

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #48,
PNEUMATOLOGY #26,
Fruit of the Spirit #7:
Longsuffering
Gal. 5:22-23
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

1. Gal. 5:22-23, (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

2. INTRODUCTION:

a. When we are born again, the Spirit of God takes up residence within us

i. 1 John 4:4, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because HE WHO IS IN YOU is greater than he who is in the world."

ii. Romans 8:9, "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

b. The Holy Spirit which takes up residence within us and begins to reproduce His nature within us

3. DEFINE "LONGSUFFERING":

a. The word LONGSUFFERING comes from the Greek word *makrothumia* which is a combination of two Greek words:

i. *macros*: "great"

ii. *thumia*: "heat"

iii. So *makrothumia* means, "HIGH HEAT"

b. "Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of God, Ex. 34:6 ...; Rom. 2:4; 1 Pet. 3:20."¹

¹ W. E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, "Longsuffering," p. 694.

- c. Longsuffering is “ ... a long holding out of the mind before it gives room to action or passion”²
- d. LONGSUFFERING is different from PATIENCE:
 - i. LONGSUFFERING will be found to express tolerance in respect of *PERSONS*
 - ii. PATIENCE in respect of *THINGS*.³
- e. LONGSUFFERING incorporates 3 factors:
 - i. #1 FACTOR INVOLVED IN LONGSUFFERING: There will be AN IRRITATING, HURTFUL, OR OFFENSIVE PERSON
 - ii. #2 FACTOR INVOLVED IN LONGSUFFERING: there will be ONGOING OFFENSES
 - iii. #3 FACTOR INVOLVED IN LONGSUFFERING: these multiple offenses occur over AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME

4. LONGSUFFERING is a characteristic of God

- a. Exodus 34:6, “And the LORD passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth’”
- b. 1 Peter 3:20, “who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while [the] ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.”
- c. 2 Peter 3:15 tells us “ ... the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation”

5. WE ARE TO BE LONGSUFFERING WITH OTHERS IN OUR LIVES

- a. Eph. 4:1-2, (1) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love
 - i. In the Greek, BEARING WITH means “to hold one’s self erect and firm....”⁴
- b. Gal. 5:22-23, (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control.

² Richard C. Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament*, p. 196.

³ Richard C. Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament*, p. 198.

⁴ *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, ἀνεχῶ, p. 44.

- c. 1 Corinthians 13:4, “Love suffers long [and] is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up”

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES BELIEVERS TO BE LONGSUFFERING

- a. Gal. 5:22-23, (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control.

7. LONGSUFFERING IS A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

- a. 2 Timothy 4:2, “Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”
- b. 1 Timothy 5:22, “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily”
- c. 1 Timothy 3:6, “not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the [same] condemnation as the devil.”

8. PRINCIPLES WE MUST UNDERSTAND IN ORDER TO BE LONGSUFFERING:

- a. PRINCIPLE #1 OF LONGSUFFERING: YOU MUST SEE THE BIG PICTURE:
 - i. AS JOSEPH: Genesis 50:20, “But as for you, you meant evil against me; [but] God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as [it is] this day, to save many people alive.”
- b. PRINCIPLE #2 OF LONGSUFFERING: CONTINUAL FORGIVENESS IS NECESSARY
 - i. Mt. 18:21-22, (21) Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (22) Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

9. WHAT IS THE QUENCHING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- a. 1 Thessalonians 5:19, “Do not quench the Spirit.”
- b. QUENCH defined:
 - i. Matthew 12:20, “A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not QUENCH, Till He sends forth justice to victory”
 - ii. Ephesians 6:16, “ ... above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to QUENCH all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”
 - iii. Hebrews 11:34, “ ... QUENCHED the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

- iv. Daniel 3:22, “Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.”
- v. Daniel 3:23, “And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.”
- vi. Daniel 3:25, “‘Look!’ he answered, ‘I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.’”
- vii. Daniel 3:27, “And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.”
- viii. So, **QUENCHING THE SPIRIT** means that the Spirit does not do His work in our lives

10. HOW DO WE QUENCH THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WORK IN OUR LIVES? BY SIN

a. KING SAUL

- i. 1 Samuel 10:10, “When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God **CAME UPON HIM**, and he prophesied among them.”
- ii. 1 Samuel 13:14, “But now your kingdom shall not continue. The **LORD** has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the **LORD** has commanded him [to be] commander over His people, because you have not kept what the **LORD** commanded you.”
- iii. 1 Samuel 16:14, “But the Spirit of the **LORD** ...”

b. KING DAVID

- i. 1 Samuel 16:13, “Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed [David] in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the **LORD** came upon David from that day forward.”
- ii. So, in Psalms 51:11, David prays, “Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”

- c. Gal. 5:22-23, (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control.