

## Meekness

The mental attitude of **meekness**, *prautes*, is to be the Christian's **perspective** directed toward God's dealings with us, in that we accept his dealings with us as being wise, fair, loving, etc., and we do so without murmurings, arguments, resistance, complaining, or resentment. It takes in the idea of having an understanding that you were saved by the unmerited, unearned, undeserved grace of God, (which he didn't have to do). It realizes that God forgave our sins and has promised to give us a new body to live with him and his Son throughout eternity. It also is the perspective that whatever God does for you, whatever he supplies to you, whatever he gives to you, whatever his provisions are for you, are simply his gift to you out of his grace and we should be thankful for them and not be complaining about what we don't have! **It's how we look at things and at God's dealing with us.**

The food he provides; whether steak and potatoes, or beans and corn bread; the Christian friends we have, or don't have; our transportation, be it by car, foot, or bus; the clothes he provides, whether they are expensive, or from thrift shops; our home, be it a trailer, tent, apartment, or mansion on the hill; a wife, husband, or being single; children, or not; the church he provides for you, the pastor he provides to you; everything we have now as believers in Christ is not only his direct will for us, but also is a gift of his grace to us! Therefore we should be thankful and content for all of it. That's meekness.

But **pride** enters into our thinking and we think that we should have so much more, and that God exists for the purpose of giving us what we want! **Pride** is the mental attitude that is just the opposite of meekness and is the enemy to the mental attitude of meekness, as well as many other concepts. It is the mental attitude of entitlement, that it has a right to something, that it is entitled to things, that it deserves things. It is the mental attitude of Satan, who is the king over all who are proud. "*He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.*" Job 41:34

Now the Scriptures teach us that we will have the spiritual perspective of meekness as the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit! "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness (praotes), temperance: against such there is no law.*" Galatians 5:22,23 What this tells us that the flesh is incapable of producing this perspective, and that it comes to us only through the filling of the Holy Spirit!

The fact that the mental attitude of **meekness** is a spiritual attitude brought about by the filling of the Holy Spirit is also brought out in Colossians 3:12, "*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*" And in Ephesians 4:2 as well, "*With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*"

**Meekness** is one of the defining qualities of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who, even though he was God in the flesh, humbled himself in submitting to the Father's will for his life, even though that meant his death on the cross. "*Let this mind (phroneo – spiritual perspective) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" Philippians 2:5-11

Christ was not only the epitome of meekness - he was meekness incarnated. *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek (praos) and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”* Matthew 11:29 **I am** is *eimi* in the Greek and *eimi* denoted his existence of meekness. Which explains one of the many reasons why unbelievers don't want to come to him for salvation. The last thing pride wants is to be humbled.

It is important for the communicators of God's Word to have this spiritual perspective in their own life, but especially when communicating the Word of God to other believers. We need to have that mental attitude that we are nothing, and that we have nothing apart from the grace of God. And that it's just not words, as so often is the case, but that it's actually **our perspective on life, our relationship with God** and other believers. *“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you.”* 1 Corinthians 10:1

Paul commanded Timothy to go after it, along with other spiritual qualities, which also tells us that this is something that we all are to be growing in. Which is also brought out in Galatians 5:22,23, where we see that it is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit telling us that this is something we all can be maturing in. *“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”* 1 Timothy 6:11

Because of the situation that is being addressed in 2 Timothy 2 that Timothy was going to have to deal with, the need for **meekness**, along with **gentleness**, *epios*, by the Pastor is brought out even more in 2 Timothy 2:25, *“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”*. The word for **gentle** is *epios* and it deals with one's demeanor when dealing with people. It gets into the idea of the way a person behaves towards others. Arthur Way translates it as being **courteous**, and that's a good one, while the translators also use the word **kind**. The Greek writers used this word to describe a nurse with trying children, or teachers dealing with stubbornly disobedient children, who refuse ordinary methods of treatment.

There were certain believers, who had become lifted up in pride developing an authority problem and went negative to Bible Doctrine and living in the spiritual life dynamic. As the result they were now opposing the doctrinal ministry of their Pastor-Teacher. Now Timothy had to deal with them keeping in mind his own personal frailty and the fact that we all are susceptible to the fleshly thinking of pride. So he had to have the perspective of meekness, that we are nothing in ourselves that would warrant us to God, and what we do have is all due to God's grace!

**It speaks of the soul that is in submission to God's rule over him. Meekness is closely related to humility** showing that the believer is in total subjection to the Father's authority over him. *“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”* 1 Peter 5:5 The epitome of this grace is found in Jesus Christ. *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”* Matthew 11:29

**Meekness** does not suggest the word as we use it today where an individual portrays a false sense of humility, or is self-effacing, as we see so much of in people who are “religious”, which is nothing more than a front for their legalism, pride and self righteousness. **Meekness is not weakness, neither in character, demeanor, or in dealing with people and situations!** But it defines a mental attitude that is in subjection to God's will for one's life and accepts his grace provisions and authority over him allowing him to do with him as God sees fit. It is pliable clay in the master's hands.