

**The Attributes of God**  
***Attribute #17 - Longsuffering***

- I. Long-suffering (Patience) - God has an enduring patience with those who deserve His punishment. It is the power of control that God exercises over Himself, causing Him to bear with the wicked and delay in punishing them. God withholds His judgments, as it were, until the last possible moment
  - A. Nahum 1:3 – (Hebrew: anger = of broad nostrils; Job 9:13; 4:9; Psalm 74:1; Job 39:19-20)
  - B. Jer.11: 7
  - C. Isaiah 48:9; 43:25
  - D. Ezekiel 20:17
  - E. Luke 13:6-9, 34;
  - F. 2 Peter 3:9
  
- II. Long-suffering (patience) differs from mercy because of the consideration of the object experiencing it.
  - A. Mercy sees the creature as miserable; mercy pities him in his misery.
  - B. Patience sees the creature as criminal; patience bears with him in his sin that brought about the misery.
    - 1. The patience of God really concerns Himself
    - 2. It is a restraint placed upon His acts by His will.
    - 3. It is the great excellency that causes Him to sustain great injuries without immediately avenging Himself.
    - 4. He has a great power of patience as well as power of justice.
      - 1). Neh. 9:17
      - 2) Psalm 103:8
    - 5. His long-suffering (patience) is the power of self-restraint
      - 1) Numbers. 14:17-18
      - 2) Romans 9:22
  - C. It is a willingness to defer; an unwillingness to pour forth His wrath upon sinful creatures; a moderation of His provoked justice, and a forbearance to revenge them according to what they merit or deserve.
  
- III. How His long-suffering (patience) is manifested (made known).

- A. To our first parents, Adam and Eve – Gen. 5:5
- B. To the Gentiles – Romans 1:28-32
- C. To the Israelites – Jer. 32:30-41
- D. In giving warnings of judgments before He orders them to go forth; wrath is published before it is executed – Zeph. 2:1-2; 2 Peter 2:5
  - 1. He often gives warnings so that He might not pour out his judgment - Jonah 3 and 4
  - 2. His threatenings are not so much of a black flag as of an olive branch.
- E. When He begins to send out His judgments, He does it by degrees – Hosea 6:5; Joel 1:4
- F. In giving great mercies even though having been provoked – Psalm 73: 1-5

IV. Why does God exercise so much patience?

- A. It is part of His character – Exodus 34:6; Psalm 86:15
- B. To show Himself appeasable – Acts 14:17
- C. To wait for men's repentance – 2 Peter 3:15
- D. To continue the growth of His church with His people – 1 Kings 14:13

V. Applications of this attribute.

- A. Practice it – 1 Cor. 13:4
- B. Exercise it during hardships – 2 Cor. 6:6
- C. Pray for it for oneself and for others – Col. 1:9-13
- D. Minister and serve with it – 1 Tim. 4:2