

## **GENTLENESS SHOWS STRENGTH.**

Galatians 5:22-23a

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> **gentleness**,*

### What is gentleness in the Bible?

- A submissive and teachable spirit toward God that manifests itself in genuine humility and consideration toward others...As an expression of the fruit of the Spirit, gentleness is strength under control, power harnessed in loving service and respectful actions.<sup>1</sup>
- The opposite of an arrogant and self-assertive spirit.<sup>2</sup>
- Not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance.<sup>3</sup>
- Not incompatible with decisive **action** and firm convictions.<sup>4</sup>

### Jesus & Gentleness

- Jesus invites us to come to Him – Matthew 11:28 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
- Jesus invites us to **learn** from Him – Matthew 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*
- Jesus gives us **purpose** and direction – Matthew 11:30 *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

## Action points

- Let meekness be your heart attitude towards God's Truth: Meekness allows us to **absorb** the Bible – James 1:21b ***and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.***
  
- Let the gentleness of Christ filter how you relate to people.
  - Interacting with people– Titus 3:2-3 *to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, **to be gentle**, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.*  
<sup>3</sup> *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.*
  
  - **Defending** the truth of Jesus Christ – 1 Peter 3:15b *always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; **yet do it with gentleness and respect,***
  
  - **Correcting** others – 2 Timothy 2:24-25 *And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup> **correcting his opponents with gentleness.** God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,*

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<sup>1</sup> "It is regrettable that the English word "gentleness" has come to have the popular connotation of a wimpish weakness and nonassertive lack of vigor." Timothy George, *Galatians*, Vol. 30 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 404.

<sup>2</sup> Richard N. Longenecker, *Galatians*, Vol. 41 (Dallas: Word, 1990), 262-263.

<sup>3</sup> W. Arndt, F. W. Danker, & W. Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed., (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 861.

<sup>4</sup> Timothy George, *Galatians*, Vol. 30 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 404.