

# Learning “Longsuffering” Love

## 1 Cor. 13

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

God is the Designer and desires to be the “Developer” of our love lives. (Ph. 1:6) He created us to Care (Love) but our Insecurity keeps us from Intimacy, because intimacy requires vulnerability! Intimacy: “*In to me see!*” That’s why Faith is foundational to love. (Heb. 11:1) God’s given us love that involves the physical (eros: erotic), emotional (philos: Affection) and Spiritual (Agape:Charity). *“The greatest of these is charity”*.

Agape comes from God’s Spirit. Gal. 5:22 *“The fruit of the Spirit is Love”*

1 Cor. 13:4 *“charity suffereth long”* (makrothyme’ō: forbearing, longsuffering, patient.)

### 1. “Longsuffering” requires some “Suffering” “Patience” requires “Problems”!

A. In God’s plan, the problems always precede the Promise!

1) Abraham was called the “Father of Faith” because he understood this truth!

Ro 4:18, 20,21 *“Who against hope believed in hope... “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, He was able also to perform.”* Who’s the “He”?

### 2. God has purposes for the “long” lessons of life! (Ro. 8:28,29)

A. God takes His time to prepare us for His purposes.

Eccl 3:11 *“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: (In our “time” we make a mess!) also he hath set the world in their heart...”* ‘ōlām: eternity, everlasting

1) Patience is necessary for God’s Purposes. James 1:2-4 *“Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations, knowing that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”*  
(hypomonē) *Cheerful* endurance! from hypome’nō: To stay under, remain!

2) Patience is one of the fruits of His Spirit, that grows slowly, but best, in the soil of suffering.

Gal. 5:22,23 *“the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering...”*

John 15:4 *“Abide in me and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye abide in me.”* Meno: remain, continue, endure, stay

B. God’s purposes involve a process! Ro 5:3-5 *“we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

C. God’s process involves people and problems. (and people with problems!)

Ro. 8:28,29 *“we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...who are called according to His purposes...To conform us to the image of His Son”*

### 3. If we “rush” this process, we’ll lack something we’ll need to

accomplish God’s Purposes. James 1:3-4 *“But let patience have her perfect (complete) work, that ye may be perfect (mature) and entire, (equipped) wanting (lacking) nothing.”*

A. If we “bail” when the problems become difficult, we’ll interrupt God’s process.

1) The qualities He’s trying to “perfect” (develop) in our character won’t reach maturity.

2) The “fruit” (character) will be stunted or missing!

3) We’ll be “unprepared” for the future assignments.

**B. God uses athletics training to illustrate this!** 1 Cor 9:24-27 *“they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”*

### **3. Satan uses the Seduction of the Short cut.**

#### **A. Remember the Temptation of Jesus? Mt 4:**

- 1) “Lust of the flesh”: You’re hungry: “Feed yourself.” Vs 3,4
- 2) “Lust of the Eyes” I’ll give you the world. “Provide for yourself!”
- 3) “Pride of life” Jump from the Temple: Prove yourself. 5-7

**This is the nature of all Temptation. (1 Jn 2:15,16)**

**B. In answering each temptation, Jesus shifted the focus off of “himself” and back to God! Mt 4:4-10**

#### **Conclusion:**

**Heb. 10:36** *“Ye have need of patience (Hypomonē: Cheerful endurance) that after ye have done the will of God, ye might received the promise... Now the just shall live by faith”*

*Patience is cooperating with God’s purposes and the people/problems He’s using to accomplish them, without giving Him (or others) a deadline to remove them!*

#### **➤ A Biblical Example of Patience:**

**James 5:10-11** *“Take... the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience... we count them happy (makariz’ō: blessed, fortunate) which endure.”*  
(hypomenō: Remain under pressure) *“Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”*

It was Job who, in the middle of his suffering, observed: *“He knoweth the way that I take, when He hath tried me, (proved, examined, tested) I shall come forth as gold... For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me.”* (ḥōq: necessary) Job 23:10,14

- A natural example of Patience:** The Chinese Bamboo tree doesn’t break through the ground for the first four years. In the fifth year, an amazing thing happens – the tree begins to grow at an astonishing rate. In fact, in a period of just six weeks, it can grow up to 90 feet! This is only possible because of the deep root system that was developed over the previous 4 years!

#### **Application:**

Jesus’ first message in Nazareth was from Is. 61:1-3, where God tells us that he compares us to *“trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified!”*

Will you, like Job, “Trust” Christ enough to give Him the time and opportunity to *“perform the thing that is appointed (Necessary) for you.”*

*“They shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts,  
In that day that I make up my jewels”* Malachi 3:17