

## **Long Suffering/ Patience/meek/forbearing**

The Lord is full of long suffering. He is patient and merciful with all people and does not punish us as we deserve. He longs for us to repent and turn away from sin. His patience with us is often mistaken for him taking his time, yet we do not fully comprehend that this is for our benefit, to give us all extra time to turn to him.

We see from the very beginning; God is patient with man.

From Adam – to Noah and the flood – He didn't destroy mankind immediately. However, evil will be punished if people refuse to turn away from their evil deeds.

***Num 14:18 – The Lord is **longsuffering**, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.***

***Neh 9:17 NLT – They refused to obey and did not remember the miracles you had done for them. Instead, they became stubborn and appointed a leader to take them back to their slavery in Egypt! But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, **slow to become** angry and rich in unfailing love. You did not abandon them.***

***2 Pet 3:9 – 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.***

***Psa 86:15 – But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, **longsuffering**, and plenteous in mercy and truth.***

***2 Pet 3:15 – 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.***

***Nah 1:3 a– The Lord is **slow to anger**, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked..***

***Zep 3:7-8 – I thought, 'Surely, they will have reverence for me now! Surely, they will listen to my warnings. Then I won't need to strike again, destroying their homes.' But no, they get up early to continue their evil deeds.***

***Therefore, be patient, says the Lord. 'Soon I will stand and accuse these evil nations. For I have decided to gather the kingdoms of the earth and pour out***

***my fiercest anger and fury on them. All the earth will be devoured by the fire of my jealousy.***

***Isa 63:7-10 – I will tell of the Lord's unfailing love. I will praise the Lord for all he has done, I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel, which he has granted according to his mercy and love. He said, 'They are my very own people. Surely, they will not betray me again.' And he became their Savior. In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy, he redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years. But they rebelled against him and grieved his Holy Spirit. So, he became their enemy and fought against them.***

He does not need to wait for us to turn to him, yet he chooses too. This is something, I still cannot wrap my mind around. His character is that of long suffering. He decided from the very beginning that he would save us by his grace and by coming into the very world he created, to be a part of humanity. To feel, touch, see, smell, and walk as we walk, yet his walk and his ways were perfect. He experienced the same things we as humans experience. If anyone can understand longsuffering, it is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- The Father had to watch his innocent son die on the cross.
- Jesus had to suffer for the sake of our freedom and salvation.
- The Holy Spirit dwelling in us, human beings - is an example of longsuffering.

Sometimes the reality that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in me terrifies me and at times I am so mindful of just how filthy this dwelling place really is (ie. My temple). Why he chooses to dwell in me, I do not understand. This makes me constantly wanting to clean up house as I become more and more aware of his Holy presence within me. I am embarrassed at the state of my house, of the places I take him to at times and the things that sometimes come out of my mouth.

As vessels of the Lord and to be used for his will and purpose, we must yield completely to the Holy Spirit. It is him who cultivates and brings forth the fruit. In our own human effort, we will fail to bear lasting fruit. As with every other part of the fruit, we need to stay connected to the vine, and when pruning by the Father takes place, we are not to resist. This is the only way to bear this fruit.

Trusting the gardener and remaining in the vine is of extreme importance.

***Gal 5:22 – But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against these things.***

When we think about long suffering, we want to cringe. However, we cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit without experiencing this – long suffering! The fruit of the Spirit is one fruit with different attributes. Long suffering is still a part of the fruit of the Spirit and to receive the wholeness of the fruit of the Spirit, we must go through it, just as Christ also suffered. It is not a nice, pleasant experience and truly causes us pain, but it is through endurance that we eventually bear fruit. It is a process, and it is very long! This is not a part of the fruit we sometimes willingly want to choose to bear. At times we can even say to ourselves, we are willing to do without this portion of the fruit.

However, despite our suffering and trials we face on the earth, we as believers are urged to trust in the Lord and maintain our faith in his saving grace. During seasons of long suffering, we must not forget the promises that he gives to each one of us. Faith and hope in the Lord are of great importance as we go through the growing pains in our lives. We are not to start depending on self or start looking for a plan B and C. We should feed on scripture and build up our faith in the Lord. We know that he is in control of all things, and nothing can happen without him knowing. Romans 8:28 says that he works all things together for our good – it tells us that no matter what we are going through, he will work it out for our good. It also tells us that the enemy will attack but the Lord will prevail and in the end the Lord will use the very thing which caused us pain to help others, one day for his Kingdom. Now, we also get to be a part of building up his Kingdom here on earth.

***1 Thes 1:5,6 – For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we say was true. And you know of our concerns for you from the way we lived when we were with you. So, you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way you imitated both us and the Lord.***

***Mic 7:8,9 – Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light. I will be patient as the Lord punishes me, for I have sinned against him. But after that, he will take up my case and give me justice for all I have suffered from my enemies.***

***Col 1:24 – I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the suffering of Christ that continue for his body, the church.***

***1 Pet 19,20 – For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.***

***Col 1:11 – We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy.***

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***Additional notes: Meek***

Merriam Webster defines it as mild, deficient in courage, submissive and weak.

***Meek in the bible however is not weak. It is trusting in the Lord and willing to yield and be submissive to the Lord.***

## gentle

The word meek is the Greek word praus, which means gentle; the positive moral quality of dealing with people in a kind manner, with humility and consideration (Strong's Concordance).

Both Moses (Num 12:13) and Jesus were call meek men. They were both not pushovers and nor were they weak men. They willingly submitted their lives to ABBA Father and willed their will to do his will. This required complete trust in ABBA Father. Setting aside their desires and wants to want what Father God wants.

***Num 12: 3 – Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.***

***Mat 11:29 kjv – Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your soul.***

Promises to the meek:

***1 Pet 3:3,4 – Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.***

***Psa 147:6 kjv – The Lord lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.***

***Psa 149:4 kjv – For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.***

***Ps 25:9 kjv – The meek will he guide in judgement: and the meek will he teach his way.***

***Psa 22:26 kjv – The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.***

***Ps 37: 11 kjv– The meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.***

***Isa 29:19 kjv – The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.***