

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - LONGSUFFERING

LESSON 4

I. THE GREEK WORD: MAKROTHUMIA

- A. MAKRO - "long" and THUMIA - "temper" = LONG - TEMPER
- B. Trench: " a long holding out of the mind, before it gives room to action or passion."
- C. Abbot: " the self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong."
- D. Plummer: " the forbearance which endures injuries and evil deeds without being provoked to anger or revenge."
- E. Moffat: " the tenacity with which faith holds out."
- F. Translated "longsuffering" and "patience" in the New Testament (Col.3:12, Heb.6:12).

II. LONGSUFFERING IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD

- A. God is slow to anger (Ex.34:6, Neh.9:17, Psm.86:15, 103:8)
- B. The sinner's hope (Joel 2:13, 2 Pet.3:15, Jonah 4:2, I Tim. 1:12-16)
- C. The sinner's warning (Num. 14:18, 2 Pet. 3:9-10, Rom.2:4)

III. LONGSUFFERING SHOULD BE PART OF OUR CHARACTER

- A. A basis for learning and understanding (Prov.14:29).
- B. Prevents us from putting ourselves in the center and making our feelings the criterion of everything (Eccl.7:8).
- C. Holds friendships together (Prov.15:18).
- D. A basis for true power (Prov.16:32, 25:15).

IV. LONGSUFFERING TOWARD PEOPLE

- A. Because it is tempered with love, Longsuffering keeps us from giving up on or losing hope in our fellow-man (Eph.4:2, I Cor.13:4, I Thess. 5:14).
- B. Essential for all teachers (2 Tim.4:2, 2 Tim.3:10)

V. LONGSUFFERING TOWARD CIRCUMSTANCES

- A. Not grim acceptance but joyful hope (Col.1:11, 2 Cor.6:5-10).
- B. Character of those who receive promise as Abraham (Heb.6:12-15).

C. Allows us to wait for God when nothing seems to be happening (James 5:7-10).

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QUESTIONS:

1. What is the literal meaning of the Greek word translated in our Bibles, "longsuffering" and "patience" ?
2. What **TWO** lessons should man receive when the longsuffering of God is understood?
3. Why is one who is patient in spirit better than he who is proud in spirit?
4. How can being patient help us have long friendships?
5. Describe the **POWER** in one who has self-restraint or is patient in spirit:
6. What is to temper our longsuffering with people that will cause us to always hope for the best in them?
7. Why must longsuffering be in us as teachers of the gospel?
8. Why will longsuffering cause us to have victory over unfavorable circumstances?
9. Who is a good example for inheriting the promise of God by being patient?
10. This week list how you manifested a "long - temper" toward:
(a) People:

(b) Circumstances: