

Fruit Of The Spirit

Longsuffering

(Ro 5:1)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fruit Of The Spirit."
 - a. We have looked at three characteristics of this fruit thus far.
 - i. Love, joy, and peace.
 - b. Today we are going to examine one that can be a "challenge" to master, "Longsuffering."
3. There are two words in the N.T. that are most often used for longsuffering/patience.
 - a. You have the word used on our text here often translated longsuffering or patience.¹
 - i. The Greek word is "μακροθυμία" or "mok-roath-e-my"
 1. This word in all its forms is found 25 times in 24 verses.
 2. This word means, "a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation—'patience.'" (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (306). New York: United Bible Societies.)
 - a. This is therefore dealing more with people than circumstance though it can be used for circumstances as well.
 - b. You also have the slightly more prolific word used which is most often translated endurance or steadfastness.¹
 - i. The Greek word is "ὑπομονή" or "hypo-mo-ne."
 1. This word is found 32 times in 31 verses.
 2. This word means, "capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances—'endurance, being able to endure.'" (Ibid)
 - a. Thus here we find this word deals more with situation rather than people, though it too can be used for people as well.
 4. So when we are talking about longsuffering here we are talking about being able to stay calm when someone is provoking you.
 - a. This really is the idea in what Paul wrote to Timothy.
 - i. **II Ti 4:2** "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."² (NKJV)
 5. Thus we find ourselves then asking how do we develop this characteristic of longsuffering?
 - a. Notice...

I. Longsuffering Begins With Obedience

- A. Longsuffering starts by being determined to be steadfastness in obedience
 1. The early Christians were steadfast in obedience.
 - i. **Ac 2:42** "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (NKJV)

¹ This is based off of the ESV translation.

² All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. Paul told the Corinthians to be steadfast in obedience.
 - i. **I Co 15:58** "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
 3. Jesus told the church in Smyrna to be steadfast in obedience.
 - i. **Rv 2:10b** "... Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."
 4. Jesus even couples steadfastness in obedience with a promise.
 - i. **Rv 21:7** "The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."
- B. It is this determination to be steadfastness in obedience that will help us begin to be longsuffering with others
1. If we can stay steadfast and obedient we can surely be longsuffering with other people.
 2. After all, we have the ultimate example of such steadfast obedience producing longsuffering.
 - i. **Ro 9:22-24** "What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— 24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?"
 - ii. **II Pt 3:9** "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
- C. We therefore learn longsuffering through being steadfast in obedience

II. Longsuffering Continues With Education

- A. We have a lot we can "learn" from Paul concerning longsuffering
1. Look at what all Paul had to be longsuffering in, such as defending his apostleship.
 - i. **Ga 1:1, 11-12** "Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead... 11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."
 2. Through all that notice Paul's attitude.
 - i. **Ga 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

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- B. If we educate ourselves and learn from those of the past, in longsuffering, we too can have this attitude of servitude
 - 1. This was even Paul's plea!!!
 - i. **I Th 5:14** "And we exhort you, brethren, admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all." (ASV)
 - ii. **I Co 13:4** "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant"
- C. If we want to mature into being one who is longsuffering let us begin by being steadfast in obedience and continue to learn from those that have are already matured

III. Longsuffering Finishes With Trails

- A. If obedience and education start off the process of maturing to longsuffering, trails will finish it off
 - 1. Notice the first two are up to us and our determination to do.
 - i. We must strive for obedience and learn from those who have been there and done that.
 - 2. This third needed building block is of God's doing.
 - i. In other words it is God who then, knowing our determination and desires, then tries us to mature our longsuffering and every Christian will go through trials.
 - a. **II Ti 3:12** "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"
 - 1. **Mt 5:11-12** "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
 - b. **Ja 1:2-4** "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the **testing** of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (emphasis mine)
 - c. **I Th 2:4** "but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who **tests our hearts**." (emphasis mine)
 - ii. This is where the old saying comes to place, "don't pray for patience because all you'll get is opportunities to be patient."

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren maturing, the characteristic longsuffering, to produce the fruit of the Spirit is not a process to be taken lightly.
 - a. It is a three step process if done right and accepted will be a blessing to not only you but those around you as well as your able to be more "longsuffering" with them.
2. Question: Are you longsuffering with others?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not make the dedication decision to correct that and mature in it.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**