

## ~LONG-SUFFERING (779)

[Greek, *ma-kro-thy-mi'a*]

• Yehowah's Long-Suffering

• Yehowah Not Long-Suffering Forever

• Jesus Christ

• Why, Is It Important For Christians To Cultivate Long-Suffering

• The **patient endurance of wrong or provocation**, combined with a **refusal to give up hope for improvement in the disturbed relationship**. Long-suffering therefore has a purpose, looking particularly to the welfare of the one causing the disagreeable situation.

• It does not mean the condoning of wrong, however. When the purpose for long-suffering is accomplished, or when there is no point in further putting up with the situation, long-suffering ends.

• It ends either with good to those giving provocation or with action against the wrongdoers. In any case the one exercising long-suffering is not harmed in spirit.

• The literal meaning of the **Hebrew** expression translated, slow to anger, long-suffering, in some translations, is length of nostrils where anger flares up.

• And Yehowah went passing by before his face and declaring: Yehowah, Yehowah, a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness and truth. (**Exodus 34:6**)

• Yehowah, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness, pardoning error and transgression, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment, bringing punishment for the error of the fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation. (**Numbers 14:18**)

• The **Greek** word *ma-kro-thy-mi'a*, **long-suffering**, literally means **longness of spirit**. Int

• Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and **long-suffering**, because you do not know that the kindly quality of God is trying to lead you to repentance? (**Romans 2:4**)

- Both the **Hebrew** and **Greek** expressions denote patience, forbearance, slowness to anger. The **English** word **suffering** in the word **long-suffering** has the sense of **putting up with, permitting, tolerating, holding up, or delaying**.
- **Long-suffering** means more than merely enduring pain or trouble. It does not mean merely **suffering long**, but involves **deliberate restraint**.

### See Also ANGER

- The Scriptures reveal God's evaluation of **long-suffering** and point out the foolishness and bad results of not maintaining **longness of spirit**. The **long-suffering** person may seem weak, but he actually is using discernment.
- He that is **slow to anger** is abundant in discernment, but one that is impatient is exalting foolishness. (**Proverbs 14:29**)
- **Long-suffering** is better than physical mightiness, and it will accomplish more.
- He that is **slow to anger** is better than a mighty man, and he that is controlling his spirit than the one capturing a city. (**Proverbs 16:32**)
- The man who is **not long in spirit**, but who bursts forth without restraint, is open to the invasion of any and all improper thoughts and actions, for:
  - As a city broken through, without a wall, is the man that has no **restraint** for his **spirit**. (**Proverbs 25:28**)
  - All his spirit is what a stupid one lets out, but he that is wise keeps it calm to the last. (**Proverbs 29:11**)
  - For these reasons, the wise man counsels not to be **short in spirit**:
  - Do not hurry yourself in your spirit to become offended, for the taking of offense is what rests in the bosom of the stupid ones. (**Ecclesiastes 7:9**)

### •• Yehowah's Long-Suffering

- **When Yehowah took Moses up into Mount Horeb and showed him some of his glory, he declared before Moses;**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to come down in the cloud and station himself with him there and declare the name of Yehowah. (Exodus 34:5)**
- **And Yehowah went passing by before his face and declaring; Yehowah, Yehowah, a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness and truth. (Exodus 34:6)**
- **Preserving loving-kindness for thousands, pardoning error and transgression and sin, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon grandsons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation. (Exodus 34:7)**
- **This truth about Yehowah's **slowness to anger** was repeated by Moses, David, Nahum, and others.**
- **Yehowah, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness, pardoning error and transgression, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment, bringing punishment for the error of the fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation. (Numbers 14:18)**
- **So they refused to listen, and they did not remember your wonderful acts that you performed with them, but they hardened their neck and appointed a head to return to their servitude in Egypt. But you are a God of acts of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, and you did not leave them. (Nehemiah 9:17)**
- **But you, O Yehowah, are a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness and trueness. (Psalms 86:15)**
- **Yehowah is merciful and gracious, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness. (Psalms 103:8)**
- **And rip apart your hearts, and not your garments, and come back to Yehowah your God, for he is gracious and merciful, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness, and he will certainly feel**

regret on account of the calamity. (**Joel 2:13**)

