



Unpacking Hope

When Hope Hurts . . . “Longsuffering”
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July 28, 2015

Question: What do you do when you try to hope, but hoping seems to be hurting you more than helping you?

Answer: Understand that God is trying to shape, mold, and form you into the image of Christ.

Pain is often the preparation for purpose and promotion!

There are **benefits** to hurting while hoping. One key benefit is that you develop the characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit called **Longsuffering**.

Galatians 5:22-24

The Benefits of Longsuffering

Longsuffering A Part of God’s Plan

- God created this Fruit of the Spirit with a specific purpose and with it comes many benefits. Everything God puts you through will ultimately bless you.
Romans 8:28
- God does everything for a reason. Even your waiting time is for a reason. Waiting time is never wasted time.
- Longsuffering is always a part of God’s plan. It’s never optional but always mandatory if you plan to fulfill your purpose in God.
Hebrews 5:8

The Stages of Longsuffering

- 1. Longsuffering strengthens you.** **1 Peter 5:10**
 - A. The journey **strengthens** you for the “Promised land.”
 - B. The strength built on the journey is needed in the **promise**. **2 Corinthians 4:17**
- 2. Longsuffering positions you.** **Genesis 50:20**
 - A. The period of longsuffering **positions** you to receive the period of your promise.
 - B. Longsuffering sets you in a place for what **God** wants to do next.

THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON

3. Longsuffering protects you.

- A. If we truly **embrace** longsuffering, it will protect us from premature mistakes.
- B. Longsuffering has a way of protecting you by keeping you **focused**.
- C. Your **pain** protected you, when pleasure wanted to punish you.

Matthew 11:28-30

4. Longsuffering allows you to grow.

- A. If you **avoid** your season of longsuffering you, deny yourself the right to grow.
- B. The growth needed for the **promise** happens on the journey.

Exodus 1:6-12

5. Longsuffering validates you.

- A. The enemy knows who you are based on what you have **survived**.
- B. It shows God you are **worth** the promise.
- C. It's like **courtship** before marriage. It proves you are worth **trusting**.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

6. Longsuffering leads you to your promise.

James 1:12

- A. It's the **highway** leading to promises.
- B. If you **deny** longsuffering you **inevitably** deny the route to your promise.

7. Longsuffering limits the enemy's power by strengthening your will to push through temptation.

- A. Those that the enemy **conquers** are those that have never conquered the ability of longsuffering.
- B. **Persuaded** people are too **consumed** with purpose to be consumed by the enemy.
- C. The enemy is **afraid** to fight a **believer** that is willing to fight. When you fight through pain, the enemy takes note of your **power**.

Romans 8:35-37

Acts 19:13-16

8. Longsuffering produces patience.

Revelation 2:3

- A. God **expects** you to be patient even in your pain.
- B. **Patience** and longsuffering go hand and hand; you will never succeed at longsuffering without patience.
- C. Longsuffering is God's way of testing your spiritual patience, which in turn **solidifies** your **qualifications** for your promise.

9. Longsuffering demands consistency.

1 Corinthians 15:58

- A. You are **forced** to learn how to keep moving forward every day.
- B. You become consistent in trusting God in the midst of the **storm**.
- C. If you are not **consistent** in the process you will be counted **unworthy** for the promise.
Holding on until your **breakthrough** comes is the training for holding on to your breakthrough.

10. Longsuffering enhances spiritual longevity.

James 1:12

- A. **Longsuffering** is not just holding on until your breakthrough comes but is needed afterward.
- B. There will always be times of **trouble** as long as we are on earth.
- C. The only time longsuffering becomes **obsolete** is in heaven. You need it until you get there.