

# **Longsuffering/Patience**

Pastor Grant Williams April 08, 2015

Fruit of the Spirit Week #3

For the last 2 Wednesday nights we have spent studying Love. What it looks like and what it doesn't look like according to God, not us but according to His Written word - it never changes.

During those 2 weeks we have laughed, cried, been challenged, been cut with a 2 edged sword to the point where some peculiar opinions have spilt out and some have been moved to change and have been very soothing.

Well, tonight we are going to continue to get cut and laugh and cry while we continue with the fruit of the Spirit - the measure of which we are know by - the measure of Christ in us that people see.

## **Galatians 5:16-26 (Amplified Version)**

*16 But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).*

*17 For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.*

*18 But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law.*

*19 Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency,*

*20 Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),*

*21 Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*22 But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness,*

*23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].*

*24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires.*

*25 If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.]*

*26 Let us not become vainglorious and self-conceited, competitive and challenging and provoking and irritating to one another, envying and being jealous of one another.*

The word for patience in the King James here is “longsuffering”  
What does the word long-suffering mean to you - when you hear it what pops into your head?

**Definition of Long suffering:** *patiently enduring lasting offense or hardship it also means cheerful endurance or perseverance, or long-tempered. It is the fruit that allows us to look at people and not their circumstances or behavior. The part of us that can see beyond the surface to find the true person that God created and loves.*

Tonight we are going to look at what Gods Word has to say about what patience means: Remember these 2 words are interchangeable longsuffering and patient in this context.

## **Patience Means That ...**

### **I. I Regard the Forbearance of God**

What does forbearance mean? it’s in there - remember we can have the characteristics of Him, He wants us to...

**Definition of Forbearance:** *a refraining from the enforcement of something (as a debt, right, or obligation) that is due*  
*Let look at some verses about God’s forbearance.*

**2 Peter 3:9 (Amplified Bible)**

*9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance.*

**2 Peter 3:9 (King James Version)**

*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.*

**Numbers 14:18 (Amplified Bible)**

*18 The Lord is long-suffering and slow to anger, and abundant in mercy and loving-kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and fourth generation.*

**Numbers 14:18 (King James Version)**

*18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*

God is patient with us, but not forever, at some point He loves purity so much that evil will have to go.

**Lets turn over to Exodus 34:5-7 and read...** Moses was standing on Mt Sinai getting the Ten Commandments carved by God when...

**Exodus 34:5-7 (Amplified Bible)**

*5 And the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the name of the Lord.*

*6 And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord! the Lord! a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness and truth,*

*7 Keeping mercy and loving-kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation.*

**Exodus 34:5-7 (King James Version)**

*5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.*

*6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,*

*7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*

**Psalm 103:8-11 (Amplified Bible)**

*8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy and loving-kindness.*

*9 He will not always chide or be contending, neither will He keep His anger forever or hold a grudge.*

*10 He has not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*

*11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great are His mercy and loving-kindness toward those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him.*

This is to remind us of why he is doing this - He's not just trying to be nice so He has a good reputation for opening the door for people who you don't like or sharing umbrella all the while you are getting wet - that is so big of us

Look at what God is doing...

**Romans 2:4 (Amplified Bible)**

*4 Or are you [so blind as to] trifle with and presume upon and despise and underestimate the wealth of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering patience? Are you unmindful or actually ignorant [of the fact] that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repent (to change your mind and inner man to accept God's will)?*

God has been incredibly patient with us... but did you catch the catch in all those verses? Guilt/sin has to be punished if we do not fear him and if there is no repentance. Oh how we love to leave those parts out so all we hear is the love and patience, and forgiveness.

God loves people like we never could, but He hates sin and evil and cannot tolerate it in his kingdom, or it would not be perfect and holy. When He punishes, He is punishing the evil, not the person, so that we will repent and stop what we are doing. Just like our parents did when they disciplined or punished us.

