

The Meek Will He Teach

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach 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.

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INTRODUCTION

“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ...” (2 Corinthians 10:1*a*).

The doctrine of meekness is one of the most precious subjects in the entire canon of Scripture. Meekness goes along with gentleness. According to Galatians 5:22-23, if we have the fruit of the Spirit, which is love—the love of God—we will also have joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. The seventh ingredient is meekness.

Jesus Christ is our primary example of meekness. He represented it to the world in the way that He surrendered the power of His deity and lived as a man among men, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In this booklet we examine this great principle, a principle that is so needed in Christian circles today. As you read these pages, my prayer is

that you will come to understand what it means to live in the strength of God, and God alone.

Chapter One

THE MEEK AND LOWLY HEART

“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 you shall find rest unto your souls.

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Just picture it now: The Lord Jesus is speaking, and you are in the front row, and Jesus says, “Come to Me. You don’t have to be afraid. Whatever state you’re in, just come. I’m meek. I’m lowly.”

It’s a beautiful thing for Christ to characterize Himself in this way.

He is speaking to all who “labour and are heavy laden.” Here, “labour” refers to the times when we have sinned and when we have failed miserably. “Heavy laden” speaks of the times when somebody has hurt you terribly and you

are carrying that burden. So, no matter if you did something wrong or someone did something against you, the invitation from Jesus is, "Come."

He is saying, "Whatever your state is, come. Maybe you fell flat on your face. Maybe people have hurt you. But, you will find rest if you'll just come to Me. If you yoke up with Me, you'll find that My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus said, "I am meek and lowly in heart." This statement, coming from Him, is so beautiful because so often ministries and preachers characterize God outside of meekness. Oh, the Word of God has so much to say about meekness.

In Psalm 147:6, the Word of God says, "He lifts up the meek." So here is a person who is meek and who may have fallen. He has fallen but he is honest. He is very meek, but he did fall. That is reality. But what does Jesus do? He lifts this one up. Psalm 147:2-3 also tells us that He gathers the outcasts, heals broken hearts, and binds up the wounds. Do you understand this?

The Even Place of Meekness

I want to share with you what meekness

means for us. In Psalm 76:9, the Word of God says that Jesus Christ came to the earth to save the meek. Psalm 25:9 says, "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." In other words, the meek will hear the Word of God.

Meekness, in the Bible, speaks of an inward condition of the mind and heart, expressed to God first. We are meek when we do not inwardly resist God but accept whatever He does with us as good, believing that it is for our benefit.

A meek person may fall; a meek person may sin; a meek person may have weaknesses; but he is meek, meaning he is honest. He recognizes His need for help and is very willing to receive help. So God will teach this one who is meek, and he will be Spirit-taught.

It all happens because of meekness.

Psalm 26:12 says that we stand in an even place, and in the midst of the congregation we bless the Lord. That "even place" means I am no better than anyone and I am no worse than anyone. Calvary is an even place.

My mother communicated this to me years ago when I was being mocked, coming from a poor family. She said, "You're no better than anyone and you're no worse than anyone."

That's what meekness says. You stand at an even place.

Meekness is manifested in a person who will not allow distractions to get the best of him. He is one who will not allow failure to keep him down; he will not allow being hurt by others to disturb him; he will not allow circumstances to stop him from coming to God just as He is. That is the way a meek person is.

If someone says to this person, "Hey, you failed last night," his answer is very simple:

"But I came to God, and He was meek and lowly in His heart. I yoked up with Him, and I got rest. His yoke is easy. His burden is light."

Chapter Two

COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of our need” (Hebrews 4:16).

To be meek does not mean that we let people walk all over us, but that we transfer our rights to ourselves in order to honor the plan of God. To be meek does not mean that we live in the excuse of our old sin nature. It means that we transfer our rights to the flesh and put on Christ. The meek person knows that we have access to God every moment of our lives. Not only do we have access, but we can be bold about it. We don't have to be ashamed or shy. Instead of being ashamed, we can rush in to the throne of God. We can come boldly to the throne of grace.

Don't let your shame stop you from running there with all your heart. Come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and grace to help in the time of need. Boldly! He tells us to

come boldly.