- Hence he prayed to Yehowah and said; Ah, now, O Yehowah, was not this an affair of mine, while I happened to be on my own ground? That is why I went ahead and ran away to Tarshish, for I knew that you are a God gracious and merciful, **slow to anger** and abundant in loving-kindness, and feeling regret over the calamity. (**Jonah 4:2**)
- Yehowah is **slow to anger** and great in power, and by no means will Yehowah hold back from punishing. In destructive wind and in storm is his way, and the cloud mass is the powder of his feet. (**Nahum 1:3**)
- While **long-suffering** is an attribute of Yehowah, it is always expressed in harmony with his primary attributes of love, justice, wisdom, and power.
- He that does not love has not come to know God, because God is love. (**1 John 4:8**)
- The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice. Righteous and upright is he. (**Deuteronomy 32:4**)
- For Yehowah himself gives wisdom. Out of his mouth there are knowledge and discernment. (**Proverbs 2:6**)
- Once God has spoken, twice I have heard even this, that strength belongs to God. (**Psalms 62:11**)
- Raise your eyes high up and see. Who has created these things? It is the One who is bringing forth the army of them even by number, all of whom he calls even by name. Due to the abundance of dynamic energy, he also being vigorous in power, not one of them is missing. (**Isaiah 40:26**)
- He is giving to the tired one power, and to the one without dynamic energy he makes full might abound. (**Isaiah 40:29**)
- Justice is due, first of all, to God's own name. That name must be exalted above all others in the universe, and this is essential for the well-being of all his creatures. The magnifying of his name is one of his chief reasons for **long-suffering**, as the apostle Paul explains;

- If, now, God, although having the will to demonstrate his wrath and to make his power known, tolerated with **much long-suffering** vessels of wrath made fit for destruction. (**Romans 9:22**)
- In order, that he might make known the riches of his glory upon vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory. (**Romans 9:23**)
- Namely, us, whom he called not only from among Jews but also from among nations, what of it? (**Romans 9:24**)
- God, in exercising **long-suffering**, is taking out a people for his name. And by means of them he is magnifying himself in all the earth.
- Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. (**Acts of Apostles 15:14**)
- For we are God's fellow workers. You people are God's field under cultivation, God's building. (**1 Corinthians 3:9**)
- Do you not know that you people are God's temple, and that the spirit of God dwells in you? (**1 Corinthians 3:16**)
- If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, which temple you people are. (**1 Corinthians 3:17**)
- And what agreement does God's temple have with idols? For we are a temple of a living God, just as God said; I shall reside among them and walk among them, and I shall be their God, and they will be my people. (**2 Corinthians 6:16**)
- God exhibited his **long-suffering** in the very early part of man's history. Rebellion of the first human couple had brought violation of his law. But instead of executing them immediately, as God could have justly done, in love he displayed **long-suffering**.
- This was for their as-yet-unborn descendants, to whom such **long-suffering** meant everything, his **patience** means salvation for many

- Furthermore, consider the **patience** of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul according to the wisdom given him also wrote you. (**2 Peter 3:15**)
- **More important, God also had in view the magnifying of his glory by means of the Seed of promise.**
- **And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (**Genesis 3:15**)**
- **For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order, that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life. (**John 3:16**)**
- **Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. It says, not. And to seeds. As in the case of many such, but as in the case of one; And to your seed, who is Christ. (**Galatians 3:16**)**
- **And God not only was **long-suffering** at that time but he knew that he would have to put up with imperfect mankind for several thousand years of history, delaying punishment against a world at enmity with him.**
- **Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God. (**James 4:4**)**
- **Some have misunderstood and misused God's **long-suffering** toward them, missing its purpose by viewing it as slowness rather than as loving patience.**
- **Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and **long-suffering**, because you do not know that the kindly quality of God is trying to lead you to repentance? (**Romans 2:4**)**
- **Yehowah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. (**2 Peter 3:9**)**
- **Nowhere is the **long-suffering** of God more evident than in his dealings with the ancient nation of Israel.**

- But as respects Israel he says; All day long I have spread out my hands toward a people that is disobedient and talks back. **(Romans 10:21)**
- Time and again he received them back after they had fallen away, were punished, and repented. They killed his prophets and finally his own Son. They fought the preaching of the Good News by Jesus and his apostles. But God's **long-suffering** was not wasted. There was a remnant that proved faithful.
- And I began to hear the voice of Yehowah saying; Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And I proceeded to say; Here I am! Send me. **(Isaiah 6:8)**
- And he went on to say; Go, and you must say to this people, Hear again and again, O men, but do not understand, and see again and again, but do not get any knowledge. **(Isaiah 6:9)**
- Make the heart of this people unreceptive, and make their very ears unresponsive, and paste their very eyes together, that they may not see with their eyes and with their ears they may not hear, and that their own heart may not understand and that they may not actually turn back and get healing for themselves. **(Isaiah 6:10)**
- At this I said; How long, O Yehowah? Then he said; Until the cities actually crash in ruins, to be without an inhabitant, and the houses be without earthling man, and the ground itself is ruined into a desolation. **(Isaiah 6:11)**
- And Yehowah actually removes earthling men far away, and the deserted condition does become very extensive in the midst of the land. **(Isaiah 6:12)**
- And there will still be in it a tenth, and it must again become something for burning down, like a big tree and like a massive tree in which, when there is a cutting down of them, there is a stump, a holy seed will be the stump of it. **(Isaiah 6:13)**
- Moreover, Isaiah cries out concerning Israel; Although the number of the sons of Israel may be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved. **(Romans 9:27)**
- For Yehowah will make an accounting on the earth, concluding it

and cutting it short. (**Romans 9:28**)

