



The Fruit of the Spirit

Gentleness and Self-Control





Gentleness/Meekness



Definition

- An inward quality exercised towards God, the temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good and without disputing or resisting
- Mildness, humility (does not suggest weakness)
- Gentle, meek



Gentleness

- Vine's Exp. Dict. Of Biblical Words, pg. 401—"...it consists not in a person's 'outward behavior only; nor yet in his relations to his fellow-men...Rather it is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.... does not fight against God and more or less struggle and contend with Him. This meekness, however, being first of all a meekness before God, is also such in the face of men, even of evil men, out of a sense that these, with the insults and injuries which they may inflict, are permitted and employed by Him for the chastening and purifying of His elect'. The meaning 'is not readily expressed in English, for the terms meekness, mildness...suggest weakness.... It must be clearly understood, therefore, that the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command."



Not Weakness

- Many view meekness as a characteristic of those who have no choice or power to be otherwise.
- Those described as “meek” were anything but weak.
 - Moses – Num. 12:3; Heb. 11:24-25
 - Jesus – 2 Cor. 10:1; Mt. 23:37





Gentleness/Meekness

Importance



Important because...

- It is a foundational characteristic of our Lord and Savior used to draw people to Him – Mt. 11:28-30; 10:24-25; Jn. 15:20
- It is a necessary for:
 - Salvation – Jas. 1:21; Rm. 8:28
 - The expression of true wisdom – Jas. 3:13
 - Walking worthy of our calling in Christ – Eph. 4:1-3
 - Biblical unity – 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Col. 3:12-13
 - Answering others concerning our hope – 1 Pet. 3:14-15



Conclusion

- From what we have learned, it is little wonder that a meek spirit is said to be “very precious in the sight of God” – 1 Pet. 3:4
- I hope that you will consider whether the world sees in you the meek/gentle spirit of Christ.
- God is not asking you to be weak, but to submit to and live within the greatest power there is—that of God himself!