

The Road To Victory: Meekness

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5

In this day and age, folk admire strength and despise weakness. They are all too prone to classify meekness with cowardice. Yet the Word of God says that wise men will speak and act with meekness (James 3:13). Jesus set the example and commanded us to follow it. He made some extravagant promises to those who would, in His strength, obey His admonition.

Since meekness calls for self-denial, it is hard to associate it with joy and victory, except in the sense of a later reward. Yet Jesus, Who cannot lie, said, "*Blessed (happy) are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth*" (Matthew 5:5).

Notice that He did not say blessed will be the meek, but He used the present tense!

Oh, the rest and peace that comes to those who know they are in the center of God's will, no matter how the storms may rage around them! Jesus said, "*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*" (Matthew 11:29). When we demonstrate His love, patience, and longsuffering by reacting to an unpleasant situation with a meek and kindly spirit, we can know true inner peace and happiness, which the world cannot understand.

Yet it has to be HIS meekness being lived out in us - not our own Herculean efforts to "grin and bear it." Here again, as in the case of each of the other graces in God's nine-fold Fruit of the Spirit, our own determined efforts are hopelessly inadequate and we must helplessly cast ourselves on Him, confessing our utter inability to measure up to God's standard, and turn the job over to Him to live this through a completely yielded and cleansed vessel: our mind and body.

Not only are we to take what other people hand out to us in persecutions, frustrations, etc., with a meek and lowly spirit, but also we are to instruct with meekness. On occasions, it is your duty and mine to teach others, not only in the sense of teaching a Sunday school class, but also to instruct some Christian brother or sister who has strayed from the right path. Paul gave this advice to his son-in-the-Lord, Timothy: "*In meekness, instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will*" (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

Now in straightening out other people, let the Christian be sure he is led of the Lord, and that it is not someone else that God has planned to take on this unpleasant task! But if you are the one in authority, or the one whose plain duty it is to undertake it, make sure you do it as the Lord admonishes. After much prayer, make sure you do it in a spirit of meekness, seeking God's guidance for every word. Many who do not have the tact, humility, nor aptitude for this ticklish work are the first to appoint themselves to tell their fellow Christians just where they are wrong, and just one of those folk doing this without the direction and guidance and enabling of God can cause havoc in any church.

If you happen to be on the receiving end of such an operation, you, too, are warned to take it meekly, humbly, and lay aside all "*superfluity of naughtiness*" (James 1:21).

In the Book of Proverbs we are repeatedly taught that it is only a fool who despiseth reproof! Let's don't be foolish Christians!

If you are willing to die out to your natural human desire to assert yourself and to fight for your rights, and instead will join "God's hall of fame" among those whom He has called His friends and "a man after my own heart", just seek a meek and quiet spirit from the only One who can give it to you, and be happy here and hereafter.

If you do, you have many blessings coming to you. The promises of God are many to those who will take the meek and lowly place. You may have **wisdom and guidance** (see Psalm 25:9) and **abundance of peace** (Psalm 37:11). You shall be lifted up (Psalm 147:6); be **defended of God** (Isaiah 11:4); have **increase of joy** (Isaiah 20:19) and **inherit the earth** (Matthew 5:5).

What more could you ask?

Yes, it is all very worthwhile. In fact, any other course is folly. God expects of us the demonstration of the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives—not just one or two or three of its parts, but the WHOLE fruit - the love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance, and goodness. He has a right to demand this, for He provided the way to enable us to live all of this in our daily lives —the LIVING CHRIST-- living in us, to whom we surrender our lives not once, not occasionally re-dedicating ourselves, but like Paul, we are to "die daily" to our own way and let Him have His. God can and God WILL produce in YOUR life all that He demands.

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