

LIVING BIBLICALLY
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT-LONGSUFFERING
Galatians 5:22

Intro: You've probably heard the great American prayer that goes like this: "God, give me patience, and I want it NOW!"

- I. Longsuffering defined
- A. The word Paul used for longsuffering when he talked to the Galatians about the fruit of the Spirit was macro-thu'-mia, which is a compound word: "macro" which means "long," and "thumia" which means "_____ " or "explosion."
 - B. To be longsuffering means to have a long temper. It is the _____ of being short-tempered.
 - C. Longsuffering and patient or patience as associated with relationships with other _____.
- II. General thoughts about longsuffering
- A. God wants to develop within each believer the wonderful quality of being _____ and longsuffering with other people like he is with us. Numbers 14:18a *The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression,*
 - B. Longsuffering has been described as a long holding out of the mind before it gives room for action or passion.
 - C. Longsuffering is the self-restraint that does not hastily _____ wrong suffered.
 - D. It is the forbearance which _____ injuries and evil deeds without being provoked to anger or revenge.
 - E. Longsuffering is the tenacity with which the believer's faith remains strong. It is the power to see things _____.
- III. The _____ of longsuffering
- A. God's first major act of longsuffering was His covenant with _____
 - 1. Genesis 6:6-8
 - 2. Genesis 8:20-21 (Upon Noah's exit from the ark)
 - 3. Genesis 9:8-17
 - B. God's decision to be longsuffering toward sinful people was _____. It would ultimately cost Him His own dear _____.
 - C. God is more concerned with humankind's _____ than he is with venting his own righteous anger.
- IV. Longsuffering in the Life of the Individual Believer
- A. Longsuffering is to be the only acceptable _____ in the lifestyle of God's followers.
 - B. A _____ life
 - 1. If there was ever a man who embodied the quality of peace and longsuffering, it was the man, Job.
 - 2. He was _____ of his family, his servants, his flocks; he lost his health; he was reproached by his wife; rebuffed by his friends. Everybody thought the only _____ for Job was to curse God and die.
 - 3. In the midst of those trials, Job said, *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"*, Job 13:15. And *"When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold"*, Job 23:10
 - 4. Job learned by the _____ of life to suffer long under duress and stress.
 - 5. He ultimately learned through the _____ that longsuffering was what God honored.
 - C. A _____ life
 - 1. It is through trouble, difficulty, and tribulation that God _____ us to be longsuffering.

2. That is the _____ way we learn this Godly characteristic.
 3. So, when those things come, we need to treat them, not as enemies, but as _____-as God's tools in our live to teach us to be longsuffering.
- V. Longsuffering is an attribute that is first found in _____, and he wishes to give it to his children
- A. The sinner's _____
 1. The _____ reason why sinners are not wiped off the face of the earth is because of the mercy, grace, and longsuffering of God.
 2. In his patience he extends to sinners the opportunity to _____, believe the gospel, and turn from their sinfulness to his salvation.
 - B. Longsuffering is part of God's _____
 1. Ex 34:6 *And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,*
 2. Num 14:18 *'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.'*
 3. Ps 86:15 *But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in mercy and truth.*
 - C. God's longsuffering is intended to lead sinners to _____ and salvation.
 1. Rom 2:4 *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*
 2. 2 Pet 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*
 3. 2 Pet 3:15 *And consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,*

A person whose life displays longsuffering is _____ with people; does not criticize and get irritated when criticized and irritated by others; remains gracious when frustrated or angered. Longsuffering knows how to sit still and wait its _____. Longsuffering is slow to retaliate and does not seek to get _____. It waits patiently with _____ no matter what the circumstances. Longsuffering is a God-quality, that when found in a believer, you also find a believer whose _____ in on his/her Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and not on themselves, their difficulties, their _____. Only God can help the believer to become longsuffering, and only by longsuffering will the believer be the man/woman of God that they are _____ to be.