



## Lecture 2

### Supernatural Patience (Long-suffering)

#### CHRIST, THE EXAMPLE:

Jesus did not develop patience overnight, He learned patience through suffering. It is the same with us, obedience to the Holy Spirit and God's Word to the point of having to endure suffering will develop in us supernatural patience and all the other fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 5:8 (Wuest translation)

**"Though He was Son [of God] by nature, yet He learned obedience from the things which He suffered,"**

1 Timothy 1:6 (Wuest translation)

**"Moreover, on this account I was shown mercy, in order that in me first Jesus Christ might demonstrate all the long-suffering [which He has] as an example to those who were to be believing in Him for life eternal."**

1 Corinthians 13:4 (Wuest translation)

**"Love meekly and patiently bears ill treatment from others. Love is kind, gentle, benign, pervading and penetrating the whole nature, mellowing all which would have been harsh and austere; is not envious. Love does not brag, nor does it show itself off, is not ostentatious, does not have an inflated ego,"**

#### GOD'S PATIENCE IS LINKED WITH CONSTANT JOY

Colossians 1:11-12 (Wuest)

**"by every enabling power being constantly strengthened in proportion to the manifested power of His glory, resulting in every patience and forbearance, with joy constantly giving thanks to the Father who qualified you for the portion of the share of the inheritance of the saints in the sphere of the light;"**

Patience produced by the Holy Spirit is a heavenly "investment". It is like a student enrolled in a long-term degree who has to invest years of time, energy and hard work in order to achieve their final graduation. An impatient student will lack diligence and will not persevere, losing motivation and joy and in the end, will quit or drop out of the course. Developing the fruits of the Holy Spirit will bring eternal value: it is actually accumulating treasures in heaven.

It is not "our works" but the passion to please God through obedience to His Word, that will cause us to bear fruit by the Holy Spirit.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 (NASB)

**"The end of a matter is better than its beginning; Patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit."**

Romans 8:25 (Wuest translation)

**"But if that which we do not see, we hope for, through patience we expectantly wait for it."**

Exodus (NASB)

**“The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.”**

Colossians 3:12-13 (Wuest translation)

**“Put on therefore as your spiritual apparel, as chosen-out ones of God, saints and beloved ones, a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, considerateness, longsuffering, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a matter of complaint against anyone. Even as and in the degree that the Lord forgave you, in the same manner also you forgive.”**

Galatians 6:9-10 (NASB)

**“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”**

Ephesians 4:2 (Wuest translation)

**“with every lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, doing your best to safeguard the unanimity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling,”**

## IMPATIENCE IS LINKED TO IMMATURITY

Impatience is the opposite of being “sovereign” and creates negative traits:

- a) tendency to complain;
- b) getting angry and annoyed;
- c) leads to wrong decisions due to not willing to wait (“we want everything NOW”);
- d) robs you of God’s wisdom;
- e) steals your peace;
- f) provokes your mouth to say wrong things;
- e) creates conflicts and relationship problems;
- f) links you to the flesh

It took Noah 120 years to build the Ark according to God’s instructions. Not only did he have to invest hard physical labour for SO many years, he had to do so in the face of **daily ridicule, persecution and mocking** by his neighbours and peers. In his time, people had never seen rain. God called Noah to preach salvation to the people - to warn them a flood was coming and urge them to join him and his family, to be safe - but they ignored Noah’s message of hope and faith. The people rejected God and as a result, they drowned.

Building the Ark took patience and long-suffering in the face of rejection and hatred for more than 120 years. How would our patience and long-suffering have been? We can get impatient after only 5 or 10 minutes of waiting, for trivial things, and fail to show grace towards others. The grace of God allows us to respond in love towards others in the midst of any and every situation.

**We need to expect adversity, and when it happens, be ready to respond Jesus's way.**