

## THE LONGSUFFERING OF THE SPIRIT!

Galatians 5:22-26

INTRODUCTION: As you look at the fruit in your life is it obviously the fruit of the Spirit or is it the fruit of the flesh? Galatians 5:19-23. The fruit of the Spirit is not like the gifts of the Spirit in that the gifts of the Spirit are given some to one saint and another to other saints. God doesn't give all the gifts of the Spirit to all the saints. But God does give all the fruit of the Spirit to all the saints of God that want them. All nine fruits are available to all the saints of God. Galatians 5:22-23

### I. CONTRASTING THE WORKS OF THE FLESH WITH THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!

Have you noticed the contrast between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:19-23. Jesus turns envy into goodness! He turns fornication into self-control! Jesus turns hatred into love! Jesus turns outbursts of wrath into longsuffering! The word "longsuffering means slow to anger: James 1:19-20; Romans 15:5-6; 1 Peter 3:18-20. Our God waited 120 years in the days of Noah to give mankind a chance to repent: Numbers 14:18-20. We are to be like our Lord in the fruit of being longsuffering: Romans 15:3-4. It is interesting of all the different vocations of mankind that the Lord used farmers as the best example of being longsuffering: James 5:7-11.

### II. WHAT DOES LONGSUFFERING PRODUCE?

The fruit of the Spirit longsuffering or patience helps bring us to Christ-likeness: James 1:3-4. The word "perfect" in these verses means "complete; fully grown." It is no wonder that so many Christians grow old without ever growing up because they lack the fruit of being longsuffering or patient. That is why James tells us to rejoice in trials of many kinds because of what those trials produce within us: James 1:2-5. We dare not waste the trials the Lord allows in our lives: Hebrews 12:11. Don't waste your trials: invest in them; gain from them! James 5:7-8; Proverbs 19:11.

### III. WHERE DOES LONGSUFFERING COME FROM?

Longsuffering does not come from our self effort. Longsuffering cannot be manufactured or produced! It is a facet of the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23. The sequence in the fruit is not by accident. Longsuffering is a combination of love, joy, and peace. 1 Corinthians 13:4; Ephesians 4:1-2. Impatient people do not love people: 1 Peter 4:8. Longsuffering also comes from having joy in our hearts: Nehemiah 8:8-10. Longsuffering also comes from the peace of God in our hearts: Isaiah 26:3-4. The fruit of the Spirit only comes by abiding in Christ Jesus our Lord: John 15:4-5; 8. Remember without abiding there is no bearing; and without bearing there is no longsuffering!