

## **Topic:** Character – Suffering without complaint (Lesson 433)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

### **Elementary:**

Verse: “You also be long-suffering” (James 5:8a).

Focus: A person with proper character is willing to suffer without complaint. They do not complain when there are times in their life that they have to go without something they want.

Practical Application: We may not always get what we want or when we want it. What if you are very hungry, but your mother is on an important phone call and cannot get you something to eat right away? What if your family is invited to someone’s house, but when you get there, there is nothing for you to do and no one to play with? Consider that some children in other countries may not even have enough food for each day, while often we complain about “boredom.” To suffer without complaint means we accept the situation and do not complain or become upset.

### **Intermediate:**

Verse: “In pureness, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love” (2 Corinthians 6:6).

Focus: A person with proper character is willing to suffer without complaint. They do not complain when they suffer the loss of something, go without something, or are required to do something that is unpleasant.

Practical Application: Sometimes you are given tasks which you find unpleasant, such as taking out the trash or cleaning up someone else’s mess. Or your mother may decide that you cannot attend a certain gathering that everyone else is going to or purchase a certain game that everyone else seems to have. A person with proper character is willing to go through unpleasant experiences or go without something, all without complaining about the situation.

### **Advanced:**

Verse: “Put on therefore as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, meekness, long-suffering” (Colossians 3:12).

Focus: A person with proper character is willing to suffer without complaint. They are able to pass through experiences in their life which are unpleasant or difficult, without complaining or giving up when going through hardships.

Practical Application: Do you have a teacher or coach who is really tough on you and not so nice? Do you complain about this person and how hard or unfair they are? Everyone goes through unpleasant experiences in their life. A person with proper character undergoes these unpleasant experiences without complaining or giving up. Consider telling some stories of people who experienced hardships and suffering without complaining or giving up, e.g., missionaries like Hudson Taylor, people who were disabled or became very ill, a personal experience, etc.