

A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LONGSUFFERING

1. Text: Galatians 5:22-26
2. This lesson will deal with one of those Fruit of the Spirit: Longsuffering or patience. Let's explore its meaning and application.

I. Explained (What Is Its Meaning?)

1. There are two words in our English versions translated patience.
2. One occurs 32 times in the New Testament and literally means "to abide under" and can be translated to persevere, persist, endure, stand firm.
3. This first one is found in James 5:11 "You have heard of the patience of Job." Also, in II Peter 1:6 it's in that group "to add."
4. The second word and this Fruit of the Spirit is made up of two Greek words: makros (meaning long and used of long prayers in Matthew 23:14) and thumos (meaning passion, temper, anger, wrath and used in Hebrews 11:27 of the "king's wrath"). So literally it's "long tempered" or not far from longsuffering (an archaic word of older translations).
5. It means patience, steadfastness, forbearance, and is used 24 times in the NT.
6. The first word is used more of patience in trials, the second patience with people. They're used together in Colossians 1:11 and II Timothy 3:10.

II. Exemplified (What Are Examples Of Patience?)

1. God. I Peter 3:20 God's longsuffering in the days of Noah.
2. Romans 2:4 Do we despise God's longsuffering that should lead to repentance?
3. II Peter 3:15 The longsuffering of the Lord is salvation.
4. II Peter 3:9 The Lord is patient, not willing any to perish.
5. Hebrews 6:15 Abraham patiently endured to receive the promise.
6. James 5:10 Take the prophets as an example of suffering and patience.
7. I Timothy 1:16 Paul saw himself as a pattern of Christ's patience.
8. Matthew 18:26,29 "Have patience with me and I will repay you all."

III. Applied (How Do We Apply Patience?)

1. I Thessalonians 5:14 Be longsuffering with all.
2. I Corinthians 13:4 Love suffers long.
3. Ephesians 4:1-2 "Longsuffering, bearing with one another in love."
4. James 5:7-8 You be patient (like the farmer).
5. II Timothy 4:2 Proclaim the word with longsuffering.
6. Colossians 3:12 Put on (like a garment, clothing) longsuffering (and other traits).
7. We need patience with: The impatient; those who don't even realize it; odd people; incompetent ("Incompetents invariably make trouble for people other than themselves.")
8. Simple truths: Some by temperament have more patience. Impatience does have good side. Patience usually deals in seconds and self-control.

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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