

Longsuffering Lesson 5

I. Longsuffering

A. The word “longsuffering” or “patience” comes from the Greek word “makrothumi’a” [ma kro thoo mee’ a].

1. This word occurs 14 times in the N.T.. (Rom. 2:4; 9:22; 2 Cor. 6:6; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:2; Col. 1:11; 3:12; 1 Tim. 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:10; 4:2; Heb. 6:12; Jas. 5:10; 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 3:15).

2. The verb form of this word “makrothume’o”[ma kro thoo meh’ o] occurs 9 times in the N.T.. (Matt. 18:26, 29; Lk. 18:7; 1 Cor. 13:4; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 6:15; Jas. 5:7, 8; 2 Pet. 3:9).

B. It sometimes means to patiently endure the wrongs of others without retaliation.

1. It avoids outbursts of angry and frustration.

2. It is used in the Septuagint to translate the phrase “slow of anger” from the Hebrew. See Septuagint (Num. 14:18; Psa. 86:15; Prov. 14:29; 16:32).

NASB

NUM 14:18 **The Lord is slow to anger** and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.’ ASV “slow to anger” - Sept. “makro’thumos”

PSA 86:15 But Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, **Slow to anger** and abundant in lovingkindness and truth. ASV “slow to anger” - Sept. “makro’thumos”

PRO 14:29 **He who is slow to anger** has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly. ASV “slow to anger” - Sept. “makro’thumos”

PRO 16:32 **He who is slow to anger** is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city. ASV “slow to anger” - Sept. “makro’thumos”

C. It means to keep on cheerfully serving God without giving up or being overwhelmed by discouragement or bitterness.

D. It means we must often “wait” and not have instant gratification of our wants and needs.

PSA 27:14 Wait for the Lord; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.

PSA 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.

YLT “Look unto Jehovah” - BBE “Let your hope be in the Lord.” GNB “Trust in the Lord.” Heb. kaw-vaw’ “look, tarry, wait for or on”

II. Longsuffering is a **characteristic of God**. (1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 3:1-4, 8-9).

A. Peter states that God is “longsuffering.” (2 Pet. 3:9).

1. He desires that all will come to repentance.
2. He gives us time to repent, but not forever. (Prov. 27:1; Jas. 4:14).
3. **Though most of us may have years of life remaining, we are not guaranteed a second.**
4. His “longsuffering” is not a sign of weakness or forgetfulness. (2 Pet. 3:9).
5. It is a sign of His great love for us. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

B. Peter states, however, that the Lord will come. (2 Pet. 3:10-13).

2PE 3:10 **But the day of the Lord will come** like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2PE 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2PE 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

2PE 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

III. Longsuffering

A. This is a manifestation of “the fruit of the Spirit.” (Gal. 5:22, 23).

B. Christians are to be “longsuffering” with others. (1 Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:1-2; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 5:14).

<p>1CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,</p> <p>“patient” is from “makrothumeo.”</p> <p>ASV has “suffereth long.”</p>	<p>EPH 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,</p> <p>EPH 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,</p> <p>“patience” is from “makrothumia.”</p> <p>ASV has “longsuffering.”</p>	<p>COL 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;</p> <p>1TH 5:14 And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men.</p> <p>“patience” is from “makrothumia.”</p> <p>ASV has “longsuffering.”</p>
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1. The Christian **patiently endures evil**. (Matt. 5:38-48; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Thess. 5:14, 15).
 - a. We are not to be hateful or spiteful.
 - b. We are not to have a short fuse, but are to be long-tempered.
 - c. We are to do good - not get even.

d. This does not mean the Christian ignores or never appeals to the law of the land.

e. Paul appealed to Caesar. (Acts 25:11).

2. The Christian is longsuffering **in persecution**. (Matt. 5:10-12; Rev. 2:10).

MAT 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MAT 5:11 "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

MAT 5:12 "**Rejoice**, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

REV 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

Lit. "keep on being faithful" - Present imperative.

"achri thanatou" is literally "until death." It means one must remain faithful to receive the crown of life even if it means one must give up his life.

a. "Rejoice"

b. "Be faithful"

3. We should be patient **in suffering**. (Jas. 5:11; Job 42:10).

JAM 5:11 Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the **endurance** [patience] of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

JOB 42:10 And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold.

a. We are always dismayed when suffering comes especially to self or to those we care deeply about.

b. We do not understand suffering. It may or may not be the result of sin. (Jn. 9:1-2).

1) Some suffering is the **result of our sins**.

2) Some suffering is the **result of the sins of others**.

3) Some suffering is **a test of our faith**. (Heb. 12:6). **Example of Job**

4) Some suffering is the **result of accidents or nature**.

5) Some suffering is **because of righteousness**. (Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12).

c. Suffering can make one more understanding of others.

d. Suffering can be a blessing in disguise.

1) It never seems good, but good can come out of it.

2) It can build character and steadfastness. See James 1:1,2.

4. The Christian is **patient with self**.

- a. It takes time to develop the ability to pray well, teach, preach, etc.
- b. Some give up easily thinking all should be easy.
- c. We must not become frustrated because we can not do everything or cannot do things as well as someone else.
- d. We should seek to do right, but not have unrealistic expectations of living above sin. (1 Jn.1:8, 10).
- e. Maturity is a process that takes years.
- f. As long as there is breath in our bodies, we should keep growing.

5. The Christian is **patient when teaching others**.

- a. He does not get angry if people do not accept the truth or are slow to learn the truth.
- b. Sometimes we have come to accept a truth after much study and meditation; thus, we should not be surprised if others take time to accept the same truth.
- c. Imagine the potential frustration Jesus must have had with the continual expectation the disciples had of a physical kingdom. (Acts 1:6). See Lk. 17:20,21; Jn. 19:36.
- d. Jesus told His disciples time and time again that He must die and be raised on the 3rd day, but they did not comprehend what he was saying. They were shocked and ran away when He died, and thought it was nonsense when they were told He was raised from the dead.

6. The Christian is patient is **regard to the faults of others**.

- a. He is not super-critical.
- b. It often takes time and growth for change to occur.
- c. This does not mean a Christian does not seek to correct faults in others. (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19, 20).

7. The Christian should be “longsuffering” **with those he invites to church**.

- a. He keeps on inviting people to come to church.
- b. Many must be asked more than once.
- c. Many will say “no” and some will say “yes.”

8. The Christian should be “longsuffering” when it comes to **church growth**.

- a. A lot of seed must be planted and should not worry about where the seed is sown. (We do not know the hearts of men and should not seek to pre-judge who will accept or reject it.)

- b. The church growth can be very fast.
 - c. It can also be very slow.
 - d. It is vital we remain faithful, and encourage others to be faithful.
 - e. We must never grow at the expense of compromising the truth.
9. The Christian should be “longsuffering” in **restoring the lost**.
- a. Restoring the lost may not happen quickly.
 - b. This does not means we do nothing nor does it mean we spend all our time seeking to restore them.
 - c. Prodigals may be lost because we totally give up on them.
 - d. We must be persistent in prayer in regard to the lost.
10. We must be “longsuffering” **in prayer** in all matters. (Lk. 18:1-5).

LUK 18:1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,
LUK 18:2 saying, "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man.
LUK 18:3 "And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'
LUK 18:4 "And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,
LUK 18:5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.' "

Conclusion.

- I. God is “longsuffering” and His children are “longsuffering.”
- II. We should seek to be like our Father and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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