

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **James 5:7-11**.
- B. The word 'patience' in Gal. 5:22 is more accurately translated as "long-suffering" but the words are so similar we shall treat them as the same for the purposes of our study.
- C. Today many things come instantly and in only a fraction of the time they did in years past. Things can be ours in a matter of seconds or minutes rather than hours, days or months.
- D. When we talk about patience and long-suffering we speak of qualities that are the opposite of anger and are associated with mercy.

## I. PATIENCE AND FORGIVENESS.

- A. God is a god of mercy and patience. He is long-suffering toward all men (Rom. 2:4; 9:22).  
(Rom 2:4) Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?  
(Rom 9:22) What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?
- B. God does not wish for any to perish, and is long-suffering toward that end. God's long-suffering towards us is to be considered as salvation (2Pet. 3:9, 15).  
(2Pet 3:9) The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.  
(2Pet 3:15) and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,...
- C. Peter thought he was very long-suffering when he was able to forgive the same person 7 times. Jesus illustrates the great patience of God in telling Peter to forgive 70 times 7 (Mt. 18:21-22).  
Then Peter came and said to Him, "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."
- D. When we have great patience we will be able to extend forgiveness as many times as needed. Since we desire for God to forgive us in an unlimited way; we should learn to keep forgiving others too.
- E. Remember the words of Jesus who said, "In patience you shall possess your soul" (Lk. 21:19).  
"By your endurance you will gain your lives."

## II. SOME EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE.

- A. The Bible is full of good examples to follow and bad examples to shun.
- B. We must always keep in mind that the promises are given to those who will by patience and faith not be sluggish (Heb. 6:10-12).  
For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- C. Some good examples of patience from James, chapter 5, are as follows:
  - 1. The good farmer waits for both the early and late rains before harvesting his crop (Jas. 5:7).  
Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
  - 2. We are to strengthen our hearts by patience for Jesus is very near (Jas. 5:8).  
You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
  - 3. Remember the OT prophets who did not receive what was promised (Jas. 5:10).  
As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
  - 4. Job has quite a different attitude toward things once he learned by patience to wait on God and endure hardship (Jas. 5:11).  
Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

### III. SOME PATIENCE BUILDERS.

- A. The Bible gives us some helpful guidance in trying to build our patience:
1. The word of God will build patience in our lives (Rom. 15:4).  
For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
  2. Realize that endurance helps one to receive eternal rewards (Heb. 10:35-36; Mt. 10:22).  
(Heb 10:35-36) Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.  
(Mt 10:22) "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."
  3. Remember that tribulation brings patience and patience brings character. The testing of our faith brings endurance (Rom. 5:3-4; Jas. 1:2).  
(Rom 5:3-4) And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;  
(Jas 1:2) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
  4. Patience is a virtue that is often exhibited (or not exhibited) when wronged. If we get everything when we want it, what use is there for patience? (2Tim. 2:24).  
And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,
  5. Part of the godly character of elders is patience (1Tim. 3:3).  
not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money.

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We have looked at the following when it comes to patience;
1. We live in such a fast paced, hurry up, 'instant' world that patience is a forgotten quality of life.
  2. Patience and long-suffering are closely tied to mercy and forgiveness. All of which is the opposite of anger.
  3. There are four good examples of patience in James, chapter 5.
  4. There are some good patience builders in the word of God:
    - a. The word itself.
    - b. Endurance brings patience.
    - c. Tribulation brings patience.
    - d. Patience is to be exhibited when wronged.
    - e. A godly character includes patience.
- B. The next in our series of lessons on the fruit of the Spirit will focus on kindness.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.