stopped his cutting remarks and became friendlier to me. The Lord began to use him to be a blessing to us in ways we had not even anticipated. He and I began to grow close. Today, he and I have become close prayer partners who meet every Friday morning for prayer. Obviously, if I had hit back at him during that time when he was hostile to me, this would not have happened.

So, how did I manage to endure this painful treatment without becoming vindictive and resentful? When I look back, I can only say this it was the power of the Holy Spirit that enabled me to do so. Have I become a more patient and forbearing person as a result of this experience? I would say so.

One of the reasons I share this story with you this morning is that perhaps as you listen to this, you may at this time, perhaps be finding yourself struggling through some difficult or abrasive relationship like this. My counsel to you is that you should take heart, and depend on the power the in-dwelling Holy Spirit, and you will see how the Lord will use this in your life in a way you probably do not expect at this time.