

*Our Quietness Reveals
Satan's Defeat*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 18715
BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2000

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 5

Chapter 1 6

CONTROLLED BY GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS

Chapter 2 9

GOD-GIVEN RESTING PLACES

Chapter 3 13

HEARKENING UNTO HIS WORD

Chapter 4 18

*A VICTORIOUS NATURE EXPOSES
SATAN'S DEFEAT*

CONCLUSION 22

INTRODUCTION

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33). The devil is the author of confusion. He hates a quiet spirit, and he tries to make us so occupied and busy with the details of life that we fail to seek what we really need: a consistent vertical relationship with Jesus Christ.

Having quietness in our souls does not mean that we are silent, but that we can stand boldly against the storm. It is not something we can attain through self-effort. Rather, divine quietness is present only in one whose heart is meek, one who is consistently God-conscious.

This booklet will reveal the glory of meekness that produces a quiet spirit. The Christian who understands it manifests the truth of Isaiah 32:17: “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.”

Chapter One
CONTROLLED BY
GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS

“But let [your adorning] be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a *meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price*” (1 Peter 3:4).

“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all men which were upon the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3).

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance” (Galatians 5:22-23).

The first three fruits mentioned in Galatians 5:22 (love, joy, and peace) are inward qualities that adorn the one who is filled with the Spirit of God. The next three are outward qualities that we extend to others. But the last three are upward, to glorify God. Therefore, meekness is one way we give honor to God.

Behind the attributes of quietness, assurance,

serenity, tranquillity, peace, fellowship, and love—behind every tremendous relationship we have with others—is meekness, a production of the Holy Spirit. How is a Christian transformed into Christ's image? Meekness does it.

Meekness is a sacred quality, much different from humility. Humility speaks of our attitude before men. Meekness is the attitude of a heart before God. It means being God-conscious instead of self-conscious. No one can produce meekness. Meekness comes only as the fruit of walking in the Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ will supernaturally teach only those who are meek toward Him. The meek will receive His knowledge, which the Holy Spirit transfers through His power (*energeia*) into the memory center. There, Scriptures are memorized supernaturally and locked in by *ischus*, which is the power of the Holy Spirit that brings the Word to our conscious mind. The Word is then placed in the streams of consciousness. Then, through *kratos*, the Word that was in the hidden, inner man is manifested through us to others (Ephesians 1:19).^{*} This hidden man is the new creation, which is incorruptible. He has the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is of great price in the sight of God.

Quietness and Confidence

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve were only conscious of God, of each other, and of the work they were to do in the Garden. Before the Fall, anything could have happened to disturb them, and they would not have been conscious of it at all. Perhaps Satan tried to distract them daily. But because of meekness, they were only God-conscious.

Meekness means that we become so focused on the indwelling presence of God, the Holy Spirit, and the Lord Jesus Christ, that we see everything through God-consciousness. This produces a quiet spirit.

Acts 19:36 instructs us to be quiet and to do nothing rashly. We are to be controlled only by God-consciousness. Isaiah 30:15 says, "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Quietness and confidence come from a spirit of meekness rooted in God-consciousness.

**For more about the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, read Building Walls of Doctrine, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1999.*

Chapter Two

GOD-GIVEN RESTING PLACES

The most precious thing in God's eyes is a believer with a meek and quiet spirit. The only reason we have problems with others is because we are not meek. When we lack meekness, we do not have God-consciousness toward others.

The key to success in any business, on any team, or in any organization is to always pray and live in God-consciousness, not in self-consciousness. Self-consciousness is not meekness. It is the opposite of love. It is selfishness that leaves a person trying to fulfill his own need for self, rationalizing it and justifying it in a vocabulary of self-preservation.

When God gives quietness, who can make trouble? Job 34:29 asks.

While you read this booklet, allow the Holy Spirit to instruct you. God teaches those who are meek (Psalm 25:9).

Do you become upset when you bring up a

good idea and someone acts as if they could care less about what you just said? You may think, “He doesn’t appreciate all that I do.” That is self-consciousness that is bringing you low.

If you have an idea and someone else has a different one, allow meekness to rule your emotions. Express your idea but remain God-conscious. If you get your way, fine; if not, the issue is not who wins but that we stay focused and remain God-conscious. Stay meek.

Demonic Disruptions

“For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land” (Psalm 35:20).

Understanding meekness means to understand what is referred to in this verse. The word *episeisen* is used in the Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament, describing an army of demons that comes to provoke restlessness (1 Chronicles 21:1). These invisible forces use restlessness to regulate our emotions to the winds of circumstances, the fears of failure, or the insecurity of the present. Another word used here is *anapeithetosan*. It means that Satan comes invisibly and inaudibly to defend your right to be wrong (Jeremiah 29:8).