And this, too, is meekness.

Go to Jesus

Meekness means that I live in the consciousness of God's love, and meekness is the ingredient, or characteristic, of love that He expresses toward me. I live in the consciousness of God loving me, so I have His love. Meekness expresses His attitude toward me and reveals what He does in me and through me as an ingredient of love. This is God-consciousness.

When we are God-conscious, all kinds of pressures and burdens come upon us and we go to Jesus.

In meekness, He receives us.

In meekness, He forgives us.

In meekness, He teaches us.

In meekness, He loves us.

In meekness, He lifts us up.

In meekness, He comforts us and consoles us.

In meekness, He says, "Come to Me seven times a day if you have to."

Jesus does all of this in meekness to those who are meek.

The meek stand at an even place—Calvary—and they are conscious of God's Finished Work

and love all the time.

A meek person understands that without Christ, he can do nothing. (John 15:5).

And I will keep saying this, over and over again: If I don't have charity, I am nothing (1 Corinthians 13). If I don't have charity, it profits me nothing. He that sows is nothing. He that waters is nothing. But it is all God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7).

That is the attitude of a meek person.

Nobodies Are Made Somebodies in God's Plan

A meek person doesn't live in condemnation. He lives in the reality that without Christ, he cannot do anything.

Oh, but with Him—and here's the contrast—with Him, we can do all things (Philippians 4:13). He will supply all our needs. God supplies everything so that it is not you and I who live but Christ who lives in us.

You don't have to be anybody. God takes nobodies that are nothing and makes them saints, members of a royal family. He calls them special treasures, a holy people, a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9). That is what God calls the crowd who understand that they are nothing.

The most beautiful thing about Jesus is this:

He died for everybody, He accepts everybody who believes, and He will bless anybody who is meek.

“But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (Psalm 37:11).

Chapter Three

RESPONSES OF MEEKNESS

Say you come to me and shout at me. Perhaps you are angry, and you shout harsh words at me. By grace and in the meekness of God, I would hope that I would just look at you with eyes of compassion and respond with silence—first with silence, then with words of love.

If that is my response, then you will be exposed to Jesus Christ's spirit of meekness. Even if I don't agree with you, I will be very careful to give you the fruit of love in the midst of your anger, in your problem, or in your confusion.

That is what meekness does.

Jesus Christ takes the worst sinner and lifts him up. So if you fail, come to Him. Come if others have hurt you. Learn what Jesus is like. Learn of Him, because He is meek and He is lowly.

I love Isaiah 40:11, where it says, "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the

lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Gentleness with Meekness Precedes Greatness

Gentleness. David wrote that the gentleness of God made him great (2 Samuel 22:36).

No matter what circumstances prevail, no matter what dispositions are revealed, here is the meek and lowly Jesus, and He gently says to us, "Do you know that I paid for what you just did? Do you know why My blood was shed for what you just did? Do you know that who you are in your old sin nature was crucified with Me at Calvary? Do you know that?"

The Cross of Calvary—that is an amplification of the greatest demonstration of meekness.

In the Old Testament, much is said of all the sins that David committed. Yet, David still wrote in Psalm 32:1-2, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." For those who believe on Him who justifies the ungodly, our faith (without works) is counted for righteousness (Romans 4:5-6).

The Heart That Follows After God

The one thing that made David a man after the heart of God (Acts 13:22), the one thing that made David do all of God's will is this: David just relied all the time on meekness from heaven. He relied on it. Fail as he did, David would come to the One who is meek and lowly, and he would find rest.

Then, David would sit down and write another inspired Psalm.

I can just imagine David communicating very intimately with God. "Lord God, Your gentleness has made me great. Not my gifts. Not the fact that I'm a king. Not my military genius and ability. Not the fact that I killed Goliath. That is not the reason You made me great. You made me great because of who You are, expressed in how You have treated me all these years. I know I should have died because of what happened with Uriah (Psalm 118:17-18). I know that. I came close—one step away from death—but You decided not to do it. Nathan gave me quite a lesson (in 2 Samuel 12), but he also said, 'God has put away your sin and you will not die.'"

