

Personal Application and Conversations

1. You're a money changer in the temple square when Jesus clears you out. Talk about your attitude toward this person who later invites you to come to Him saying, *"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."* (Matt.11:28-30)
2. Talk about a time when turning to Jesus softened the anger surging in your soul. (James 1:19-21).
3. It was suggested that we would be well to think of gentleness as "power under control"; wild creatures can be tamed and power brokers can be broken. What is it in your life that could use a little temperance managed by your walk in the Spirit?
4. What does waiting on the Lord look like in your life lately? (Psalm 37:7-11)
5. How do you think you come across when you talk to people about your hope (1 Peter 3:13-16)?



Gentleness

Galatians 5:23

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I vividly recall sitting at the table with a friend who told me he couldn't see the reality in what Jesus said about meekness/gentleness, *"The meek [or gentle] shall inherit the earth"* in Matthew 5:5. He reasoned that it just doesn't happen that way. It's only the strong that survive. They harness their power to get what they want by brute force and manipulation. But King David, the warrior king, wrote in Psalm 37:7-11, *"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret – it leads only to evil. For evil men will be cut off. But those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace."* And God assures us, ***the path to gentleness is traveled by those who walk in the Spirit.***

Simply put: Gentleness is power under control

- *Strength mixed with a gentle disposition*
- *In rulers and judges: sternness tempered by leniency*

Gentleness involves

- ***Submission*** to God and His Word (Col.3:12)

- ***Humility*** (James 1:21)

- ***Consideration*** of others (Eph. 4:2)

Gentleness willingly waits (Ps. 37:7-11)

Gentleness is a tone of voice (1 Pet. 3:15-16)

- ***Gentleness corrects*** others without an air of superiority (Gal. 6:1)