- **Also, just as Isaiah had said aforetime; Unless Yehowah of armies had left a seed to us, we should have become just like Sodom, and we should have been made just like Gomorrah. (**Romans 9:29**)**
- **In this way, therefore, at the present season also a remnant has turned up according to a choosing due to undeserved kindness. (**Romans 11:5**)**
- **He used some of such faithful ones to write his Word under inspiration.**
- **What, then, is the superiority of the Jew, or what is the benefit of the circumcision? (**Romans 3:1**)**
- **A great deal in every way. First of all, because they were entrusted with the sacred pronouncements of God. (**Romans 3:2**)**
- **The Law he gave showed that all mankind are sinners and need a redeemer, and it pointed to that One who would give his life as a ransom price and who would be exalted to the high position of King.**
- **Why, then, the Law? It was added to make transgressions manifest, until the seed should arrive to whom the promise had been made, and it was transmitted through angels by the hand of a mediator. (**Galatians 3:19**)**
- **Consequently the Law has become our tutor leading to Christ, that we might be declared righteous due to faith. (**Galatians 3:24**)**
- **Patterns of that Kingdom and of Christ's priesthood were provided.**
- **Therefore let no man judge you in eating and drinking or in respect of a festival or of an observance of the new moon or of a Sabbath. (**Colossians 2:16**)**
- **For those things are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality belongs to the Christ. (**Colossians 2:17**)**
- **For since the Law has a shadow of the good things to come, but**



not the very substance of the things, men can never with the same sacrifices from year to year which they offer continually make those who approach perfect. (**Hebrews 10:1**)

- **And examples for us to follow or avoid were set forth.**
- **Now these things went on befalling them as examples, and they were written for a warning to us upon whom the ends of the systems of things have arrived. (**1 Corinthians 10:11**)**
- **In order, that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (**Hebrews 6:12**)**
- **Brothers, take as a pattern of the suffering of evil and the exercising of patience the prophets, who spoke in the name of Yehowah. (**James 5:10**)**
- **All these things are essential to mankind for the gaining of everlasting life.**
- **For all the things that were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope. (**Romans 15:4**)**
- **All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness. (**2 Timothy 3:16**)**
- **That the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work. (**2 Timothy 3:17**)**

### **•• Yehowah Not Long-Suffering Forever**

- **On the other hand, God is **long-suffering** only as long as it is in harmony with justice, righteousness, and wisdom. The fact that long-suffering is exercised when a bad or provocative situation exists shows that it is meant to give opportunity for those involved in the bad situation to change, to straighten up.**
- **When matters come to a point where it is seen that there is no hope of such change, justice and righteousness would be violated if **long-suffering** should continue. Then God acts in wisdom to remove the bad situation. His patience comes to an end.**

- **An example of this forbearance on God's part and of its coming to an end is found in God's dealing with men before the Flood. A deplorable condition existed, and God said,**

- **After that Yehowah said; My spirit shall not act toward man indefinitely in that he is also flesh. Accordingly his days shall amount to a hundred and twenty years. (**Genesis 6:3**)**

- **Later, regarding Israel's misuse of Yehowah's **long-suffering**, Isaiah said,**

- **But they themselves rebelled and made his Holy Spirit feel hurt. He now was **changed into an enemy of theirs**, he himself warred against them. (**Isaiah 63:10**)**

- **Obstinate men and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, you are always resisting the Holy Spirit, as your forefathers did, so you do. (**Acts of Apostles 7:51**)**

- **For these reasons Christians are entreated not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and **miss its purpose**.**

- **Working together with him, we also entreat you not to accept the undeserved kindness of God and miss its purpose. (**2 Corinthians 6:1**)**

- **They are counseled; Do not be grieving saddening God's Holy Spirit. **[Int]****

- **Also, do not be **grieving** God's Holy Spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom. (**Ephesians 4:30**)**

