



Lecture 4

Supernatural Patience (Long-suffering)

LONG-SUFFERING REQUIRES THE DIVINE SELF SACRIFICIAL LOVE OF GOD

Luke 6:36

“Be becoming compassionate; even as your Father is compassionate.”

The “comfort zone” is the danger zone

Living in the “natural”, i.e. just with our limited human resources, will never lead to being able to manifest the love and power of God. A Christian who is only living in the “comfort zone” is a Christian who will resist anything and anybody who requires him/her to make a sacrifice and accept any “inconvenience”. This is simply self-centredness.

We believers are to exhibit God’s power through obedience to the Word and sacrifice. The Bible teaches us to consider the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

doing nothing impelled by a spirit of factiousness, nothing motivated by empty pride, but in lowliness of mind consider one another as excelling themselves, this estimation resting, not upon feelings nor sentiment but upon a due consideration of facts, not consulting each one his own interests only, but also each one the interests of others.

LIVING BEYOND THE NATURAL REALM

Luke 6:32-33

And assuming that you are loving those who are loving you, what sort of recompense is yours? For even sinners considered as a class of individuals, also are in the habit of loving those who are loving them. In fact, if you are doing good to those who are doing good to you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners considered as a class of individuals are constantly doing the same.

These Scriptures show us that God expects us to live beyond the natural realm. The Holy Spirit has all the godly attributes; all we need is to rely on the Holy Spirit as follows:

- 1) Seek His leading, remember, He is our counsellor, our helper**
- 2) Know what to do according to the Word**
- 3) Depend on His power (not on self) to act as Jesus would**
- 4) The divine sacrificial love of Jesus will then manifest through your humility**
- 5) Expect the supernatural to manifest through Christ**

Jesus is radical (in human terms) in His sacrificial love towards all mankind. He died for all mankind, He took abuse, torture, rejection, accusations, betrayal, slander and so much more and yet at the cross He said: **"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing".**

We also need to see others the same way, especially those who are not saved; they don't know the truth. As we imitate Jesus, we need to also become radical in our sacrificial love towards others. This is our calling, to imitate Jesus. Imitating Jesus places us in the spiritual realm; spiritual Christians seek the spiritual, the supernatural, whereas "carnal" Christians seek only the natural realm and experience a limited Christian life with no fruits of the Holy Spirit. The flesh produces no good fruit.

Luke 6:30

Keep on giving to everyone who keeps on asking you, and from the one who takes away the things you possess, stop asking for their return.

"OUR RIGHTS"

In this world the attitude is to have "rights". The only right God has given us is to become His children. As His children, we have inherited the right to all the blessings in the heavenlies, but also the calling to imitate Jesus.

John 1:12-13

"But as many as appropriated Him, He gave to them a legal right to become born-ones of God, to those who place their trust in His name, who, not out of a source of bloods, nor even out of a desire of the flesh, nor even out of a desire of a male individual, but out of God were born."

DO EVERYTHING AS TO THE LORD

Colossians 3:23

"Whatever you are doing, from your soul do it diligently as to the Lord and not to men."

Matthew 7:12

"Therefore, all things whatever you may be desiring men to be doing to you, in the same manner also as for you, you be doing to them, for this is the law and the prophets".

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone is desiring to come after me, let him forget self and lose sight of his own interests, and let him pick up his cross and carry it, and let him be taking the same road with me that I travel, for whoever is desiring to save his soul-life shall ruin it, but whoever will pass a sentence of death upon his soul-life for my sake, shall find it.

CONCLUSION

LONGSUFFERING (GODLY PATIENCE) IS PUTTING INTO ACTION OUR GOD-GIVEN SACRIFICIAL LOVE. IT WILL COST US TO DENY OURSELVES AND FOLLOW CHRIST.