It is entirely possible to live without a single negative feeling toward anyone when we live in the undisturbed quietness of God in the midst of the storms of human experience. Satan doesn't want Christians to discover how to walk in the Spirit and be meek. But 1 Chronicles 4:40a speaks of those who find "fat pasture and good, and the land was wide, and quiet, and peaceable." These believers are undisturbed inwardly. Instead of negative reactions, they have a meek and quiet spirit in the sight of God.

Sowing the Word in the Heart

I will always remember visiting a dear friend in the hospital who was 91 years old at that time. She was supposedly in severe pain and possibly incoherent because of her condition. When I went into her room, I found her quoting Psalm 91. Then she quoted Psalm 23, and Psalm 4, and Psalm 77. She just kept quoting Scripture!

I knew then that she could understand me, and I asked, "Are you in pain?"

"Do act like I am in pain?" she snapped back.

So I just prayed for her. Then, I said, "Now, would you pray for me? You have been laying there ministering to me all this time, so now please pray for me."

That woman had such quietness. She was in severe pain, but she understood what the Word of God said to Israel in Isaiah 32:17-20:

“The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.

“And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

“When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place. Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass.”

Those who are meek have quietness and confidence to go forward with God, regardless of the circumstances. They have quiet resting places—not just one place, but many.

Chapter Three

HEARKENING UNTO HIS WORD

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety” (Psalm 4:8).

“The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness” (Psalm 41:3).

I gave these verses to a person who called me and said, “I just can’t sleep at night, and I haven’t been feeling well. What should I do?”

Then I said to her, “Do you believe these verses?”

There was a long pause. “Say them again,” she said.

I repeated the verses to her. “You called me, and I am giving you God’s solution to be able to sleep as you have never slept before. Now, do you believe that if you lay down and sleep in peace, God will give you quietness and let you dwell in safety? Only God can do it. Do you be-

lieve that He will make your bed when you are sick? This means He will give you rest. Do you believe that? Do you believe God will take care of you when you are languishing?"

"I will claim the verses," she finally said.

I wish that I could say that was the end of it, that she slept wonderfully from that point on. But the next day she called in on our radio talk show and asked, "Is there anything you can do to help me sleep?"

So I said, "Yes, there are two verses I can give you: Psalm 4:8 and Psalm 41:3."

I read them again to her.

"Those verses make sense to me. I know I will sleep soundly tonight," she said.

That was the first time she really *heard* those verses. A week or so later, she called to say that she was now sleeping peacefully. "It was the two verses you gave me on the radio. I had never heard them before."

This story illustrates what Matthew 13:13 means when it says, "Hearing, they hear not." It happens all the time. The woman was so occupied with self-consciousness that she was overwhelmed by the circumstances going on in her life. She had no capacity to hear those verses when I said them the first time.

A while later, I saw her again and asked, "How are you sleeping?"

"In peace!" she said. "Only God could do that."

Now she has these verses mastered. Knowledge was transferred and transformed into life, and once again, Satan was defeated. Her quietness was the result of something far better than sleeping pills.

God-Consciousness vs. Self-Consciousness

"But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be *quiet* from fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:33).

"Quiet" here is the Hebrew word, *shaan*. It describes divine quietness that comes from divine meekness, which is God-consciousness. Consider what God is saying. A Spirit-filled person lives in God-consciousness; a carnal person lives in self-consciousness (1 Corinthians 3, Romans 8:5-7). Self-consciousness produces self-preservation and restlessness in circumstances. God-consciousness produces quietness, assurance, confidence, and tremendous peace, in spite of outward circumstances against inward turmoil. Meekness and a quiet spirit have a great value.

Whosoever listens to God shall, in God-consciousness, dwell in safety and find divine quietness: quietness when the marriage goes bad, quietness when all kinds of unusual things start to happen.

Rejoice Always

I ministered to a woman who was severely burned in a terrible fire with her son and her daughter. This family was very special to me because of their hearts toward God. I went to the hospital to visit her and she quoted Proverbs 1:33 to me.

“God gave me that verse,” she told me. “And I wrote down in my Bible the word *shaan* that you preached. I am calm, and quiet, and undisturbed in all these circumstances.”

That’s impossible, you say? Then you are calling God a liar. God does not lie. Quietness and confidence can be our strength.

