

Fruits of the Spirit: Gentleness



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Speaker:
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Strange

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Defining Gentleness

- **Greek πραυτης “prautes”** : gentle, humble, meek
- **Ancient Aristotelian view** : mean between excessive anger and the inability to be angry
- **Current world’s definition** : docile, soft, delicate, free from harshness
- **Our definition** : strength humbly displayed as love

Gentleness of All-Powerful God

He is Gentle Towards Us

1 Kings 19:11-13

¹¹ So He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and powerful wind was tearing out the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the LORD; *but* the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind *there was* an earthquake, *but* the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake, a fire, *but* the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing. ¹³ When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Psalm 18:25-36

²⁵ With the faithful You show Yourself faithful; with the blameless You prove Yourself blameless;

²⁶ With the pure You show Yourself pure, and with the crooked You show Yourself astute.

²⁷ For You save an afflicted people, but You humiliate haughty eyes.

²⁸ For You light my lamp; the LORD my God illumines my darkness.

²⁹ For by You I can run at a troop of warriors; and by my God I can leap over a wall.

Psalm 18:25-36

30 As for God, His way is blameless; the word of the LORD is refined; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

31 For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,

32 The God who encircles me with strength, and makes my way blameless?

33 He makes my feet like deer's *feet*, and sets me up on my high places.

Psalm 18:25-36

34 He trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; and Your gentleness makes me great.

36 You enlarge my steps under me, and my feet have not slipped.

Gentleness of All-Powerful God

He is Gentle Towards Us

He is Gentle in His Requirements of Us

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

Gentleness of All-Powerful God

He is Gentle Towards Us

He is Gentle in His Requirements of Us

He is Gentle in His Nature

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, as He *already* existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself *by* taking the form of a bond-servant *and* being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁹ For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gentleness of All-Powerful God

He is Gentle Towards Us

He is Gentle in His Requirements of Us

He is Gentle in His Nature

We are Called to Gentle Action and Living

Gentle in Our Witness to the World

Colossians 3:12

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience

1 Peter 3:13-17

¹³ And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE IN DREAD, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;

1 Peter 3:13-17

¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

We are Called to Gentle Action and Living

Gentle in Our Witness to the World

Gentleness in our Treatment of Christian
Brothers and Sisters

Proverbs 15:1-4

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger.

The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable,
But the mouth of fools spouts folly.

The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
Watching the evil and the good.

A soothing tongue is a tree of life,
But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

Galatians 6:1

Brothers *and sisters*, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Applications

- Are you gentle at home? At work?
- Would your kids describe you as Gentle with them? What about your requirements of them?
- Are you gentle when you win? Are you gentle with people who do not share your beliefs?

