



# Lecture 1

## Supernatural patience (Longsuffering)

### CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT

Adversity, trials and tribulations are an invitation for us to be a witness to the character of Jesus in us. Adversity opens the door for us to exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Dependence on the Holy Spirit is the means by which His gifts bear fruit in us. Godly patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, unlike “human patience” which is conditional upon how others treat us and how we respond to adverse circumstances.

*Developing this fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life, will require the power of the divine sacrificial love of God to be manifested in you. What God requires from us is possible, but only by His power.*

### PATIENCE DEVELOPED THROUGH TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

James 1:2-3 (Wuest translation)

“Consider it a matter for unadulterated joy [without any admixture of sorrow] whenever you fall into the midst of variegated trials which surround you, knowing experientially that the approving of your faith, that faith having been put to the test for the purpose of being approved, and having met the test, has been approved, [that this approving process] produces a patience which bears up and does not lose heart or courage under trials.

Galatians 5:22-23 (Wuest translation)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering [patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Against such things as these there is no law.”

**There is a big difference between supernatural patience (from the Holy Spirit) and “natural” patience.**

Non-Christians are capable of demonstrating patience when it suits them. Christians, on the other hand, are called to long-suffering. The true test of patience comes when our rights are violated, when we are treated wrongly or are going through difficult times. These are the times when the power of the Holy Spirit is able to manifest in us as we humble ourselves and submit to God.

In Galatians 5:22-23, a more accurate translation of the original Greek word typically translated as “patience,” is “long-suffering” as used in the *Kenneth S. Wuest Expanded Translation of the Greek New Testament*. Remember, the love of God is sacrificial in essence, supernatural patience is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of God’s love, to endure long suffering as imitators of Christ.

This does not mean we are to be “door mats”. Rather, we are to stand for righteousness. Righteousness implies defending our faith and to represent Jesus. Getting angry, retaliating, showing impatience and creating conflict is not representing Jesus. Jesus never defended Himself personally, but He defended His Father’s house and His flock as a Shepherd. The love of God is protective, Jesus is our example, He was always sovereign, and demonstrated patience, endurance, longsuffering, in the midst of persecution, abuse, torture, slander (etc.) and He never got angry for His own sake but for the sake of righteousness.

John 18:22-23

Now, after He had said these things, one of the officers standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face, having said, In this manner are you answering the chief priest? Jesus answered him, Assuming that I spoke evil, furnish testimony concerning the evil. But assuming that I spoke well, why do you flay me?

As Christians, we are going to face persecution. We may even get a slap in the face. What this verse tells us is that we are not to seek revenge. We are not appointed to punish the people who wrong us. We are to love them and let God do with them what He will. God has the sole power to punish people who sin, not us.

Romans 12:19-21 (Wuest translation)

“Do not be avenging yourselves, beloved ones, but give place at once to the wrath, for it stands written, To me belongs punishment, I will repay, says the Lord. But, if your enemy is hungry, be feeding him. If he thirsts, be giving him to drink, for doing this, you will heap burning coals of fire upon his head. Stop being overcome by the evil, but be overcoming the evil by means of the good.”

1 Corinthians 13:4 (Wuest translation)

“Love meekly and patiently bears ill treatment from others.”

Looking back into the Old Testament, we see David sparing Saul’s life again and again. 1 Samuel 26:9-11 tells us that David left the punishment of Saul to the Lord.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:14, God calls us to encourage those who are weaker in the faith, with patience which is self-sacrificial by nature,

1 Thessalonians 5:14

“Now, we beg of you, please, brethren, be admonishing those who are rebellious, be encouraging the fainthearted, be a mainstay to those who are [spiritually] weak, be always patient toward all with that patience which endures ill-treatment meekly and without retaliation.”

**God makes us responsible to bear with our weaker brothers and sisters in Christ:**

Romans 15:1 (Wuest translation)

“As for us, then, the strong ones, we have a moral obligation to be bearing the infirmities (*weaknesses*) those who are not strong, and not to be pleasing ourselves.”

Hebrews 12:1 (Wuest translation)

“Therefore also, as for us, having so great a cloud of those who are bearing testimony [i.e., the heroes of faith of chapter 11] surrounding us, having put off and away from ourselves once for all every encumbrance and that sin which so deftly and cleverly places itself in an entangling way around us, with patience let us be running the race lying before us,”

**Sacrificial love:**

James 5:8 (Wuest translation)

“As for you, you also be long-suffering, patiently enduring the mistreatment of others, restraining your soul from the passion of anger. Stabilize your hearts, because the coming of the Lord has drawn near and is imminent.”