

***Living a Fruitful Life: Longsuffering***  
**Galatians 5:22-23**

Main Point:

As a child of God, seek to be longsuffering like God.

1. God is longsuffering towards His people, including you.

2. You should, then, be longsuffering towards other people.

3. You should also be longsuffering as you live under His providence.

4. Therefore, seek to be longsuffering as a child of God.

**Exodus 34:6-7a** 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin ... (NKJV)

**John 13:1** 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. (NKJV)

**Jerry Bridges** “Daily, God bears with great patience the provocation of sinful, rebellious men who despise His authority and ignore or show contempt for His law.”

**Psalm 103:8, 13** 8 The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy ... 13 As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. (NKJV)

**Colossians 3:12-13** 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (NKJV)

**1 Peter 2:21, 23** 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps ... 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; (NKJV)

**1 Corinthians 4:7** 7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? (NKJV)

**Christopher Wright** “In the world of instant blogging and commenting (and comments on comments), patience seems to be a very neglected virtue. Some people simply can’t wait to put their word in, get their point across, speak their mind - however harmful and hurtful it may be. We have become very impatient - in attitudes, communication, and expectations.”

**Colossians 3:15** 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (NKJV)

**James 1:2-4** 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (ESV)

**Ephesians 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, (NKJV)

**Romans 12:19** 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. (NKJV)