

Galatians 5:22,23

(NKJV) ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness,**

Another word used to describe Gentleness in the bible is the word meekness. Jesus himself defined and taught gentleness as a virtue to be sought after and prized. The interesting thing is that throughout the ages of time before Jesus no philosopher or teacher had taught that gentleness or meekness was a virtue to be sought after. And for sure absolutely nobody saw it as strength of character.

Yet the bible declares that gentleness in a believer's spirit is God's delight. Gentleness in fact honors God when we display it. It shows our willingness to submit to Him without complaint or rebellion. Whatever you do don't be like the man that confuses the spirit of gentleness with weakness. Nothing could be future from the

truth. Jesus himself once said that gentleness or meekness is one of the keys to entering the kingdom of heaven when he said that Christians need to learn how to humble themselves as little children in Matthew's gospel.

Matthew 18:4 (NKJV)

⁴*Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Also according to Solomon the wisest man who ever lived next to Jesus, he said that humility brings a *threefold* blessing into our life. It promises riches, honor and life.

Proverbs 22:4 (NKJV)

⁴*By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.*

We also must never forget that God's spirit dwells in those people who have a meek spirit.

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy *place*, With him *who* has a

contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Finally never forget that Satan seeks to destroy our humility with pride so we must constantly be on the watch for his antics.

Now if you are like me you might be wondering just how; "do I become gentile in spirit?"

According to James the Lord's brother it's a personal experience.

James 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

So as we humble ourselves under God's mighty hand He is the one who lifts us up. (*or makes us known*) Also the great apostle Peter instructs us to practice humility by wearing it as a garment. In other words when people see you they should see humility and gentleness.

1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)

⁵Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be

clothed with humility, for
“*God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the
humble.*”

What a statement; God resists the proud; do you realize that pride makes God and enemy of yours? But on the flip side no matter what your social status or bank account reads He gives grace to the humble. I don't know about you but I need grace quite often as a pastor in these last days. Jesus said that we can only become great in his eyes by our willingness to be humble and serve others around us. When we finally realize just who we really are we are on our way to becoming a meek person.

Luke 22:26 (NKJV) ²⁶But not so *among* you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

Many people struggle in this life trying to decide just what it is that God wants them to do. The prophet Micah sheds some light on the subject by informing us that there are only three things that the Lord wants us to do.
Micah 6:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He

has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to **do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**

Walking humbly with God means that we are giving Him permission to be in charge of our life. In other words our life exists to serve him. We have no goals of our own, only His will is all that matters. In the opposite pride has been the downfall of many great men in history. In fact pride is the character trait that always brings man down.

Proverbs 29:23 (NKJV)

²³ A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.

That's why one of the beatitudes are blessed are the poor in spirit. A person who is poor in spirit is a person who realizes that they need God. Like Peter on the fishing boat after he had just caught a great catch of fish at Jesus's command; “*Lord depart from me for I'm a sinful man.*” When he got in God's presence he instantly realized that he was a depraved, sinful man. He was overcome with humility. And that

was the beginning of his walk with God. That moment of humility would carry him unto the day of Pentecost where he preached a three minute sermon and saw three thousand people become follows of Christ. In my own life one of my main prayers is; “Lord make me into a gentle man.” I believe we all should pray that prayer from time to time what do you think?

Continued next month