- **Do not put out the fire of the spirit. (**1 Thessalonians 5:19**)**

- **Otherwise they may continue to the point of sin and blasphemy against God's spirit, in effect outraging it, in which case there is no repentance or forgiveness, only destruction.**

- **On this account I say to you, Every sort of sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven. (**Matthew 12:31**)**

- **For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it**

- will be forgiven him, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things nor in that to come. (**Matthew 12:32**)
- For it is impossible as regards those who have once for all been enlightened, and who have tasted the heavenly free gift, and who have become partakers of Holy Spirit. (**Hebrews 6:4**)
  - And who have tasted the fine word of God and powers of the coming system of things. (**Hebrews 6:5**)
  - But who have fallen away, to revive them again to repentance, because they impale the Son of God afresh for themselves and expose him to public shame. (**Hebrews 6:6**)
  - For if we practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left. (**Hebrews 10:26**)
  - But there is a certain fearful expectation of judgment and there is a fiery jealousy that is going to consume those in opposition. (**Hebrews 10:27**)
  - Any man that has disregarded the Law of Moses dies without compassion, upon the testimony of two or three. (**Hebrews 10:28**)
  - Of how much more severe a punishment, do you think, will the man be counted worthy who has trampled upon the Son of God and who has esteemed as of ordinary value the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has outraged the spirit of undeserved kindness with contempt? (**Hebrews 10:29**)
  - For we know him that said; Vengeance is mine. I will recompense. And again; Yehowah will judge his people. (**Hebrews 10:30**)
  - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (**Hebrews 10:31**)

### ·· **Jesus Christ**

- Jesus Christ exemplified **long-suffering** among human's. Of him, the prophet Isaiah wrote:

- He was **hard pressed**, and he was **letting himself be afflicted**, yet he would not open his mouth. He was being brought just like a sheep to the slaughtering, and like a ewe that before her shearers has **become mute**, he also would not open his mouth. (**Isaiah 53:7**)
- He put up with the weaknesses of his apostles and the insults and discourtesies heaped upon him by bitter, vicious enemies. Yet he did not retaliate in kind, by word or action.
- For even the Christ did not please himself, but just as it is written: The reproaches of those who were reproaching you have fallen upon me. (**Romans 15:3**)
- When the apostle Peter acted injudiciously in cutting off the ear of Malchus, Jesus reproved him with the words:
- But, look! One of those with Jesus reached out his hand and drew his sword and struck the slave of the High Priest and took off his ear. (**Matthew 26:51**)
- Then Jesus said to him; Return your sword to its place, for all those who take the sword will perish by the sword. (**Matthew 26:52**)
- Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father to supply me at this moment more than twelve legions of angels? (**Matthew 26:53**)
- In that case, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must take place this way? (**Matthew 26:54**)
- Then Simon Peter, as he had a sword, drew it and struck the slave of the High Priest and cut his right ear off. The name of the slave was Malchus. (**John 18:10**)
- Jesus, however, said to Peter; Put the sword into its sheath. The cup that the Father has given me, should I not by all means drink it? (**John 18:11**)

## · Why Is It Important For Christians To Cultivate Long-Suffering

- From the foregoing it is evident that **long-suffering** originates with Yehowah God. It is a fruit of his spirit.
- On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is **love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith.** (**Galatians 5:22**)
- Man, made in the image and likeness of God, has a measure of this quality and can develop it by following God's Word and the direction of his Holy Spirit.
- And God went on to say; Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:26**)
- And God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him, male and female he created them. (**Genesis 1:27**)
- Christians are therefore commanded to cultivate and display this quality.
- Accordingly, as God's chosen ones, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with the tender affections of compassion, kindness, lowliness of mind, mildness, and **long-suffering.** (**Colossians 3:12**)
- It is an identifying mark of a minister of God.
- But in every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers, by the endurance of much, by tribulations, by cases of need, by difficulties. (**2 Corinthians 6:4**)
- By beatings, by prisons, by disorders, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times without food. (**2 Corinthians 6:5**)
- By purity, by knowledge, by **long-suffering**, by kindness, by Holy Spirit, by love free from hypocrisy. (**2 Corinthians 6:6**)
- The apostle Paul says; Be **long-suffering** toward all.
- On the other hand, we exhort you, brothers, admonish the disorderly, speak consolingly to the depressed souls, support the

weak, be **long-suffering** toward all. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

