

MEEKNESS:

*For those who want to be
blessed by God & have
the power of God*

by Robert Curry

“I Guess I’d Better Not Be Meek Then!”

That’s what one shocked person exclaimed when he read that Jesus promised “The meek will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). He wanted to go to heaven when he died! He didn’t want to settle for this messed up planet!

Well, he’d better guess again! Though some try to explain away this powerful Beatitude’s promise from our Savior as meaning only that things will generally go well for a meek person during his or her time on earth, the Bible consistently promises over and over that the meek will inherit the earth—they will be resurrected and rule with Jesus Christ on the earth for the Millennium (Revelation 5:10); then during the Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-12); and then they will inherit the New Earth where God the Father will come down to live with His Family for eternity (21:3). If that’s where the Meekest Beings promise They are going to live for eternity, that’s where I want to meekly be!

Those of us who share this motivating goal may yet find ourselves sometimes subconsciously not wanting to be meek. Society is constantly drumming at us that meekness is spelled weakness.

This proofreader is flagging that misspelled concept for you right now.

We Boomers grew up on Superman, flying around



conquering. He was really trying to find a phone booth so he could change into Clark Kent: meek, mild-mannered reporter for the Daily Planet. Means well but bumbling. Maybe that's why no superheroes today ... no phone booths!

It takes great spiritual strength of character to be meek

It's a noble pursuit worthy of all-out Christian effort made possible by the meekest Beings in the universe, God the Father and Jesus Christ, living in us and powering us through Their Holy Spirit!

God is not calling Henry Milquetoasts: "the man who speaks softly and gets hit with a big stick." A generic synonym for a "timid person." Cowards will not enter the New Earth (Revelation 21:8).

Meekness is one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit listed in the King James Version of Galatians 5:22-23.

So meekness is obviously super important for a Christian. For you! But what exactly is meekness?

To define it, some use concepts like humility, gentleness, kindness. You can't blame them because the Greek word for meekness is *praotes* or *prautes* and is translated in *Strong's* as "humble, gentle, meek." The Greek adjective is *praos* or *praus*. Most translations list the 8th Fruit of the Spirit as gentleness rather than meekness as in the KJV, perhaps partly because meekness isn't commonly mentioned today because of its association with weakness. It's common to define meekness as gentleness and kindness and try to figure out how meekness differs from humility and which came first. I'm chicken to do this no matter how much you egg me on.

Gentle usually refers to actions; meekness to the attitudes that produce the desired fruits of Christian living. That's why meekness is one of the Beatitudes [beautiful attitudes] that form the foundation of Christianity 101—Jesus Christ's way of life.

With true godly meekness, you will inevitably find a person who is also humble, gentle and kind. They go together like the proverbial love and marriage and baby carriage.

Let's stick to describing what meekness is, so we can be growing toward our amazing inheritance promised by our Savior, Jesus Christ!

How hard does God have to yank on our reins?

The famous shiny white Lipizzaner stallions that wow onlookers at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria, are the breed of royalty, descended from the Habsburg monarchy. From age 4 a young stallion is trained an average of six years by a rider in the *haute école* style of classical dressage that includes powerful stylized jumps and movements known as the "airs above the ground."



The elegant stallions move so precisely that they seem to meld into one with their riders through almost invisible communication. They are so well trained in their relationship with their rider that it appears spontaneously independent.

The announcer says the riders “give the illusion they are merely along for the ride.”

This training is a wonderful example of what our relationship with God should be like regarding meekness.

God wants His people to be responsive to him

Teachable. Yielded. "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies" (Psalm 25:9-10, King James Version).

In the "Heartland" shows on Netflix, Amy the horse whisperer, when she wants to see if the horse is properly broken, runs it around the perimeter of the pen, then drops the rope, freeing



the horse of her control, turns her back on the horse ... and waits. A properly meek horse walks up to her back and nuzzles her. We haven't seen a rebellious one run her over yet!

What about us: are we totally surrendered to our Master?

The Lipizzaner stallions since 800 A.D. were trained for war, and we are being trained by God for our spiritual war against "principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

These powerful stallions are the breed of royalty, and we are even more so, humans being created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). If God has called us and is training us, Peter said we are "a royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9).

Jesus and the Bible place a priceless value on meekness. Inherit the earth? Talk about room to roam and gallop ... and for eternity!

God says to us: "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control" (Psalm 32:8-9, New Living Translation).

What about us:

We must allow God to tame us. And train us. We must become sons and daughters with the very heart and mind of God the Father and Jesus Christ our Brother and Savior.

How hard does God have to yank on our reins?

Eyes on Jesus Christ

To fellow Christians, being tamed and trained by Jesus Christ, and eagerly awaiting the resurrection at the return of the King of Kings, John wrote: "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (verse 2).

In the meantime, we should "keep looking to the LORD our God for his mercy, just as servants keep their eyes on their master, as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal" (Psalm 123:2). Everybody's decrying slavery today. The Bible says we are *dulos* to God---slaves to God!

And there's the bold example of three of David's mighty men. When Jashobeam, Eleazar and Shammah heard David longing "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate," they without hesitation broke through the camp of the Philistines and brought him the water! (1 Chronicles 11:10-19).

How are we responding to our King of Kings?

God values meekness

- If only we will submit to God in total surrender
- Give God total control of our life
- Seek to fulfill God's will
- Let God teach us

Those are all facets of responding to God, which I believe is the best way to sum up what meekness is.

God rewards meekness

- God will save the meek. James says to "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). "For the LORD takes pleasure in His

people; He will beautify the [meek, King James Version] with salvation" (Psalm 149:4).

- God will use the meek to do His Work. We should answer people with meekness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).
- God will bless the meek (Matthew 5:5). Remember the Beatitude!

Do we see any weakness in all this?

Meekness Is Power

How misinformed to view meekness as weakness. The Holy Spirit is the power of God, and meekness is one of the powerful fruits of the Holy Spirit. There is no greater power. Period. God has made available to us all we need now.

Vine's puts it well: "the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting ...

"The meaning of *prautes* is not readily expressed in English, for the terms meekness, humility and mildness, commonly used, suggest weakness and pusillanimity to a greater or less extent, whereas *prautes* does nothing of the kind ... *prautes* describes a condition of mind and heart ... the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command."

So can we! Paul said what this means for us: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Moses was called the meekest man on earth

A softie? I don't think so! Read about how he raged in righteous anger when he came down from the mountain with the 10 Commandments, and when he saw the wanton orgy of sin going on. "So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them. Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder [apparently

a blood-red powder]; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it” (Exodus 32:19-20).

For other powerful examples of godly meekness, read about how Moses stayed cool and let God handle it when Miriam and Aaron and Korah challenged his leadership.

Of course, the meekest man who ever lived was Jesus Christ

Our King arrived on earth in a humble manger and entered Jerusalem on the foal of a colt. Jesus described Himself as meek and lowly in heart (Matthew 11:29), but when the situation demanded it, he overturned tables and chased out the money changers.

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:2-4). Meekness is not concerned with self at all.

Meekness is submitted to God, totally surrendered to God, taught by God, and responsive to God.

After baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit after the laying on of hands by a true minister of God, we have all the power of God living in us and guiding us. To truly be godly meek, we must all be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. This should be our top priority, since this is when our name is entered into the Book of Life.

“Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies” (Psalm 60:12). A meek person knows that all the glory goes to God.

“May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith [of Jesus Christ] prompts you to do” (2 Thessalonians 1:11, New Living Translation).



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