**Patience also means that:**

## **II. I Realize that I am not Perfect Myself**

### **Matthew 7:1-5 (Amplified Bible)**

*1 DO NOT judge and criticize and condemn others, so that you may not be judged and criticized and condemned yourselves.*

*2 For just as you judge and criticize and condemn others, you will be judged and criticized and condemned, and in accordance with the measure you [use to] deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you.*

*3 Why do you stare from without at the very small particle that is in your brother's eye but do not become aware of and consider the beam of timber that is in your own eye?*

*4 Or how can you say to your brother, Let me get the tiny particle out of your eye, when there is the beam of timber in your own eye?*

*5 You hypocrite, first get the beam of timber out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the tiny particle out of your brother's eye.*

**1 Timothy 1:12-14 (Amplified Bible)**

*12 I give thanks to Him Who has granted me [the needed] strength and made me able [for this], Christ Jesus our Lord, because He has judged and counted me faithful and trustworthy, appointing me to [this stewardship of] the ministry.*

*13 Though I formerly blasphemed and persecuted and was shamefully and outrageously and aggressively insulting [to Him], nevertheless, I obtained mercy because I had acted out of ignorance in unbelief.*

*14 And the grace (unmerited favor and blessing) of our Lord [actually] flowed out superabundantly and beyond measure for me, accompanied by faith and love that are [to be realized] in Christ Jesus.*

Not one person in the Bible was perfect except Jesus himself, and you and I will never be perfect. So how can we judge and be impatient with others. Some people will say “yeah but I am not as bad as that sinner.” Well, show me where God says that murder is worse than lying. Sin is sin. We all do it and it doesn’t matter if it is a speck or a log, we are all in the same boat and need to treat each other that way.



**Patience means that:**

### **III. I Reflect the Peace that I Have Inside**

One of the characteristics of the fruit is Peace which we are going to look at in the next couple of weeks - peace reveals what is going on right inside of us, and impatience reflects inner turmoil, not peace. Do you think God is up there nervously watching us mess up?

#### **Colossians 1:11-14 (Amplified Bible)**

*11 [We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy,*

*12 Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light.*

*13 [The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,*

*14 In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins.*

God gives us the power through the Spirit to have great endurance and patience, but more than that we can be joyful about it because of what He has done for us.

Here's one I am sure you can relate to. You're in a hurry to get somewhere and your wife or friends or kids don't share your sense of urgency. There you are waiting at the door or in the car for them to get ready to go. Now what are you experiencing inside? Are you peacefully watching the wind blow the flowers gently back and forth in the garden? Do you pull out the owner's manual for the car and with great interest read about the option on your car that you didn't know you had?

Or are you in a somewhat different frame of mind? Do you find yourself asking, "What is more important, being late, or the people I am waiting for? If God can watch us destroy ourselves and his creation and peacefully sit back, perhaps we can show a little more patience when things are not going quite as we planned. You might be amazed at what God gives you when you peacefully wait rather than stress out and get angry. Maybe it's a spiritual opportunity that you would not have otherwise had.

**The fourth thing that patience means is that:**

#### **IV. I Respond to Others with Endurance not Retaliation**

A few years ago (while playing softball) our second baseman got hammered by someone sliding into him. He was in front of the base and was fair game. The other player didn't raise his spikes but just slid hard, that's what you are supposed to do. Well, the other guy got up and was expecting some retaliation telling our guy he should have gotten out of the way.

Our second baseman, who happened to be a pastor as well, said “good slide, I deserved that one.” The guy then apologized and asked how he was doing.

Some may call that weakness, I call it class, and I think Jesus would approve.

