

**God's Guidance**

📖 Psalm 25:9. **Q.** What two things did God say he would do for the meek?

- 1.
- 2.

**Q.** How is Psalm 25:9 similar to Matt 11:29?

The Bible indicates that meekness is required to be taught and guided by the Lord. So, how does meekness lead to God's guidance?

📖 Look up James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

We gain God's guidance and wisdom when we, with meekness, receive instruction from his word. Remember that meekness speaks of submission or yieldedness. To know God's will and to be led of Him, we must read his word with the intention of obeying it. Notice verse 22 *but be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only*. Some Christians read God's word like it is a cafeteria line, only accepting those things which are appealing. Receiving his word with meekness means that we read his word with intentions of obeying it.

Every time we read God's word, we ought to, with a meek spirit, consider these questions:

- Is there a Sin for me to confess?
- Is there a Promise for me to claim?
- Is there an Attitude for me to change?
- Is there a Command for me to obey?
- Is there an Example for me to follow?

Do you by nature always "need to be right"? Are you concerned that you maintain your position of superiority in the church? At work? In your social circle? These are the enemies of meekness. Are you using your strengths and abilities for God's glory? Are your tongue and your temper under His control? Do you consider God's will before you speak or act? These are the qualities of meekness!

**A Definition of Meekness**

**Thursday**

📖 Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness...

J. Upton Dickson was a very nice fellow. He was friendly and had quite a submissive presence. So submissive was he, that he founded a group of submissive people called the "Dependent Organization Of Really Meek And Timid Souls, also known as D.O.O.R.M.A.T.S.!

Like Mr. Dickson, many folks are under the impression that in order to be meek, one must also be weak and cowardly. This is not the Biblical definition of meekness. I believe that we can safely define Biblical meekness in this way: "An inward submission of our strengths and abilities to God's control".

**An Inward Spirit**

📖 1 Peter 3:1-4. This passage is dealing primarily with the contrast between a woman's outward expression of extravagance and an inward spirit of submission. It provides valuable insight into God's idea of meekness.

1 Peter 3:3-4 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the \_\_\_\_\_, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a \_\_\_\_\_ which is in the sight of God of great price.

Meekness is an inward attitude towards our own strengths and abilities. This attitude is one of humility and submission to Jesus Christ.

**Submission to God's Control**

📖 Matthew 11:29 Take my \_\_\_\_\_ upon you, and learn of me; for I am \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

The picture here is one of oxen being yoked together. But unlike the farmer who forcibly yokes oxen, Christ has asked us to *take my yoke upon you*. This is a willing submission to his guidance and control. Just as oxen yield their strength to the control of the yoke, we are to yield ourselves to the control of Christ. The meek Christian is one who exercises his or her abilities within the confines of God's will. He does not seek to *prove himself* or *elevate himself*, he allows the Holy Spirit to use his strength in ways that glorify God. Meekness is strength under God's control.

## Paul, A Man of Meekness

Friday

If you were to think of men of the Bible who displayed meekness, Paul may not be the first man to come to your mind! Paul is the man who *earnestly beheld the council* and declared his innocence. Paul is a man that endured imprisonment, scourging, beatings, stonings and even shipwreck. Yet we will see that Paul was a man of meekness.

We may not perceive it by his writings, but Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit was a meek character. So much so, that the Corinthian church began to question His apostolic authority. They had become seduced by overbearing Judaizers in the church. These men accused Paul of writing with a lot of bluster, but having little authority to back it up. Paul addresses this situation in 2 Corinthians 10 and 11.

Paul was a man that God had given much authority to over the church. Yet Paul did not abuse or boast of this power.

📖 2 Cor 10:8. For what purpose did God give Paul authority?

Paul understood that the strengths and abilities with which God had entrusted him were for the edification of the church and for the glory of God. If Paul were to write a resume of his qualifications for church leadership it would have brought his accusers to shame. He was a man of great spiritual authority and power, as well as fleshly knowledge and ability. Yet when he appeared before the Corinthians, he displayed meekness. This caused his accusers to say..

📖 2 Cor. 10:10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

If many of us were in Paul's position, we would set out immediately to prove our detractors wrong. We would spend sleepless nights devising ways that we could display our superiority and prove to them that we deserved our position of prominence. This was not Paul's way. Read 2 Cor 10:1:

📖 2 Cor 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

Paul was bold when necessary but meek by choice. To be meek does not mean to be cowardly, in fact, it assumes the presence of great power. Paul was a man who was bold in defending the truth, yet he was meek in his demeanor. To be like Paul and like Christ, we must be zealous in defending the truth, but be meek in our behavior.

## The Need for Meekness

Saturday

Upon studying the topic of meekness we find there are many aspects of the Christian life and the church life that require this spiritual fruit. The following are some areas in which we must display meekness.

### Meekness in Soul Winning

📖 2 Tim 2:25 In \_\_\_\_\_ instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them \_\_\_\_\_ to the acknowledging of the truth;

Our purpose in confronting the lost about their salvation is not to win an argument, but to win a soul. Many men upon becoming saved, take the occasion of their salvation to prove all others wrong. We are to witness with meekness, being gentle and wise in our dealings, not offensive. It is unlikely that the offended man will ever come to repentance. (Prov 18:19)

### Meekness in Teaching

📖 James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Those who would be spiritual teachers in the church are not to boast of their talents or abilities. The wise and knowledgeable man will teach with meekness and patience. He will not become frustrated or condescending.

### Meekness in Restoration

📖 Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are \_\_\_\_\_, restore such an one in the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Why is meekness required for restoration? When a man or woman is overtaken in a fault, he or she needs a loving and welcoming hand back into fellowship. Meekness does not say "I told you so", nor is it prideful. Meekness acknowledges that all of us are susceptible to the same spiritual failures. Oftentimes if a brother or sister becomes backslidden they hesitate at returning to the church for fear of prideful or vindictive reactions. Ephesians 4:2,3 reinforces this.

📖 Eph 4:2,3 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Meekness is an essential ingredient in church unity. Our longsuffering and forbearance toward one another is dependent on meekness. How might have a meek spirit helped you in a recent conflict?

## **The Fruit of the Spirit is Meekness**

## **Review**

### **From Thursday**

1. What is meekness not?
2. What is a Biblical definition of meekness?

### **From Friday**

1. Is it a contradiction to be bold and meek? Explain.

### **From Saturday**

1. Why is meekness necessary in Soul Winning?
2. Why is meekness necessary in Restoration?

### **From Monday**

1. What does it mean to “receive with meekness the engrafted word”?
2. What characteristics are in conflict with meekness?