Don’t be sad when you get bad news. Know that God will take care of the bad news. You can’t change it, so why should you get sad about something that you cannot change? Why become disheartened over something you cannot control? It is right to be concerned, but don’t be sad; be God-conscious.

The Bible says we are to give thanks to God “always for all things” (Ephesians 5:20). “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). “Rejoice” really means “relax” because of God-consciousness. Relax because God is on your side. Relax because He is for you (see Romans 8:31).

The woman who went through the fire had burns on her neck. Her children had terrible burns. Still, she said, “God has promised me that He will make something good out of this. God is on my side, and this will work together for good. That’s in my Bible. I am sure that His Word is just as good when my children and I are in the hospital, in this situation. I don’t have any questions about why it happened. I only know that something good will come out of it.”

Chapter Four

A VICTORIOUS NATURE EXPOSES SATAN'S DEFEAT

There are two beautiful Greek words: *tapeinos* and *phroneo*. The first word means to live through God-consciousness with grace to be humble. *Phroneo* speaks of thinking in God-consciousness in meekness and humility before God.

A compound of these words is *tapeinophrosune*, found in Philippians 2:3: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in *lowliness of mind* let each esteem other better than themselves." That means we are to be God-conscious as we think in grace toward ourselves and others. First Thessalonians 4:11 tells us to "study to be quiet."

Picture the devil trying to provoke you, trying to get you to react in the flesh, trying to get you to defend yourself, trying to make you become self-conscious. Here he is with his army of

demons, *epeseisen*, doing all that he can to get you to think you are right when you are wrong (1 Chronicles 21:1).

And here is God is saying, “If you will be conscious of My promises, My Spirit, My love, and My grace toward you, and if you will recognize that My plan is perfect (Psalm 18:30), the devil will be angry. If you are conscious of Me and focus on Me, Satan will come after you—because you are quiet in the land.”

Satan doesn’t want you to be quiet because quietness reveals his defeat. Contrast that to the revelation of Christ’s victory and the nature of His Word. You have accepted His Word and your faith is derived from Him. You enjoy the nature of your resurrection life in Christ because of your spiritual death in Christ, which occurred first. By your quietness, you reveal Satan’s total defeat, and he doesn’t like that at all. He will do all he can to provoke you out of your quietness.

Avoid Conditional Reactions

Perhaps you get upset with a coworker. Maybe you have had a personality clash with a member of the church and haven’t spoken with that person for months. “I get so troubled working with John,” you complain. Well, just wait

until you start working with Jack. Then you will really be tested!

In either of these scenarios, there is no quietness; there is no assurance. These are the reactions of a conditional believer who is lacking the resurrection consciousness of God's meekness in the experiential relationships to the people around you. This soul has no objective love, which at least sees some value in another soul. But if you are not operating in meekness, you will also lack subjective love, which is love that has its source in God and does not depend on the object at all. Subjective love comes from you when you are filled with God-consciousness.

Imagine being in a troubled marriage. Instead of reacting, you trust in the Lord Jesus. You are not passive. You are just trusting in God, because you have discovered the secret of entering into God's viewpoint that produces quietness.

Maybe your finances are not good. Trust in God. Perhaps you have heard some bad news from the doctor. Remember, God is in charge of the plan, and His plan is grace for anything that happens to you. The plan of God is perfect. It is perfect now just as it was perfect yesterday, and it will be perfect tomorrow. You can remain quiet

and confident because you have strength through God-consciousness, through meekness, and your quietness reveals the devil's utter defeat.

CONCLUSION

“Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child” (Psalm 131:2).

This passage means that I am to live in *tapeinophrosune*—God-consciousness that produces meekness, so I will be totally undisturbed in outward circumstances. I don’t internalize pressure because I am so focused on fellowshiping with God that the pressure cannot touch me.

“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (1 John 5:18-19).

Satan cannot touch us. He is defeated and we are one with God. We are living in God, confessing God, fellowshiping with God, and expressing God. Therefore, the wicked one cannot

touch us. He cannot disturb our lives because of our vertical relationship with Christ.

“And [Jesus] said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while” (Mark 6:31a). Jesus wants us to take up His yoke and rest with Him (Matthew 11:28-30). In this verse, “labour” speaks of our own strife. “Heavy laden” speaks of burdens others have put upon us. Jesus wants us to give them all to Him and rest in His love for us.

Father, we pray that You would cover us with Your providential protection wherever we may go and in everything we do. Give us this quietness, which comes from the fruit of the Spirit and from God-consciousness. Bless our fellowship this day, this week, and all year in Jesus’ name with the tremendous blessing of God’s power upon our lives. Amen.