

THE BLESSEDNESS OF MEEKNESS
(Matthew 5:5)

I. The MEANING of Meekness

A. Usually thought of as PEACEFUL and PASSIVE

B. Definitions of the quality

1. “The exercise of confidence in God’s LOVE and WISDOM that TEMPERS our responses to people and circumstances”
2. “The absence of pretension...[demonstrating] GENTLENESS and self-control...freedom from malice and a VENGEFUL spirit”
3. “POWER completely surrendered to GOD’S control”
4. The STRENGTH of FAITH

C. Characteristics of the quality

1. A gentle, humble, patient spirit that would rather CRUCIFY self than GLORIFY self (Gen. 13:5-9)
2. An attitude of inner peace and a capacity to handle the pressures of life without MALICE, BITTERNESS, or ANGER (1 Sam. 24:5-6; 2 Sam. 16:5-12)
3. The spirit in which we accept God’s dealings with us as GOOD without DISPUTING or RESISTING (Gen. 45:5, 8; 50:19-20)

D. PERFECT demonstration seen only in CHRIST (Matt. 11:29)

II. How to DEVELOP Meekness

A. The Holy Spirit WITNESSES to our FAITH (Job 38:1-41:34)

- B. The Holy Spirit WHISPERS in our FAINTING (1 Kings 19:7)
- C. The Holy Spirit WORKS in our FAILURES (John 21:15-17)

III. The EVIDENCE that You Are Meek

A. GODWARD evidences

1. RESPOND to God's WORD (James 1:21; 1 Sam. 3:9)
2. EMBRACE God's WILL (1 Pet. 2:23)
3. Walk WORTHY of Christ's NAME (Eph. 4:1-2; Col. 3:12)

B. MANWARD evidences

1. PATIENT when PROVOKED (Titus 3:2; 2 Tim. 2:25)
2. Ready to RESTORE a fallen brother while conscious of our own WEAKNESS (Gal. 6:1)
3. Show CHRIST to OTHERS (1 Pet. 3:15)

C. INWARD evidences

1. Know inner PEACE whatever our outward CIRCUMSTANCES (Phil 4:11-12; 2 Cor. 4:8-9, 16-18)
2. Live in the ENJOYMENT of God's BLESSINGS (Matt. 5:5)
3. Be more LIKE CHRIST (2 Cor. 10:1; 1 Pet. 4:1)

IV. The RESULT of Meekness

- A. Receive their own INHERITANCE in "the EARTH"
- B. Ultimately FUTURE in the "NEW earth (Rev. 21:1-3; cf. Ps. 37:1-13)
- C. Provides HOPE and JOY in this life