

The Black Wall Street Inspiration Hour of Power
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Episode #1015--The Fruit of the Spirit—Longsuffering

Definition of Longsuffering

- Definition of Longsuffering: Having the ability to endure challenges and troubles patiently (having and/or showing patience); especially those caused by other humans.
- This fruit represents God like patience, tolerance, and opposite of having a short temper.
- The Bible meaning is the ability to suffer long; long-tempered—shows self-restraint when agitated to anger.
- Longsuffering is tolerating pain in hopes of a better tomorrow.

Background Scripture

Apart from me, you can do nothing.

John 15:5 (NIV)—“I am the vine; you are the branches, If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”

Opening

Which one of us would volunteer for “Longsuffering”? Last I checked, none of us like “longsuffering” or in other words “suffering long”.

Some can handle the “long”, but just not the “suffering”.

If we Christians are going to win souls for Christ, we will have to put into practice “Longsuffering”. This is required for maturity and growth; in God.

Within our own selves, we are unable to refrain from revenge or anger, but ***IN GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS US (Phil 4:13)***

A. God—The Divine Example

God demonstrates his longsuffering with us daily as the Apostle Peter spoke in his writings to the “Believers”:

(2 Peter 3:9)

- A. *(NIV)—The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*
- B. *(The Message)—Don’t overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn’t late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn’t want anyone lost. He’s giving everyone space and time to change.*
- C. *(NLT)—The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.*
- D. *(NKJV)—The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us (you), not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

B. The Fall—Peter’s Flaws and Failure

John 18 (NIV)

Jesus Arrested

18 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

⁵ “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.”

⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”^[a]

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Peter’s First Denial

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard,¹⁶ but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

¹⁷ “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter.

He replied, “I am not.”

¹⁸ It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰ “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.”²¹ Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

²² When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

²³ “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?”²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter’s Second and Third Denials

²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?”

He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

²⁶ One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?”²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

The Apostle Peter (Simon Peter) was one of the foundational leaders of the early church (an eyewitness of Jesus the Christ) authorized by Jesus himself to spread the gospel and establish churches. He was a church planter, a preacher and a teacher who had the authority to interpret church in light of Jesus’ life and teachings.

Peter was the best Apostle to discuss this topic because he demonstrated the perfect qualities of someone who was outspoken, impulsive, bold, and flawed.

- a. He was the first human recorded in history, besides Jesus, to walk on water (impulsive)
- b. He cut a soldier’s ear off (violent)
- c. He denied Christ after saying that he wouldn’t (liar)

C. The Call—God’s Restoration and Redemption

John 21 (NIV) Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish

21 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way:

2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus Reinstates Peter

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” (Shepherd my sheep)

17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

- A. Jesus had Peter to confess his love to him 3 times—hence he denied Jesus the Christ 3 times
- B. Apostle Peter was mentored by the best (Jesus the Christ) and still “fell from grace” and was restored by Jesus the Christ.
- C. Peter was the student who eventually became the Teacher and ended up being known for his bold and passionate leadership for God, his fervor / zeal / devotion towards God, and for developing a loyal allegiance concerning God.
- D. It really doesn’t matter how he started out; what mattered was the fact that he was willing to give his heart to God and had a teachable spirit.
- E. Through that maturing process that Peter went through, with guidance from the Holy Spirit, he learned how to trust in the Christ and was transformed into a Disciple who developed a heart of long suffering, just as God had for him; the mentee became the mentor to both the Jews and the Gentiles.

How to Effortlessly Display the Fruit of Longsuffering

1. Give God FULL CONTROL over every area and situation of your life
2. Find rest in God’s grace
3. Trust in God’s plan
4. Recognize that God has given you authority over the enemy

What to Comprehend

1. Be careful what we say, “NEVER” to
2. Anyone of us is subject to fail at any time
3. Remain humble in every situation
4. We are imperfect people, serving a perfect God, who extends his grace abundantly to ALL (Just like HE provided the 153 fish in the net)
 - a. #1—God and his provision
 - b. #5—God’s grace
 - c. #3—The trinity working together as a unit