

The Fruit from the Spirit

Longsuffering

I. The Fruit from the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

1. One fruit, nine facets, a divine enabling, all rational, not emotional 'feelings'.
2. Love the overarching facet.
 - 1) The New Commandment (Jn. 13:34).
 - 2) Seen in work, deed (1 Jn. 3:18).
3. Joy, not happiness, is an acceptance of all circumstances (Col. 1:24).
4. Peace, is an unruffled mind. It is an inner overriding tranquility of rationale, regardless of outer tumult.

II. The facet of longsuffering contrasted to other terms.

1. *Patience* is a humanly acquired skill of not surrendering to circumstances or trials (Rom. 5:3; Jam. 1:3; 5:11). It is mistranslated "endure" or "enduring" 12 times.
2. *Endure* is the human ability to bear under circumstances. It may be a human response to divine enabling (1 Cor. 10:13).
3. *Forbearance* is the human ability to not be overly distracted by circumstances or other people's personality (2 Cor. 11:19).

III. The facet of longsuffering (Gal. 5:22).

1. **Longsuffering is the divine enabling to focus on the spiritual goal, to the extent that nothing, or nobody distracts from the intended end.**
2. God as an example of longsuffering toward men (Jam. 5:7-10; 1 Pet. 3:20).
3. God forbear us prior to salvation (Rom. 2:4).

IV. How the Christian uses longsuffering.

1. It works with love to fulfill the New Commandment (Eph. 4:2; 2 Pet. 3:9).
2. It is part of the motivation to live a Christian lifestyle (Col. 1:10-11).
3. It is to be consciously used (Col. 3:12).
4. It motivates proclaiming the Word (2 Tim. 4:2-3).
5. It is contrary to spiritual laziness (Heb. 6:12).