

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness**, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

**Quote:** “The meek Christian does not throw his weight around or assert himself. Just as wisdom is the right use of knowledge, so meekness is the right use of authority and power.” W. Wiersbe

**M**eekness or gentleness is a humbleness of spirit that “accepts God’s dealings with us as good and therefore we do not resist them. It is the opposite of self-interest.”<sup>1</sup> A meek person does not insist on his or her rights. “Meekness is also patience in the reception of injuries.”<sup>2</sup> The meek are “not easily provoked or disposed to complain, not proud or self-sufficient, but humble, patient, and submissive.” The Lord is honored by all who rest in His providence for their lives in the face of adversity with “a calm temper; a contented mind; a heart free from passion, pride, envy, and irritability; a soul not subject to the agitations and vexations”<sup>2</sup> that characterize self-centered people.

Meekness includes “the right use of power and authority, *it is* power under control.”<sup>3</sup> The Bible says of Moses that he “was very humble (meek), more than all men who were on the face of the earth.” When the Israelites threatened to stone him and return to Egypt, the LORD replied, “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of *you* a nation greater and mightier than they.’ And Moses said to the LORD: ‘Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, ‘Because *the LORD was not able to*

*bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.’*”<sup>4</sup> Moses focused upon God’s glory and the good of God’s people, not upon his own personal welfare.

Jesus said, “I am meek and lowly in heart.” He taught, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”<sup>5</sup> Paul wrote, “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, *as much as depends on you*, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”<sup>6</sup> Meek people do not seek revenge when wronged because it makes them no better than the person who wronged them! On the other hand, *meekness is not weakness!* A meek person does not cower in the face of adversity. While Christ never sought to “get even,” He was mighty in His meekness when He drove out self-serving merchants that sold animals in the temple and when He faced down Satan during His hour of temptation. Christ said, “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.”<sup>7</sup> Meekness is a gift of the Spirit that needs to be cultivated by prayer, and by imitating Christ’s humble example during the storms of life. The pursuit of meekness for God’s glory is a tough, on-going assignment that can be accomplished only with His help!

Psalm 37:11 “But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”

## The Spirit’s fruit, gentleness

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1 Vine’s 2 A. Barnes 3 W. Wiersbe 4 Numbers 12:3, 14:11-16 5 Matthew 5:38, 39 6 Romans 12:17-21 7 Matthew 11:29