

Fruit Of The Spirit

Meekness

(Ps 37:1-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fruit Of The Spirit."
 - a. We have looked at the first seven characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit.
 - i. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness.
 - b. Today we are going to examine the second to last characteristic...
 - i. Meekness or Gentleness
3. Meekness
 - a. The Greek word for Meekness is "πραΰτης" or "prau-ot-tes."
 - i. This word meekness/gentleness is found 16 times in 16 different verses.
 - b. Meekness is defined as...
 - i. Nelson's Bible Dictionary: "An attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from a recognition that God is in control. Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage. But meekness is due to a person's conscious choice. **It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness.**" (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)
 - ii. The psalmist had this in mind in **Ps 37:1-11**.
 1. "Meekness is the ability not to take up arms in defense against the evil in the world, but to patiently wait on God"
 - iii. This is the idea of a wild animal that has been tamed.
 1. It is not that the animal cannot attack but chooses not to and is rather in reliance on the one that tamed it.
4. With that in mind let us examine how one can gain and grow the eighth characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit, meekness (strength under control formed in kindness).

I. By Resting, Responding, & Residing

- A. Resting in God the Son
 1. **Mt 11:28-30** "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."¹ (ASV)
 - i. **Je 6:16** "...Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls...."
- b. Responding to God the Father
 1. **Ja 1:21** "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
 - i. **Ja 3:13** "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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c. Residing in God the Spirit

1. **Ga 5:16, 22-25** "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh..22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."
 - i. **I Co 3:16** "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

II. By Focusing, Forging, & Fighting

A. Focusing on the prize

1. **I Co 9:24-27** "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."
 - i. **He 12:1** "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"

B. Forging ahead in the Word

1. **Co 2:6-10** "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority."
 - i. **Ep 5:6** "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

C. Fighting the good fight

1. **I Ti 6:12** "Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."
 - i. **Ph 3:8-12** "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."

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CONCLUSION

1. Meekness/Gentleness is not a characteristic that can be gained and developed without fervent dedication.
 - a. With this dedication we can become a meek/gentle people of God set to inherit the earth.
 - i. **Mt 5:5** "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."
 - b. Here "Jesus wants us to understand that only the meek will enjoy the abundant blessings of God in this life." (Sermon: Blessed Are The Meek by Moore, Tom)
 - i. "All worthwhile things of this world are in the possession of the meek...things like love and friendship." (Ibid)
 - ii. "The meek are able to enjoy the best that others have to offer because they are able to give their best to others." (Ibid)
2. Question: Is the characteristic of meekness found in you?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not, why not?
 - i. What is hindering you from doing that which is expected of every child of God?
 - ii. Are you willing to correct it and make it right?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**