
Long-suffering

- Colossians 1:10-11
 - Two different greek words
 - Patience, 32 other occurrences; cheerful, hopeful, endurance, waiting
 - Longsuffering, 14 other occurrences including fruit of spirit;
- “Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish. It is the opposite of anger and is associated with mercy, and is used of God.” – Vine
- Patience to defer anger
 - God has been longsuffering toward man
 - God was longsuffering in the days of Noah... 1 Peter 3:20
 - God was longsuffering in His dealings with the nation of Israel... Nehemiah 9:16-21
 - And God is longsuffering today as well
 - 2 Peter 3:7-9
 - 1 Timothy 1:15-16
 - What is the purpose of God’s longsuffering?
 - That we might have salvation! ... 2 Peter 3:15
 - That we might be led to repentance! ... Romans 2:4
 - God is longsuffering so those who fear Him and keep His commandments might delight in His lovingkindness, even though they have sinned...
 - Psalm 103:8-18
 - A beautiful description of the longsuffering of God
 - We need to be longsuffering if we wish God to be longsuffering with us...
 - As Jesus illustrated this in “The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant” (note particularly Matthew 18:32-35)
 - Compare also the following verses: Colossians 3:12-13

- Christ has forgiven us
- Therefore, we must be longsuffering and willing to forgive one another!
- The longsuffering of David
 - Is best seen in his dealings with King Saul
 - Saul had made several attempts to kill David
 - David had several opportunities to kill Saul
 - In the cave... 1 Samuel 24:1-22
 - In the camp... 1 Samuel 26:1-25
 - Out of respect for the Lord's anointed king (Saul), David demonstrated the true meaning of longsuffering: "slowness in avenging wrongs"
 - So from both God Himself, and one who was "a man after God's own heart" (1 Sam 13:14), we learn what the quality of longsuffering involves.
- Contentedness to bear trials
 - Christians ARE going to be persecuted, 2 Tim. 3:12.
 - It takes trial to make a Christian perfect or complete in Christ, James 1:2-4.
 - No "father Abraham" without "get thee out of thy country ... unto a land that I will shew thee" (Gen. 12:1) or "Take now thy son ... and offer him there" (Gen. 22:2).
 - No "prophet Moses" without standing before Pharaoh (Exo. 5:1) "Let my people go" or the wilderness wanderings.
 - No Joshua without the battles in Canaan.
 - No David without Goliath and his flights from Saul.
 - No Daniel without the lions.
 - No apostles without persecutions.
 - No Jesus without the cross.
- God has certainly revealed Himself to be longsuffering, as David wrote in his psalm... Psalm 86:15

- For those who desire to be truly His children, and led by His Spirit, they will want to become like Him, as David wrote just a few verses before... Psalm 86:11
- The way of the Lord is truly one involving longsuffering, and it will be a quality evident in the lives of those who bear the fruit of the Spirit!
- May the Lord help us to be longsuffering with those around us! May we also be careful to respond to the Lord's longsuffering toward us in the proper way