

## Just Tired and Irritable?

*Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many are defiled.—Hebrews 12:15*

God's grace never fails but we can fail to recognize and appropriate God's grace in situations that we face. We may have times that things are really "getting to us." Our situation has left us fatigued, distraught, or perhaps hurting. We are fed up and may even feel like giving up because of all that is happening. Then something is said or done that irritates us and we lash out or we silently fume.

Instead of taking our burdens to the Lord as Peter reminds us, "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" (I Peter 5:7) and immersing ourselves in the word of God and prayer, we let our condition fester. Our thoughts are sour. We complain and treat others as if they were responsible for our discomfort and unhappiness.

Later, we try to excuse ourselves and say, "That wasn't me. I was just tired and irritable." But perhaps that is the real you or me. Perhaps we hold it together and try to cover-up our real self-centeredness. We feel we are pretty good. We smile and force ourselves to treat others graciously but when suffering comes, our façade comes down and we show our true colors.

I like this quote by Joni Eareckson Tada, "*Affliction does not teach you about yourself from a textbook; it teaches you from experience. It will always show you what you love-- either the God of all comfort, or the comfort that can become your God.*"

It takes diligence to live this life and to appropriate God's grace in every situation, May we allow God to search our lives and show us any area that we have allowed our pride to get in the way of appropriating God's grace.