



## Outer Growth - Pressure

How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance,  
and your burden, and your strife?

*Deuteronomy 1:12*

**People** - Exodus 23:2

**Reinforce** - Matthew 11:12

**Eyes** - Exodus 14:10

**Stressful** - Job 15:24

**Sick** - Psalms 41:3

**Uncertainty** - Job 33:7

**Restless** - Psalms 4:1

**Ears** - Matthew 13:21

What is pressure? Pressure could be either the physical force or weight that a person may encounter. On the other hand, it may be the demand and sometimes the difficulty of meeting expectations required by others in authority. One or the other, it potentially can be an annoying experience with those in charge urging those under supervision to get it done promptly. Pressure comes in all forms and different ways. We may experience it in what we hear verbally, see in with our eyes, and what we say with our mouths.

Pressure may come from family, friends, employers, co-workers, neighbors, authorities, associates, and sometimes strangers. The demand of now, sooner than later. "Hurry up! Come on, why is it taking so long?" The typical response from employers in charge is as if they are the jockey riding the horse to the finish line in record time.

Pressure comes from the folks around you. The environment that we circulate in every day. The nerve-racking experience that comes gradually or suddenly through primary tasks,

personal responsibilities, running errands, jobs, family matters, spouses, partners, and social conversations. Pressure seems to have a series of people in charge against you. We must exercise preparation to face unpopularity if we are to meet the demands of those who are in authority in an attempt to fulfill their requirements.

Exodus chapter five appears to be the main chapter involving pressure from Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, oppressing the people of Israel with his physical demands. In verse one, Moses and Aaron address Pharaoh regarding letting the people go out from Egypt to be free from the bondage of working unfairly for the Egyptians. In the following verse, the response from the King replies to them with a question, "Who is the LORD? Pharaoh, being a leader as a boss, did not understand the request from Moses and Aaron for him to grant this command. The comment after the question from Pharaoh is another one, "that I should obey his voice."

Pharaoh did not physically see a King like him in his midst. Someone in authority should care to listen to the command given by Moses and Aaron. Pressure involves ignorance where the worker meets demands and not vice versa.

Who are you that the boss must listen to other than those getting the work done? If not a leader such as them, they will not listen other than to hear that the job is complete.

Pressure is to emphasize that the task at hand is to finish it. People in charge only want members who do not want to hear any excuses other than what they say is what will happen or take place. In Exodus five, verse four, Pharaoh replies to Moses about the request to free the people of Israel because their God said so. And the King of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do you, Moses and Aaron, should I let the people go from their works?

Pharaoh either did not take Moses seriously or thought he came to help them with his work. All the request did was make the King of Egypt more strict with the people of Israel. After Moses and Aaron left the presence of Pharaoh, he added more work to the Israelites. In verse six of Exodus five, he told the taskmasters and officers to restrict supplying material to help them in their work,

which he states in the following. "Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves."

Pressure can come through the eyes. Workers may be working comfortably in their place of work until they see the boss coming. The setting is similar to a spouse checking their partner's progress to examine how far they have reached and how much more is left to finish. The visit is more disturbing than peaceful because most people will get tense and unable to focus. Some workers might produce less work due to concentration on the boss being present rather than the task itself. An example is the people of Israel crossing the Red Sea in Exodus fourteen, verse ten. The pressure began to take hold of the people of Israel because behind them, in the background, they saw Pharaoh and his army of Egyptians coming after them. They pursued after them in verse nine, with all the horses and chariots. The surge of Pharaoh and his army made them cry out in fear to Moses in verse eleven in doubt. And they said unto Moses, Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us out of Egypt?

Pressure, at times, can bring on stress. An unexpected project or work task from an employer to an employee can be challenging and demanding simultaneously. Meeting expectations at a deadline may create anxiety, difficulty, and hardship in doing the job, especially not knowing the outcome. No matter what the situation - It is under authority, the possibility of failing an assignment is something that cannot be ignored.

In Exodus five, the Israelites were working under the oppression of Pharaoh's rule. However, with conditions as hard as it is, the taskmasters and officers confront the Israelites regarding the work. They will not get the material to build but will have to find themselves and fulfill the work at the end of the day. Verses ten through eleven indicate the announcement. "And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you straw. Go ye, get

you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished.

The Israelites were scattered in verse twelve, looking for straw, and only found stubble. They were to fulfill their daily work despite not having assistance with material. The taskmasters and officers over the people of Israel punish them for not meeting the daily expectations of work. The pressure causes them to respond in verses fifteen and sixteen. "Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick: and behold, thy servants beat us, but the fault *is* in thine own people."

Pressure can cause a person to feel sick. The thought of thinking about something over and over, pondering it within the heart, can create a feeling of emotional pain. Losing an appetite over an interview appointment for the next day is a possibility of not feeling well due to anxiety. Sometimes, we are nervous over someone we may have a fascination for to the point of feeling faint.

Amnon, the son of David, had the experience of feeling sick for his sister Tamar, Absalom's daughter, in Second Samuel thirteen. The passion of his mind disturbed his body, making him distressful to the point that it was noticeable to his friend, Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, who was a very subtle man. The cleverness of Amnon's friend creates pressure on him to follow a plan to fulfill the desire to encounter Tamar. The weight of Amnon lifted when the opportunity of meeting her presented itself, to where he used physical force to achieve fulfillment in a criminal way, which later cost him his life.

Pressure may cause a person to have doubts. There are two different ways people may experience unsureness: seeing something great happen and not accepting it or hearing something possibly upcoming and not believing it could happen. Whatever the situation, there might be a level of hesitation for those who may encounter such an event, like religious people who visit a church or were born in a godly environment. However, the influence of a group or particular people around us may create pressure to go with the majority instead of being honest with ourselves about how we feel about the situation.

Jesus, in John ten, verse twenty-four, is where the Jews try to arrest Him and ask a question if he is the Son of God. His response to them in the following verse, "I told you and you believe not." The Jews experienced division among themselves. Some felt Jesus had a devil within Him or must be mad out of His mind. Others are skeptical, as in verse twenty-one, "These are not words of Him that have a devil: "Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?"

Pressure can cause someone not to be satisfied. The action of a person who tends to compare themselves to other individuals will encounter problems with others. An example of feeling the tension due to a prideful character is with Diotrephes in verse nine, before the scripture in verse ten. His desire to be ahead of someone else typically leads to other sinful deeds, such as deception, presumption, and malicious talk, that cause chaos and conflict, among others.

Pressure can come on a person based on what they may hear. Today, someone can listen to a conversation and misinterpret something, which could create misunderstanding. It is simple to take a few words and believe the worst without getting an explanation. The pressure of taking matters into our own hands instead of finding out the truth of what the speaker meant happens often in our society.

Rehoboam of Second Chronicles ten, had an important decision he had to make with the people of Israel regarding lightening the labor that they had experienced with his father in the past. However, in verse six of chapter ten, it seems he would grant the request in verses six through seven of this chapter. Still, in verse eight, the young men made Rehoboam listen to them, which erased the remarks from the older men where the pressure could have quickly chosen to go with the young men's decision to add to the people's work instead of lightening it.

Pressure is a part of life that can go from bad to worse if we allow it to overwhelm us. Situations will surface with others on all levels at times. How do we handle the pressure in these encounters? We rely on God to help us navigate the problem using His Word during the circumstance. Attempting to control

pressure by electing to go about things our way when they arise may make things worse instead of better.