

# Principles For Patience (Longsuffering)

James 5:7-11

# *Introduction*

- Longsuffering →  
makrothumia – “long-  
tempered.

# *Introduction*

- **LONGSUFFERING** → Defined and described:
  - Expresses a certain attitude toward people and events.
  - “a long holding out of the mind, before it gives room to action or to passion. (Trench)
  - “the self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong.” (Abbot)
  - “the forbearance which endures injuries and evil deeds without being provoked to anger or revenge.” (Plummer)

# *God Is Longsuffering*

- 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; (Rom. 2:4-5)

## ***Characteristic of A Child of God***

- Eph. 4:1-3 → 1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

# ***Characteristic of A Child of God***

- Col. 3:12-13 → 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

# ***Characteristic of A Child of God***

- II Cor. 6:3-6 → 3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: 4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; 6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

# ***Characteristic of A Child of God***

- I Cor. 13:4 → 4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

# *Characteristic of A Child of God*

- II Tim. 4:2 → Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

# *Characteristic of A Child of God*

- Heb. 6:12 → 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience (longsuffering) inherit the promises.

# *Characteristic of A Child of God*

- Js. 5:7-10 → 7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. 10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

# Longsuffering Necessary For...

- Unity
- Good personal relationships
- Endurance in the Christian life
- The exercise of love
- Necessary to inherit the promises

## ***Principles For Longsuffering...***

- ***Remember that life is not always “fair”.***

- Eccl. 7:15 → All *things* have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just *man* that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked *man* that prolongeth *his life* in his wickedness.
- Eccl. 8:12-13 → 12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: 13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong *his days, which are* as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. (cf. Ps. 73:3-9; 73:17-19; 28)

# ***Principles For Longsuffering...***

- ***Remember that what happens in you is more important than what happens to you.***
  - Prov. 4:23 → Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.
  - Matt. 15:18-20 → But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

# ***Principles For Longsuffering...***

- ***Remember that what you do is more important than how you feel.***
  - The Bible's instructions may go against our momentary feelings or impulses: (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12)
    - Love enemy. (Matt. 5:44)
    - Feed, give drink. (Rom. 12:20)
  - Longsuffering does not allow feelings to rule.
  - Actions lead...feelings follow.
    - Attend the assembly.
    - Invite a stranger.
    - Out of love and concern, approach one in error.

# ***Principles For Longsuffering***

- ***Remember the basics for all personal relationships:***
  - And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Matt. 22:39)
  - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. (Matt. 7:12)

# *Principles For Longsuffering...*

- *Remember that the longsuffering of God means salvation for sinners.*
  - II Pet. 3:9 → The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.