- He indicates that it is essential to exercise this quality in order to be pleasing to God. But ones **long-suffering** is not genuine if it is accompanied by grumbling and complaining. Paul shows that the commendable thing is to be **long-suffering** with joy.
- That is also why we, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the accurate knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual comprehension. (Colossians 1:9)
- In order to walk worthily of Yehowah to the end of fully pleasing him as you go on bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the accurate knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:10)
- Being made powerful with all power to the extent of his glorious might so as to endure fully and be **long-suffering** with joy. (Colossians 1:11)
- Thanking the Father who rendered you suitable for your participation in the inheritance of the holy ones in the light. (Colossians 1:12)
- Aside from the joy that one gets through the practice of **long-suffering**, the rewards are great. Yehowah is rewarded by having his name glorified. The challenge against the righteousness and rightfulness of God's sovereignty is proved wrong, and he is vindicated.
- Now the serpent proved to be the most cautious of all the wild beasts of the field that Yehowah God had made. So it began to say to the woman; Is it really so that God said you must not eat from every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1)
- At this the woman said to the serpent; Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. (Genesis 3:2)
- But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said; You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die. (Genesis 3:3)
- At this the serpent said to the woman; You positively will not die. (Genesis 3:4)

- **For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad. (Genesis 3:5)**
- **Then Yehowah said to Satan; Where do you come from? At that Satan answered Yehowah and said; From roving about in the earth and from walking about in it. (Job 1:7)**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Satan; Have you set your heart upon my servant Job, that there is no one like him in the earth, a man blameless and upright, fearing God and turning aside from bad? (Job 1:8)**
- **At that Satan answered Yehowah and said; Is it for nothing that Job has feared God? (Job 1:9)**
- **Have not you yourself put up a hedge about him and about his house and about everything that he has all around? The work of his hands you have blessed, and his livestock itself has spread abroad in the earth. (Job 1:10)**
- **But, for a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch everything he has and see whether he will not curse you to your very face. (Job 1:11)**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Satan; Have you set your heart upon my servant Job, that there is no one like him in the earth, a man blameless and upright, fearing God and turning aside from bad? Even yet he is holding fast his integrity, although you incite me against him to swallow him up without cause. (Job 2:3)**
- **But Satan answered Yehowah and said; Skin in behalf of skin, and everything that a man has he will give in behalf of his soul. (Job 2:4)**
- **For a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch as far as his bone and his flesh and see whether he will not curse you to your very face. (Job 2:5)**
- **What if he had put Adam, Eve, and Satan to death at the time of the rebellion? Some might have concluded that Satan had a point in his challenge.**

- But by **long-suffering**, Yehowah gave men the opportunity to prove under test that they prefer his sovereignty over them and that they want to serve him because of his fine qualities, yes, to demonstrate that they prefer Yehowah's sovereignty to complete independence, knowing that it is far better.
- For a day in your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere. I have chosen to stand at the threshold in the house of my God rather than to move around in the tents of wickedness. (**Psalms 84:10**)
- Jesus Christ, because of **long-suffering** in obedience to God, received a most marvelous reward, being exalted to the superior position of kingship and being given the name that is above every other name, by his Father.
- Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus. (**Philippians 2:5**)
- Who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God. (**Philippians 2:6**)
- No, but he emptied himself and took a slaves form and came to be in the likeness of men. (**Philippians 2:7**)
- More than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake. (**Philippians 2:8**)
- For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name. (**Philippians 2:9**)
- So that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground. (**Philippians 2:10**)
- And every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. (**Philippians 2:11**)
- Besides this, he receives a bride made up of his spiritual brothers, the New Jerusalem, which is represented as a city, the



**foundation stones of which have on them the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb.**

- **For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I personally promised you in marriage to one husband that I might present you as a chaste virgin to the Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:2)**
- **I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2)**
- **And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls which were full of the seven last plagues, and he spoke with me and said; Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife. (Revelation 21:9)**
- **So he carried me away in the power of the spirit to a great and lofty mountain, and he showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God (Revelation 21:10)**
- **The wall of the city also had twelve foundation stones, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (Revelation 21:14)**
- **Likewise, the reward is rich for all persons cultivating **long-suffering** and maintaining it in harmony with God's purpose.**
- **But we desire each one of you to show the same industriousness so as to have the full assurance of the hope down to the end. (Hebrews 6:11)**
- **In order, that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:12)**
- **For when God made his promise to Abraham, since he could not swear by anyone greater, he swore by himself. (Hebrews 6:13)**
- **Saying; Assuredly in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you. (Hebrews 6:14)**
- **And thus after Abraham had shown patience, he obtained this promise. (Hebrews 6:15)**

- They have the satisfaction of copying God's quality, of doing God's will, and of having God's approval. Additionally, their **long-suffering** will bring accomplishment in helping others to know God and to gain everlasting life.
- Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching. Stay by these things, for by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you. (**1 Timothy 4:16**)