**Lets turn to Ephesians 4...**

**Ephesians 4:1-3 (Amplified Bible)**

*1 I THEREFORE, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the [divine] calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God's service,*

*2 Living as becomes you] with complete lowliness of mind (humility) and meekness (unselfishness, gentleness, mildness), with patience, bearing with one another and making allowances because you love one another.*

*3 Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of [and produced by] the Spirit in the binding power of peace.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 (Amplified Bible)**

*14 And we earnestly beseech you, brethren, admonish (warn and seriously advise) those who are out of line [the loafers, the disorderly, and the unruly]; encourage the timid and fainthearted, help and give your support to the weak souls, [and] be very patient with everybody [always keeping your temper].*

*15 See that none of you repays another with evil for evil, but always aim to show kindness and seek to do good to one another and to everybody.*

**1 Corinthians 13:4 (Amplified Bible)**

*4 Love endures long and is patient and kind;*

Now the words of Jesus that most of us know from Matthew

**Matthew 5:38-41 (Amplified Bible)**

*38 You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.*

*39 But I say to you, Do not resist the evil man [who injures you]; but if anyone strikes you on the right jaw or cheek, turn to him the other one too.*

*40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your undershirt (tunic), let him have your coat also.*

*41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two [miles]*

This is how we convict others and glorify God. It doesn't get any clearer than that, and of course it's difficult, but with the Spiritual Fruit of Patience it's possible. I know people that fantasize about revenge for years, very sad.

Just let it go....

**Well, If patience means I don't retaliate, it also means:**

## **V. I Refuse to Harbour Resentment, but Rather Forgive**

*Lets define Harbour:*

*o Harbour noun*

- 1. a sheltered port where ships can take on or discharge cargo*
- 2. a place of refuge and comfort and security*

*o Harbour verb*

- 1. secretly shelter (as of fugitives or criminals)*
- 2. keep in one's possession; of animals*
- 3. hold back a thought or feeling about*
- 4. maintain (a theory, thoughts, or feelings)*

When it comes to unforgiveness and judging, Christians are at least as bad if not worse than non-believers.

Can anyone tell me how it is more of a benefit to anyone to hold onto resentment and unforgiveness than to let it go and forgive?

A small sample from the New Testament just scratches the surface:

- o Forgive and you will be forgiven by God,*
- o forgive everyone who sins against us,*
- o forgive your brother from your heart as many times as he sins against you,*
- o forgive as the Lord forgave you,*

There is freedom in forgiveness at least for the person doing the forgiving, and if you want the peace that the Word is talking about, you will never have it until you get rid of all resentment you are holding in and meditating on. The Word calls it harboring or harbour.

**Finally patience means that:**

## **VI. I Remember that the Lord will Ultimately Judge Every Action**

Because God judges all people's actions, He will also judge ours if we go against what He says and don't bear these spiritual fruit. That knowledge should comfort us as much as it motivates us because we know that God's justice will prevail, and we can wait patiently for His great plan to unfold, rather than trying to force the issue ourselves.

**Here is a fantastic passage from the book of James 5:7-11 that illustrates this perfectly:**

### **James 5:7-11 (Amplified Bible)**

*7 So be patient, brethren, [as you wait] till the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious harvest from the land. [See how] he keeps up his patient [vigil] over it until it receives the early and late rains.*

*8 So you also must be patient. Establish your hearts [strengthen and confirm them in the final certainty], for the coming of the Lord is very near.*

9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you [yourselves] may not be judged. Look! The Judge is [already] standing at the very door.

10 [As] an example of suffering and ill-treatment together with patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord [as His messengers].

11 You know how we call those blessed (happy) who were steadfast [who endured]. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the Lord's [purpose and how He richly blessed him in the] end, inasmuch as the Lord is full of pity and compassion and tenderness and mercy.

We can only have patience with others if we have faith in God even if we can't have faith in people. We cannot call ourselves Christians and take matters of justice into our own hands, that shows that we don't believe the Word of God. It surprises me how many long time Christians wrack themselves with stress by not allowing the fruit of patience to be manifest in their lives. Don't let that happen to you !

**Philippians 4:13 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

13 I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

