

What's in YOUR Garden? (Part 9)
The Fruit of the Spirit: GENTLENESS

Pastor Bill Bowers
September 18, 2016

Galatians 5:22-23

We tend to associate gentleness with _____.

Gentleness = Prautes = gentleness, meekness, humbleness of heart.

Prautes = Power and strength that is under control that will benefit someone else.

Galatians 5:20 "Fits of Rage" (NIV) "Outbursts of Anger" (NLT)

Gentleness is turning the reigns of your anger and aggravation over to the Holy Spirit.

AS YOU KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

1. Gentleness will _____.

You can use your nature as an explanation for why _____, but you cannot use it as an _____!

2. The Holy Spirit will control the _____.

...filled with the Holy Spirit...and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Acts 2:4

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit...he said to them. Acts 4:8

You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant. Acts 4:25

They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly. Acts 4:31

If anyone considers themselves religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. James 1:26

"...gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15

Let your gentleness be evident to all... Philippians 4:5

3. The Holy Spirit teaches us to _____.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)

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For Personal Reflection or LifeGroup Questions
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1. In his teaching, Pastor Bill stated: "We tend to associate gentleness with weakness." Do you believe this is true, generally speaking? What do you tend to associate with "gentleness?" Be specific with examples.
2. At the other end of the gentleness spectrum, Pastor Bill shared from Galatians 5:20, "fits of rage" and "outbursts of anger." Where would you describe yourself on this spectrum, with 1 being "fits and outbursts, rage and anger" and 10 being perfect gentleness? What explanation or commentary might you offer on your self-assessment?
3. One of the teaching points from this message on gentleness was that (the) Holy Spirit will control the words that we speak. How do you think that works? What role does the Holy Spirit play and what role do we (individual responsibility) play in this partnership of "controlling words?" Do you think this arrangement might extend beyond words to other areas of our life? (ex. anger issues, lust, greed, covetousness, etc.)
4. Referencing the ministry of the Holy Spirit raises the important question, "What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?" How would you describe this as taking place in your own life? What would you express as the evidence that it was true and active in your life? Do you have questions or doubts to the effectiveness of the Holy Spirit living and actively working in you? Where would you go to get answers to these questions if you do have them?
5. We proclaim Jesus as the primary model of gentleness (as well as the other noted virtues found in the Fruit of the Spirit). How would you describe Jesus' model of this virtue? What part does humility have to play in the expression of gentleness? "Let Me teach you, because I am *humble* and *gentle* at heart..." Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)
6. If you struggle with gentleness (or any of the negative aspects of it; anger, rage, impatience, etc.), what do you think is the source of that/those struggle(s)? What might be a "next step" toward moving in a more gentleness dominated direction?

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