
The Fruit of Longsuffering (“Waiting” on the Lord)

The Fruit of the Holiness

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Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Longsuffering (“Waiting” on the Lord)

New Series Messages: “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit II (Producers)”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- Sermon: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Joy (The Strength of Life)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Peace (Keeping Your Heart)
 - Definition: NOT Peace with Your World, but Peace with Your God
 - Purpose: Keep our Hearts & Minds when Life would Take Them
 - Produce: We Produce Peace when we Put our Minds on God

Lesson Text

Isaiah 40:29–31 (AV)²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Psalms 27:13–14 (AV)¹³ *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

James 1:2–4 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Introduction

We’ve been dealing with the Lifestyle of Holiness and how it produces the Fruit of the Spirit.

Today we want to move to the second category of Fruit that deals with each other:

1. Love, Joy, and Peace (Deals with our Relationship with God)
2. Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness (Deals with our Relationship with Each other)
3. Faith, Meekness, and Temperance (Deals with our Relationship with Ourselves)

The first three elements of the Fruit are developed as a result of our Relationship with God. They come from God Himself: “God is Love”, “The Joy of the Lord”, “The Peace of God”.

Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness, the second cluster of spiritual fruit, is designed to help us to get along with each other.

When you see people who are always fighting, arguing, impatient, mean, or unkind, then you are dealing with people who are not producing the second cluster of fruit. This cluster of fruit is about our relationships with each other.

Today we want to look at the fourth element, Longsuffering; commonly translated to Patience.

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How many of you have patiently waited for something in the past, or are currently waiting on something in your near future? Perhaps a financial blessing, turnaround, deliverance, mate, house, job, promotion, healing, or some form or type of breakthrough!

How long *should* you wait? How long are you *willing* to wait? How long *can* you wait?

Now although Longsuffering is a form of patience, it is actually defined as having or showing patience in spite of troubles, especially the trouble caused by other people.

Most people fail at producing Spiritual Longsuffering from the Holy Spirit because they look at it as a time period or frame in which they wait until the happy things or happy times comes.

But we can only do this but for so long. We can only put up with or wait on something for a period of time before becoming weary, sick, and tired. “Sick and tired of being sick and tired!”

Isaiah 40: 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

Remember, one of the things we brought out last week that fruit is a Weapon to fight the battle for our Hearts and Mind. And Longsuffering is your Weapon for the weariness of life!

Isaiah 40: 31 But they that **wait upon the LORD** shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Longsuffering is not about “passively” waiting on people or things to change, but about having the weapon of power to “actively” wait on the Lord, serving people whether they change or not!

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Longsuffering (“Waiting” on the Lord)

“The Definition, Purpose, and Production of Longsuffering”

I. The Definition of Longsuffering

What is the Longsuffering produced from the Fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Isaiah 40: 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

To understanding longsuffering, we must understand its difference from general patience.

Job at his darkest hour, on the verge of giving up, said: Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

He was speaking to general patience; that is, waiting for something, namely his change.

But God-given longsuffering is a specific subset of patience that is not about waiting on change; but having the strength to maintain one’s patience in the face of and in spite of trouble!

The Definition of Longsuffering is a God-given patience that gives us Supernatural Strength in the face of Uncommon Trouble.

Without longsuffering, trouble (opposition and oppression) will eventually wear you out until you give up. This is the modus operandi of the enemy; it’s how he operates.

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, ...

But God-given longsuffering strengthens us so that we don’t wear out!

Isaiah 40: 31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

We become a perpetual living being unable to fail; like the energizer bunny who keeps going ...

Galatians 6:9 (AV)⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

II. The Purpose of Longsuffering

Let’s now look at the purpose for the element of Longsuffering in the Fruit of the Spirit.

Psalms 27:13–14 (AV)¹³ *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Unlike regular patience which is passive, and simply waits for something to happen or change; longsuffering is active and initiates a response when faced with the trouble that angers us.

Psalms 30:5 (AV)⁵ For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

When we do wrong, it angers God; but He doesn’t passively wait on us to do right because He may be waiting on some of us a long, long, long time. Instead, he actively restrains his anger by “Waiting or Serving Us”. And so instead of killing us, He Serves us His Love and Joy!

The purpose of Longsuffering is to Restrain our Anger so that we can Serve Each Other

Psalms 27: ¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

People will anger us, life with anger us, situations will anger!

Ephesians 4:26–27 (AV)²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

When you are angry, you can’t afford to wait for people to change; they may never change. Instead we “Wait on the Lord”, using the power of Longsuffering to restrain our Anger so we can serve each other. Serving up Love to our enemies, Joy to our troubles, Peace to our worries

With Longsuffering, our anger endures but a moment: weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. “It’s Morning Time!”

III. The Production of Longsuffering

Longsuffering is God-Given Patience that Strengthens us during Trouble; with the Purpose of Restraining our Anger so we can Wait on the Lord and Serve each other.

So how do we Produce Longsuffering?

James 1:2–3 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:2–3 (NLT) ² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

The Holy Spirit produces Longsuffering in us when we Continue to Endure Trouble

Why do most people give up in the time of trouble? Because they don’t have the faith to wait on the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 (AV)⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The Trouble may not change, but have Faith and Wait on the Lord

The Trouble may be on every side, but have Faith and Wait on the Lord

The Trouble may be relentless, but Faith and Wait on the Lord by Faith

Why? Because the more we Wait on the Lord (Serve each other), the More Longsuffering we will Produce. And the more we produce, the more God will perfect us.

Psalms 138:8 The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: ...

James 1:4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:4 (NLT)⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Don’t give up, let Longsuffering perfect it. Don’t give up on ministry, let Longsuffering perfect it. Don’t give up on the marriage, let Longsuffering perfect it. Don’t give up on the job or career, let Longsuffering perfect it. Don’t give up on God, let Longsuffering perfect it!

And After Longsuffering perfects it, you will be left wanting nothing! Why? Because you will realize that God has already supplied all you need and want.

Philippians 4:19 (AV)¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 23:1 (AV)¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fruit of Longsuffering (“Waiting” on the Lord))

Lesson Text

- Isaiah 40:29–31, Psalm 27:13–14, James 1:2–4

Sermon Outline

I. *The Definition of Longsuffering*

II. *The Purpose of Longsuffering*

III. *The Production of Longsuffering*

Questions

I. **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. If life were a race, would you prefer to be a sprinter or a distance runner? Why?
2. Are you more likely to volunteer for a difficult task or wait to be asked?

II. **Into the Bible**

1. In the lesson text both Isaiah 40:29-31 and Psalm 27:13-14 mention the word, “faint.” Define “faint.” Why does fainting occur? How does the fruit of longsuffering prevent one from fainting?
2. According to Hebrews 11:6, we can only come to God by faith and *must* believe two things. What are these two things? How can these two things strengthen our faith in the face of trials and tribulations?

III. **Life Application**

1. God suffers long with us [believers], (in our disobedience, unfaithfulness, willful wrongdoings, etc.). How should we respond to God’s longsuffering towards us?
2. We can see God’s longsuffering and forbearance with humanity in, **1 Timothy 2:4 KJV**, “*Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*” How can we aid God with humanity while He is being longsuffering and forbearing.