

## **BE PATIENT!**

1 Thess.5:13-15 contains a list of seven characteristics of a healthy church. They are listed by seven Greek present imperatives (commands).

We will study each of the following seven characteristics of a healthy church.

- Live in peace (5:13b)
- Admonish the unruly (5:14a)
- Encourage the fainthearted (5:14b)
- Help the weak (5:14c)
- **Be patient with all men** (5:14d)
- See that no one retaliate (5:15a)
- Seek after good for all men (5:15b)

**This lesson will study SIX aspects of the fifth characteristic of a healthy church**  
***“Be patient with (pros+acc./ in person) all (pas/aplm).”***

### **1. We will begin by studying the Greek word for “be patient [makrothumeo] p.a.impv.2pl).”**

Notice that it is a compound Greek word (makros / long) and (thumeo / tempered). It means to exercise restraint in face of provocation. Have you ever heard someone say, “it takes a lot to get me mad?” But what about prolonged or extreme stress? (2 Cor.6:3-10)

It is translated into English as long-suffering, long-tempered, and patient. This lesson will focus upon the use of makrothumeo patience.

### **2. “Makrothumeo long-suffering (patience) is the quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of God, Ex.34:6 (Sept.); Rom.2:4; 1 Pet.3:20.” (Vines, pg.377)**

Makrothumeo patience is used to explain Abraham dealing with the prolonged fulfillment of the promise of a messianic heir (Heb.6:13-15 [25 years] Gen.12:3-4; 21:5) “And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.” (6:15 Lot, Eliezer of Damascus, Ishmael, while waiting on Isaac) (James 5:7-8)

### **3. Makrothumeo patience is a key element in forgiveness from a stressful and provoking relationship (Matt.18:21-35) The parable of the unmerciful servant.**

Note the first debtor (21-22, 23-27) – be patient with me! – Cancelled all debt – mercy (32-33).

Note the second debtor (21-22, 28-31) – be patient with me! Unforgiving but forgiven (Rom.2:1-4; 2 Pet.3:9).

**4. Makrothumeo patience waits on the Lord for the end of a matter rather than fret over the delay or the development.**

“Yet those who wait upon the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.” (Isa.40:31)

- The **beginning** of a matter requires the believer to **evaluate** it doctrinally:

**(What is promised).                    “I can successfully cope with it.”**

- The **middle** of the matter requires the believer to **trust** the Lord with it:

**(What has been promised).        “I am successfully coping with it.”**

- The **end** of the matter requires the believer to **accept** the outcome of it:

**(Father knows best).                “I have successfully coped with it.”**

“The end of a matter is better than its beginning; patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit.” (Eccl.7:8)

Impatience seeks to reach the end of a matter by any means other than waiting on the grace of God.

“Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.” (Heb.10:35-36)

**5. God will provide makrothumeo patience immediately to a situation by means of the believer walking under the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17; Have you ever said, “God give me more patience?”)**

There is no magical formula for relief but there is supernatural relief residing inside the believer (1 Cor.6:19-20).

The fourth fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit is makrothumeo patience (love, joy, and peace, PATIENCE) (Gal.5:22-23).

Unconditional and supernatural love is able to bring makrothumeo patience to situations when nothing else could work (1 Cor.13:4; 1 Pet.4:8-9; Eph.4:1-3).

**6. God will develop spiritual maturing patience (makrothumeo) through putting off the old man [cosmos diabolicus] and putting on new man [divine viewpoint] by the consistent use of the faith cycle (Eph.4:22-24; Col.3:8-14).**

Spiritual growth maturity (inhale and exhale of BD/ 2 Tim.3:16) gives the believer capacity to apply patience to any and all circumstances of life (Col.1:9-10; 1Pet.5:7; Phil4:6; 2 Tim.3:8-12).

“BE PATIENT WITH ALL!” (Church members, marital partner, children, parents, schoolmates, neighbors, fellow-workers, friends, and whoever else you can think of?)

“For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.” (Heb.12:3)