

Upside-Down Living
The Radical Message of the Beatitudes
The Freedom of Total Submission
Matthew 5:5
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brian Fannin / Oct. 7, 2018

How do you cultivate a life where gentleness grows?

I. You Must Continually And Sincerely Abandon Trust In Self

A. Revisit That You Cannot Save Yourself

The gentle are not self-made, new people. They experience newness because of the work of grace on their life. Jesus is made much of and you begin to properly frame that you belong to another.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20a “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.”

B. Keep Confessing The Truth That You Are Needy

You need others and you really don't, nor will you ever, have what it takes to figure out life on your own.

Gentle people listen, not for their opportunity to talk but to come to know what it means to live as a needy person—needing of a Savior, poor in spirit, mourning and pursuing change from the inside out.

C. Meekness Is A Success That Has No Swagger Or Win-At-All-Cost Attitude

There's no pretension in a gentle soul. Success is found in obeying and trusting God for the outcome that's best for you and glorifying to Him.

When absolute trust is present, you live abandoned to God's mission for you and you thrive with quiet and gentle strength, trusting God to choose best for you. You begin to live with gentleness under his hand.

II. You Trust God To Make Right What Is Wrong, Beginning With You And Also With The World Around You

Matthew 11:29 “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

No adequate discussion of gentleness can be well-stated without looking at Jesus. He is the supreme example of controlled strength, trusting God with every detail that was happening. He was God in the flesh and the creation rejected Him, mocked Him, and punished Him. We regard this as the plan, but forget this is God veiled in humanity. He

could have called at any moment the armies of Heaven to squash our puny existence. He was strength under control.

1 Peter 2:23 “When he was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.”

Kingdom people cultivate a lifestyle of complete, utter trust in every circumstance. Whether positive or perceived negative situations, when you feel weak and find yourself on the losing end of things, when you don't have the will to fight or even when you do, you stay under control—trusting God with all of your life.

“Meekness is not weakness of character but strength of character. It is the attitude of one who, realizing his own spiritual poverty, acknowledges he deserves nothing from the hand of God or his fellow creatures. He does not become resentful under adverse providences of God or the mistreatment of other people. He believes God will work all things for his good, so he leaves his case with God.”

– Jerry Bridges

III. You Live Completely Submitted To The Mission Of Christ For Your Life

A. You Do Not Threaten Others Or Live Threatened By The Choices Of Others

Galatians 6:7-9 “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Living in complete trust will not come without trial. Victory normally takes time.

B. You Continue To Be Mindful That You Are A Sheep

Sheep are dull and dependent animals. We are not described as lions or wolves. Jesus did not say I send you out as lions among wolves, but as sheep.

John 10:27-29 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”

God wants to give you far more than strength, power, wealth, and fame. He wants to give you the freedom gained by knowing His faithfulness as you totally submit your life to Him.