

# KINGDOM ATTRIBUTES

## BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

### THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH

*Ruth Gallagher*

**God Blesses the Gentle and the Lowly.**

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5, NKJV)*

*God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. (Matthew 5:5, NLT)*

#### **What Does Blessed Mean?**

The word *blessed* that Jesus used in the Sermon on the Mount comes from the Greek word *makarios*, which means to be happy or blissful, but it also means a self-contained happiness. Our happiness is not dependent on our circumstances. It is self-contained, meaning that regardless of what is happening to us externally, we can be truly happy internally. We can be genuinely blessed as followers of Christ.

#### **What Is Meekness?**

What do you think of when you hear the word meekness?

Meekness is a great example where our cultural definition is not at all the same as the biblical. It's barely a desirable trait in our culture. It is associated with being weak or someone who is easily pushed around.

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines meekness as:

1. Enduring injury with patience and without resentment (a synonym for meekness is mild). It's sort of like being a doormat. You give in easily to others and just put up with other people's junk and do nothing about it.
2. Deficient in spirit and courage (a synonym for meekness is submissive). Our culture sees the meek as deficient in spirit and courage, or submissive.

In the Bible, the Greek word translated "meek" is *praeis* and refers to **mildness** and **gentleness** of spirit, or **humility**. The Greek understanding of the word, "meek" had to do with the breaking-in of horses, the training of animals. Imagine an untamed animal filled with passion, spirit, and energy and then imagine getting all that under control during the training process. The Greek understanding of "meek" carries with it the idea of taking all this fire, all this passion, and putting it under control. It is a breaking process.

Meekness can also be defined as:

- The willingness to submit and work under authority.
- Willingness to disregard one's own rights and privileges.
- Humility towards God and towards others (Ephesians 5:21).
- Having the right or the power to do something but refraining from using it for the benefit of someone else.
- Meekness is not the same as a weakness. It's a strength.
- Aristotle said it's "strength under control," a form of self-control.

#### **What Is It To Be Meek?**

To be meek means:

- You commit your cause to God and there's no need to defend yourself.  
*Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, 'I will take revenge; I will pay them back,' says the LORD. (Romans 12:19)*
- You are forgiving, will not overcome evil with evil but overcome evil with good.  
*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.' (Romans 12:2)*
- You have a teachable spirit. *"The meek will he teach his way. Teachable people are willing to learn and listen carefully (Psalm 25:9)*
- You love the word of God and submit to it. *"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11)*
- You are not proud.
- You don't resent people. You are not rude or reckless.
- You're submissive but not under oppression.
- You stand immovable in God's truth because you submit to God before you submit to man.

### Who Is To Be Meek?

Meekness is also an attribute of Jesus. And we are called to become like Him.

Jesus is calling us as his disciples to be meek.

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*  
(Matthew 11:28-30, ASV)

### Why Is Meekness Important?

Meekness is important because:

- It produces a blessing - Mathew 5:5 *'Blessed are the meek'*, Scripture shows that blessing is anything God gives that makes us fully satisfied in him. Anything that draws us closer to Jesus. Anything that helps us give up the temporal and hold on more tightly to the eternal.
- It causes your joy to grow - Isaiah 29:19 *'The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy one of Israel.'*
- It produces abundance peace – Psalms 37:11. The meek will have peace with God, they will have peace in their own consciences; they will have peace with those around them.

### When Is Meekness Applicable?

Meekness is applicable when we are tested.

How do you respond when you are falsely accused, misjudged or verbally abused? 1 Peter 2:23 *'When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.'*  
Meekness cannot be applied by human strength. We need the Holy Spirit to enable us to be meek. Without the Holy Spirit we cannot do it.

### How Do We Become Meek?

We become meek by:

- Being humble to serve others whole-heartedly. Ultimately, humility allows us to serve our Master, Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:5-8, *"In your relationships with one another, have the same mind-set as Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross!"*
- Giving Jesus total control over our lives.
- Submitting and being able to work under authority. James 4:10 *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."*
- Acknowledging that meekness is an important character trait that God wants to see in His people in Galatians 5:22-23.
- Making room for God. We must decrease and Jesus must increase. When we are full of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit enables us to be meek indeed.
- Being humble before the Lord. 1 Peter 5:6, *"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour."*
- Being willing to learn. Mathew 11:29 *'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.'*
- Showing good conduct, through conversations at work, in our homes and offices. James 3:13 *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom."*

### What Does It Mean That The Meek Will "INHERIT THE EARTH"?

To "inherit the earth," the following facts should be noted:

1. God is the owner of this earth - Psalm 24:1, *"The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."*
2. Those who obey Christ become children of God - John 1:12, *"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God"*, and "joint-heirs" with the Lord (Romans 8:17).
3. The Father supplies all our needs - Philippians 4:19, *"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"*. We therefore enjoy this earth and its blessings more than all others.
4. Our inheritance is spiritual we are heirs in the kingdom of Christ - Colossians 1:12, *"giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light"*, and citizenship in that kingdom is available now on this earth.
5. Finally, we also look for an inheritance that is reserved for us in heaven - 1 Peter 1:4 *"And we have a priceless inheritance an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay."*

Meekness is part of God's nature and it is our inheritance! We need to ask God to help us become meek if we are to inherit this earth. We should look out for those tests that will come, which will try to push us into our old nature by getting us angry, harsh or proud. Let us use them to exercise meekness by His power!