WALK IN LONGSUFFERING

**DATE: 1/20/2016 pm**

**TEXT: Galatians 5:22, 23**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue to study the Book of Galatians …

We have come to the section that commands us to Walk in the Spirit

**v.16 *– “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”***

To ***“Walk”*** speaks of the way someone conducts themselves

It should be the desire of every Born Again Believer to want to Honor God

We do this by being Consistence, Steadfast

The only way we’ll be able to do that is by Yielding to the Holy Spirit’s Leading

Yielding requires Hearing and Heeding (serious attention)

**Hebrews 11:6 *– “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”***

It begins with a Faith life, Believing and Obeying God’s Promises and Commands

In **vs. 22 & 23** we find a list of virtues that ought to dominate our life

We have looked at, so far, - *Love, Joy & Peace*

Tonight we will examine the virtue of *Longsuffering*

The word ***“Longsuffering”*** is an old English word that basically means *to have patients*

**Patients** (adj.) – means *able to persevere calmly, especially when faced with difficulties*

In the ordinal language it is made up of 2 words that mean *Slow* and *Wrath*

I find that interesting, because I think God is trying to tell us something about ourselves (at least me)

Could it be, because of how short we are with most people?

I like that word *Short*, because it describe just the opposite of how we are to behave (Long vs. Short)

**v. 19** describes the works of the Flesh, of which, one is ***“wrath”***

And that is exactly the opposite of what God is describing here when it comes to the virtue of ***“Longsuffering”***

We need to learn to wait on people,

Just remember how long it has taken you to get to where you are now? (and believe me, none of us as arrived)

Thankfully, Longsuffering is an attribute of God

**Exodus 34:6 - *“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,”***

Therefore it is an attribute that He commands His children to have

**Ephesians 4:26 *– “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:”***

We live in a day of quick Retribution / no mercy

Most people don’t practice Biblical Patience

The virtue of Longsuffering will not be developed with self-determination, though

It is only developed by someone yielding to the Holy Spirit

Let’s look at some of the aspects of the virtue of …

***“Longsuffering”***

Let’s stand to read **vs. 22, 23**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

So, how is Longsuffering demonstrated? Through …

**I. THE “PERSEVERANCE” OF LONGSUFFERING**

**Perseverance** is *determined persistence*

To persist steadily in an action or belief, usually over a long period and especially despite problems or difficulties

Learning to be Longsuffering enables us to persevere in difficult times

**II Corinthians 6:4 *– “But in all things approving ourselves (understanding the approval of God) as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,”***

**James 5:10 – *“Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience”***

**A. What is God’s ‘Purpose’ in Longsuffering?**

It is, to learn to, Persevere

3 thoughts

**1.** He Correct us

God allows trying situations to correct us

**Hebrews 12:6, 7 –** ***“For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth” “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?”***

***“Endure” –*** *means to bear up under hardship*

Life’s situations are not always comfortable

**2.** He Challenges us

-- God allows trying situations to Challenge us

-- God allows trying times to test us

**Psalm 119:71 *– “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes”***

He Challenges us to rely upon Him

**Psalm 34:8 *– “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him”***

**3.** To Use us

God allows trying situations that we might become usable

**Genesis 50:20 *– “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive”***

When Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, he had no idea how God would one day use him

Joseph’s longsuffering through trials and testing allowed him to be used by God in a great way

**B. Why is Longsuffering a ‘Priority’ with God?**

Because, God’s Priority is to conform us into the image of His Son

We are to exhibit His presence within us

**Romans 8:28, 29 –** ***“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”***

In adversity, we want God to do *a removing* job

When in reality, God wants to do *an improving* job

Our willingness to wait on the Lord is an expression of our faith

**OUR “PERSEVERANCE”**

**II. THE “INFLUENCE” OF LONGSUFFERING**

Longsuffering will Influence People around us

Longsuffering is the Grace of the man who could revenge himself and doesn’t

When we exercise Longsuffering, we will have a godly Influence on different people

**A. With Our Family**

Sometimes we seem to have the least amount of patience with those we love most

Instead of acting, we react

Why, because of unrealistic expectations

However, the Holy Spirit can enable us to be patient with our families

A good marriage is not the result of finding the right person;

It is the result of being the right person

Obedience children are the result of the respect we show them

Don’t ridicule them; don’t act like they are an annoyance

Love them, gently lead them

**B. With Others**

The display of Longsuffering in our life is the product of God’s love for us

**I John 4:19** – ***“We love Him, (and others) because He first loved us”***

**I Corinthians 13:4 –** ***“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,”***

Charity suffers the weaknesses, ignorance, and errors of others (and not proudly)

It waits for God to accomplish His Divine Purposes

**I Peter 2:23 *– “Who, when He (Jesus) was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, …***

***… He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:”***

Some Example of others would be …

**1.** Neighbors

The example of the Good Samaritan – **Luke 10**

**2.** Coworkers

**Ephesians 4:1-3 *– “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,” “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;” “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”***

**Colossians 3:23 –*“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”***

**3.** Friends

**Proverbs 17:17 *– “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”***

**4.** Church Members

**Galatians 6:10 – *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”***

**THE “PERSEVERANCE” OF LONGSUFFERING**

**THE “INFLUENCE” OF LONGSUFFERING**

**III. THE “DELIVERANCE” OF LONGSUFFERING**

To be **Delivered** is to be rescued from something

From the captivity, hardship, or domination of evil

Keep in mind that it’s God’s Longsuffering that saves and keeps us

**II Corinthians 1:10 –** ***“Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in Whom we trust that He will yet deliver us;”***

-- Our salvation Delivered us from the Penalty of Sin

-- We are now being Delivered from the Power of Sin

-- One day we will be Delivered from the Presents of Sin

**A. The Deliverance of Salvation**

God’sdesire is for every lost person to repent and receive Christ

Because of His Longsuffering, we have been saved and so can others

**II Peter 3:9 – *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”***

**I Timothy 1:16 – *“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, …***

***… for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting”***

God patiently waits on people

**B. The Deliverance of the Second Coming**

Jesus is coming again!

**Titus 2:13 –** ***“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”***

**James 5:8 –*“Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”***

**II Peter 3:13-15 – *“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless” “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;”***

Don’t be like those who say …

**II Peter 3:4** ***- “ …Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”***

**CONCLUSION**

We all face Challenges on a daily basis

But the Holy Spirit has the power to impart unto us the Longsuffering we need for every situation

Through Longsuffering the Holy Spirit gives …

**Perseverance**, allowing us to grow in God’s Purpose

**Influence**, a Godly Influence on Family & Friends

**Deliverance** through the knowledge of our Salvation & the soon return of Christ

**Won’t you Determined to Walk in the Spirit?**