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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church  
PT: Ron Adema  
Study: Book of Galatians

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Gal.5:14  
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### **MINISTERING WITH DISABILITY**

**(Gal.6:11) “See with what large letters (pelikos gramma/ inst.pl.n) I am writing to you with my own hand.”**

Paul may have had problems with vision. Paul mentioned that he was writing the Book of Galatians with very large alphabet letters. Today we would say with a large font.

Whatever the case, Paul teaches a wonderful lesson about Ministering with Disability. I am aware of three Believers within our congregation of DSBC who, like Paul had wonderful ministries regardless of their disabilities: David Whisenant, Jeanne Wilson and Frank Jones.

**David Whisenant**, now with the Lord, was a wonderful scholar of the Hebrew and Greek language regardless of his birth disability.

**Jeanne Wilson**, while still with us, was a wonderful paraplegic athlete. Most athletes would consider one world's championship a huge accomplishment, but Jeanne loved to compete so much that she went on to win two more [World Championships](#) and too many state, regional and national weight-lifting championships to count, regardless of birth disability.

**Frank Jones** was a traveling evangelist who travel solo across the USA ministering the gospel of Grace Salvation regardless of his birth disability.

The Greek word for “see” is horao (a.a.impv.2pl) [to see with the mind's eye or the thought behind it]. Notice it is a strong command.

What is Paul demanding that they see spiritually? If you said large letters, you missed the idea of horao.

<b>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of Ministering with Disability.</b>
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#### **1. In (Gal.6:11), Paul mentions writing with large letters (pelikos gramma). There is much discussion on Paul's debilitating eye problem.**

Some believe that it may have occurred from the bright light and blindness of his conversion (Acts 9:1-19). However, Paul recovered from it.

Others believe that it was from the thorn in flesh (2 Cor.12:1-10). However, this was a messenger of Satan to buffet Paul.

We know this occurred during Paul's first missionary evangelism trip (Acts 13-14). It must have gotten better since Paul continued to write with his own hand (1 Cor.16:22).

In (2 Thess.3:17), Paul told them to look for his distinguishing mark in every letter. This was because Paul was dictating his letters (Rom.16:22) and Paul put his signature mark of authenticity on the letter.

**2. Paul tells us that he suffered from persecution on his first missionary trip in (Acts 13-14) and in the Book of Galatians.**

In (Gal.4:13), Paul mentions suffering with a bodily illness when he preached the gospel to them the first time.

Paul was received by them regardless of some physical disability that could have caused them to loathe him. But instead, they received him as a messenger (angel) of God (Gal.4:14). In context, Paul says they would have “plucked out their eyes and given them to him.” (Gal.4:15)

**3. Paul wrote the Book of Galatians after returning home from the first missionary trip.**

He mentioned bearing the marks of Jesus on his body (Gal.6:17). This was a reference to Paul’s persecution at Pisidian, Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra (Acts 13:14, 50; 14:5, 19-22).

We believe Paul was stoned to death at Lystra (Acts 14:19-22; 2 Cor.11:25; 12:1-10).

This was the probable cause of his eye problem and physical appearance.

**4. The point that was important for me to “see” was Paul Ministering with Disability.**

Like a good soldier of Jesus Christ, Paul completed the mission (2 Tim.2:3-4; 4:7-8).

Undeserved suffering can be because **of Christ** (Paul’s persecution) (1 Pet.4:12-14) **or for Christ** (Job) (the whys?) (James 5:10-11).

(1 Pet.5:8-10) “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil**, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the **same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world**. And after you have suffered for a little while, the **God of all grace**, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ. He Himself perfect, confirms, strengthen and establish you.”

God’s Promise: “My grace is sufficient for you,”

Paul’s Confidence:

(2 Cor.12:9) “For **power is perfected in weakness**. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the **power of Christ may dwell in me**. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, **for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

**Jeanne Wilson’s ministry verse:** “I can do all things through Him who strengthen me.” (Phil.4:13)