God's Judgment: Imputed Righteousness

"The bruised reed he will not break, and the

smoking flax he will not quench until He brings judgment unto truth" (see Isaiah 42:3).

People preach on the first part of that verse, but they don't preach the last part of that verse.

What is the judgment? It is meekness, forgiveness, the Finished Work—judgment unto the truth about God. What is the truth? A bruised reed He'll not break. That is the truth. A smoking flax He will not quench. That is the truth. He brings forth judgment unto truth.

When you understand the characteristics of our Lord, worship always produces obedience. Praise always produces joy. The Blood always produces cleansing and spiritual purging.

In Exodus 2, a man who had a terrible temper murdered an Egyptian because his weakness was anger. But God took that weakness and then made meekness his strongest point. In Numbers 12, Moses is referred to as the meekest man on the face of the earth.

God will take our worst weakness— Please pay attention to this, because we all need to understand this principle: God will take our worst weakness and make it our strongest point because of Who He is and what His Holy Spirit does in us.

It is a very beautiful thing.

I want you to see that in this precious meekness, there is never a time that a meek person in an assembly won't be taught by the Spirit. It is a guarantee that he will be taught by the Spirit. The humble will hear and the meek will He teach, and God will show them the way (Psalm 25:9b). He will show them His way.

Jesus Uses the Bruised and the Battered

Consider the emphasis that Jesus Christ made on that one characteristic of His love. When you are discouraged, remember what Isaiah 42:1-4 says: God doesn't get discouraged. He doesn't get discouraged when we are a smoking flax or a bruised reed. He never gets discouraged with us. That is what this passage is really saying!

A bruised reed is worth nothing. Reeds were made into an instrument, like a flute, used by shepherds to call the sheep back to the fold. When one reed was "bruised" or broken, they'd have to throw away the whole thing. They couldn't repair it. But God says of bruised people such as us, "Well, everybody else would throw you away, but I'll use you. I'll use you."

We had kerosene lamps in my home when I was growing up. Of course, we didn't have elec-

tric power when I was very young, and we used the little oil lamps. The glass would get all black, and the lamp would be smoking when the wick became short and the kerosene got low. It would be all smoked and there would be no light that you could distinguish. You couldn't see much, so you'd have to clean it. You let it go out, clean it, and put some more kerosene in it.

But Jesus says of us, "I will not quench that smoking flax. I'll just stay with it and not get discouraged until I lift it up," because He lifts up the meek. That is the Lord Jesus expressing one of the most beautiful things for our lives: His love toward us. In Mark 1:31, it was Simon's mother-in-law. In Mark 9:27, it was the child He delivered from demons. The Son of God came to earth as a man to give us His life forever (Philippians 2:6-8)—perfect love expressed in meekness.

CONCLUSION

If there is anything that will lead people to Christ, it is the meekness they see in the people of God. Just the gentle attitude of Jesus will reveal this sweet fruit of the Spirit. If you want to solve a problem in your relationship with somebody, just let Jesus Christ's meekness come through. Let gentleness be your attitude expressed in your Christian manners.

Christ's meekness is the reason that for all eternity, you will see the scars on His glorified body. It is the reason you will see the wound in his side and the prints of the nails in His feet and on His hands. The reason is that when you and I—now betrothed to Him—become His Bride at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19), and we come back to earth in our honeymoon as the Bride of Christ, these things will always remind you that your Husband for all eternity is meek.

The Lamb! The Lamb of God, even with His

glorified body, is still the meek and lowly Lamb. He was the Lamb before we were created. He was the Lamb when He was here. He is the Lamb now and forever.

Oh, the meekness of the Lord Jesus! Let us run to the throne no matter what happens. Run to Jesus in our worst state. Run to Jesus, to the throne of mercy, to obtain mercy. Let's get help. How do you get help? By going to the throne of grace and obtaining mercy—that is how you get the help. You get help by racing to that throne just as you are, by grace through faith.

Father, bless our hearts with these truths today. Fill us with this meekness. Encourage us and satisfy us with this meekness that is in us, because the most important thing right now is for us to enjoy the fruit of meekness.