



Unpacking Hope: Part III
Wednesdays in The Word
June 21, 2017
Reverend Tyrone McGowan, Pastor

When Hope Hurts ...Longsuffering

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

- 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*
- Your waiting time is for a reason. Waiting time is never wasted time. *2 Cor. 4:15-18*
- 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

- I. Longsuffering strengthens you** *1 Peter 5:10*
 - The journey strengthens you for the "Promised Land."
 - The strength built on the journey is needed in the promise. *2 Corinthians 4:17*
- II. Longsuffering positions you** *Genesis 50:20*
 - The period of longsuffering positions you to receive the period of your promise.
 - Longsuffering sets you in a place for what God wants to do next.
- III. Longsuffering protects you**
 - If we truly embrace longsuffering, it will protect us from premature mistakes.



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- Longsuffering has a way of protecting you by keeping you focused.
- Your pain protected you, when pleasure wanted to punish you. *Matthew 11:28-30*

IV. Longsuffering allows you to grow

- If you avoid your season of longsuffering, you deny yourself the right to grow. *Ex. 1:6-12*
- The growth needed for the promise happens on the journey.

V. Longsuffering validates you

- The enemy knows who you are based on what you have survived. *2 Corinthians 4:7-12*
- It shows God you are worth the promise.
- It's like courtship before marriage. It proves you are worth trusting.

VI. Longsuffering leads you to your promise

James 1:12

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

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

- Those that the enemy conquers are those that have never conquered the ability of longsuffering.
- Persuaded people are too consumed with purpose to be consumed by the enemy. *Romans 8:35-37*
- 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. *Acts 19:13-16*

VIII. Longsuffering produces patience

- God expects you to be patient even in your pain. *Revelation 2:3*
- Patience and longsuffering go hand and hand; you will never succeed at longsuffering without patience.
- Longsuffering is God's way of testing your spiritual patience, which in turn solidifies your qualifications for your promise.



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IX. Longsuffering demands consistency *1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:7-10*

- You are forced to learn how to keep moving forward every day.
- You become consistent in trusting God in the midst of the storm.
- 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.

X. Longsuffering enhances spiritual longevity *James 1:12*

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