

New Mount Zion M.B. Church



Worship Service: 11:00am Every Sunday

***140 West Maple Street
Jackson, MS 39203***

**New Mount Zion M.B. Church
Bible Class
August 3, 2020**

***“Understanding The Fruit of The Spirit”
8th Fruit***

*Is there anyone that has ever been passed over, denied an opportunity or promotion and felt like maybe you should have spoken up more for yourself?
Is there anyone who has ever felt walked on, humiliated, embarrassed, disgraced, or dishonored and felt like maybe you need to give these people a piece of your mind?*

The desire to do this is built within us; but is actually the opposite of Meekness.

Meekness conveys the idea of a listening ear to hear what God has to say; and then submitting to it.

Submission is not natural. We don't like submitting to each other, to our spouses, to our leaders because it makes us feel insignificant.

It is our human nature to want to be important or significant; and the way we seek to obtain this is through being promoted, increased, exalted or glorified!

And herein lies the problem. When we attempt to elevate ourselves, it pushes God away; He literally resist that part of our nature. And so, the Holy Spirit produces the opposite, Meekness!

Meekness is the first cousin and similar to Gentleness. Whereas Gentleness is the controlled power to be kind and merciful to those who are cruel; Meekness is the controlled power to be humble and submit oneself against their own desires and to the Will of the Father.

The Fruit of the Spirit: Meekness

Meekness is an often-misunderstood item in the list of the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). Many associate meekness with weakness and would define it as "spinelessness; lack of strength or manliness." This is quite far from the true meaning. As always, looking at Biblical uses will help us understand.

As we stated earlier, Gentleness is the controlled power to be compassionate and kind to those who are cruel to us. Meekness is the strength of character to humble oneself against their own will, and submit to the will of God.

What is the purpose of Meekness?

*Whereas Meekness is Humbleness, Quietness, Humility, and
Submissiveness; its purpose is to
Exalt, Promote, and Elevate to bring God Glory.
1 Peter 5:5-6*

*Now the purpose is not so that you can revel or celebrate in being elevated
or glorified, but to be divinely positioned by God so that you can do His will.
The Purpose of Meekness is to be Exalted so that you can Do the Will of
God*

*We can't give ourselves a name that is big enough to do what God has
called us to do; we must
humble ourselves, so that God can exalt us and give us a name.
And when God gives us a name, we shall get everything God needs us to
have to do His will.*

A simple definition of meekness is "strength under control." Visualize a fine horse, much stronger than his rider, yet obeying every command, or a large dog, physically capable of destroying the child he so gently protects.

Meekness is the control of the passionate part of our nature, enabling us to treat all men with courtesy. A meek spirit lets one rebuke another, without rancor, argue without intolerance, face truth without resentment, be angry and sin not, and be gentle but not weak.

Moses was one of the meekest men on Earth (Num 12:3), but he was not weak. He was angry and assertive when anger and assertiveness were needed, yet he was humbly submissive when submission was necessary and called for. Paul, was often described as being meek, yet he often found it necessary to speak up in defense of himself and others, even to civil authorities (Acts 16:35).

*Meekness is the spirit by which we learn.
Many have the attitude: "I know what I think
and no scriptures you quote will change my
mind." (Jas 1:21).*

*The sinner must be reprovved and rebuked,
but with patience and meekness (2 Tim 4:2)
(Gal 6:1).*

The servant of the Lord must be able to correct those who contradict (Tit. 1:9). This should be done, not with the attitude that "I have all the truth and you have none," but with that of, "Let's study this together and see what the Bible says on the subject." "In meekness instructing those that oppose them selves: if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth..." (2 Tim 2:25-26). The Christian should "... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet 3:15).

So, meekness is not weakness, but the sign of true power. (Mat 5: 5).

Though Jesus created all things and all power is in Him, yet He restrained His might, choosing to meekly enter Jerusalem on a donkey, ready to carry out His Father's will, rather than ride in on a stallion with legions of angels to establish earthly dominion for Himself.

*A meek and quiet spirit is, in the sight of God, of great value
(1 Pet 3:4).*

***Meekness is vital because it is the one quality that Jesus used to describe Himself:
(Matthew 11:29).***

Thus, the more we understand and develop meekness, the more we take on the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grow in meekness

To keep your attitudes and actions meek and gentle, you will need to swim upstream against the culture's current of rudeness and roughness (2 Timothy 3:1-3). Doesn't that describe much of the content in the world and church today?

The Holy Spirit enables us to produce meekness, a necessary attitude for understanding God's Word. An added benefit to the meek is that God promises them the enjoyment of peace. A meek and quiet spirit is so very precious to God that he calls it an imperishable ornament, and He rewards the meek with inheritance of the earth.

God is calling people out of such darkness to be “the light of the world”—to set the right example for others (Matthew 5:14). That’s a tall order. But God is ever ready to help us. Pray earnestly for His help. And make a habit of reading God’s Word so it can transform your thinking and way of life.

We should have a meek attitude to all others regardless of our relationship with them. Even when someone is antagonistic, meek correction and teaching will assist God in leading them to repentance. Meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest. It is evenness of mind—neither elated nor cast down—because a truly meek person is not occupied with self at all.

Remember that an important part of being that shining light is having godly meekness and gentleness. And someday the whole world will be a peaceful and happy place. That someday is when Christ returns and the meek inherit the earth!