*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

**Endurance**

Galatians 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (KJV)

Thayer’s definition for ‘longsuffering’:

3115 makrothumia-

1) patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance

2) patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs

The Bible says that a tree is known by its fruit; and as we see above, this tree of life is totally opposite of the flesh. We have been grafted into this tree so that as a branch we can now draw our life from a new source, which brings new results as well. Longsuffering is not something that we see much of anymore, but a critical component of one’s new nature if they intend to endure and make it to the end.

Matthew 18:23-26 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. (24) And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. (25) But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. (26) The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. (KJV)

Do you remember what got you into the kingdom of God, and a partaker of His divine nature? Yeah, it sure wasn’t our works was it; rather it is the longsuffering and patience of our Lord that allowed us access to this life above.

Matthew 18:27-30 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. (28) But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. (29) And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. (30) And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. (KJV)

Do you remember that same longsuffering and patience with others, or did you look into the mirror this morning, saw a child of God looking back at you, then quickly forgot what manner of man you are and should be representing?

Matthew 18:31-33 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. (32) Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: (33) Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? (KJV)

You know, when the Lord came here to planet earth He raised the bar a bit, like all the way to the heavenly realm. Are you looking above and operating according to the same standards, or are you falsely putting others in prison by your words and actions?

Titus 3:3-5 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. (4) But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, (5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (KJV)

So in closing, this is just a friendly reminder of what got us access into the kingdom of God, and what it takes to stay in good standing with Him today. So let’s try a bit more longsuffering and kindness, and let the Lord handle the rest.