

1. INTRO: God Makes a difference with REAL power

a. it isn't like we expect

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. Galatians 5:16-17

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, **hostility**, quarreling, jealousy, **outbursts of anger**, **selfish ambition**, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness**, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:19-23

Hostility - Outbursts of Anger - Selfish ambition **vs** Gentleness
Gentleness (Prautes) - *is best described as inwrought grace of the soul.*

2. God's spirit → God's Gentleness

a. Strong Powerful AND Gentle

Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. Isaiah 40:10-11

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, " Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39

b. Uses his great power gently as a shepherd.

Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor." And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me." Matthew 11:4-6

So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and **humbly** accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the **power** to save your souls. James 1:21

3. God Engages with Gentleness Towards Us

Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross Philippians 2:7-8

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Matthew 16:24-25

a. As a good shepherd would

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. John 10:11

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of 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

4. Engaging with Gentleness Towards Others

a. Using our God given desires with gentleness

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love Ephesians 4:2

b. With a desire to help others in the same way

So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. 1 Peter 3:14-16