

# The Fruit of the Spirit is Meekness

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West Side Church of Christ  
Searcy, Arkansas  
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## Scripture Reading

*“The fruit of the Spirit is...meekness” (Gal 5:23).*

## ***OUTLINE***

Sam. Our song leader; youth minister; bus driver; deacon extraordinaire. Did everything.

If you thought of someone committed to something, he was the first that came to mind. Worked 25 years in the local factory. Changed hands many times. Stayed loyal. Kept working.

Company policy for 4<sup>th</sup> new management: longer workers get higher salary. Fired Sam; replaced with two younger worker at lower price. No retirement.

What do you do?

Sam looked very disappointed that Sunday morning. “Guess I’ll look for another job tomorrow.” Went to work 1 hour away. Making Base pay. Starting over again. “How are you going to deal with this?” I will remember Sam’s attitude, not exact words: “I did just fine out of high school at this price. I can do just fine now.”

What do you call attitude that says, “whatever is put in my way, I will accept it and find a way to use it to the glory of God.” That’s our word here. “Gentle spirit.”

Sometimes we think doormat, to be trampled over. Not always true. Moses is called “the meekest man in all the earth.” (No, Moses probably didn’t write that line). How could Moses—known for striking the rock, anger and fury legendary, be called that? The reason is because he was told to take children of Israel through difficult circumstance, to lead a people called stiff-necked and stubborn, only hope to see the promised land, told “I’m taking that away from you to,” and Moses accepted it.

It's the attitude when you spend your whole life toward something and it's taken away. Equity then lose in the market. Give money to children and they squander the money.

When he says “if one mile, go two.” Romans allowed 1 mile. So they would stand a mile away from each other. Jesus is also the one who took the whip and shoved out the money changers. Meekness doesn't always mean “doormat” but it does mean being a “door way.” Every circumstance is an opportunity to show others the calling of God. Whatever the calling is, I'll take it.” I have a role to play, its not king, its servant.

Not overly impressed with one's self-importance. Opposite of haughty. Opposite of pride. Meekness. Whatever God calls us to do or be is based in God himself. 2 Cor 10:1—I urge you to act in a Godly way, and I make my appeal through Christ who is so gentle and kind. We have the power to be kind, because Christ is kind.

We can be lesser lights because the brightest light is shining through us.

JB: Not worthy to untie shoe. Rabbinic teaching: that's too low. JB: That's too high. I must decrease.

Esther: Mordechai: who knows? Accept position God is called you to. With meekness. It's God's light shining through you. We are to be characterized by this way of thinking.

It is an attitude of the heart. Unfortunately. We often think in terms of attainment. But Christianity is a daily life experience, not one of achievement. Paul “I press forward—not that I have already attained—” Paul said to Corinth: I could come with harshness, or with a gentle spirit.

Sometimes when we hear “restore” and think it's usually referring to someone coming forward and confessing their sins. That person we are thinking about when we hear the sermon and think “He should go forward!” That's not the way the Bible speaks about restoration. Just a few verses later—in Gal 6:1, “you who are spiritual restore that person with gentleness (meek spirit) and humility; recognize you stand in need of God's restoring power as much as the person you are trying to reach.

Psalms 23. Of all the ways to describe us, God chose sheep. Dumbest animals. 2 inches in front of them. If river, die. If fall on side, kick but die. Shepherd has to have constant supervision of sheep. And good shepherd will take sheep between legs and gently move blood circulating through legs of sheep. David said he's my shepherd...he restores my soul. A wise elder, a wise counselor, a wise minister recognizes that we are able to show compassion and service to others because we stand daily in need of God's restoring

power. We all fall short of the glory of God on a daily basis. But he constantly brings us back. An airplane is off course 90% of the time. Gently nudged by controllers how to get back on track.

That’s why it’s an attitude of the heart. A gentle spirit that recognizes a need for God to use us, because we are in need of his care.

Humility is also a requirement. We don’t have the option to be unloving. Christians are told to be meek. Zephaniah: told to seek humility. Lady told song leader “years I spent in vanity and pride...” C S Lewis: first step to being humble is to recognize that we are proud. Christians are told “be completely humble in everything. “Clothe yourselves...”

James connects “salvation” with the word “humble.” With meekness, receive the ingrafted word which is able to save your souls.”

Fruit of the Spirit. We find the strength by recognizing power of God within it. To humbly accept the difficulties of life that come from those who seek to destroy us. Jesus “led like a lamb to the slaughter, didn’t open his mouth.” The only one who deserved not to be called a sheep accepted it.

Where find strength to look into eyes of accusers and say “I’ll accept what you are giving me.”

Ephesians: I pray that you might see that the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in you. This is why we are told to have a gentle, humble, spirit, because THE holy spirit lives in us and will live it out through us.

The servant of the Lord must gently instruct; have a ready answer with gentleness, humility, and respect.

God wants us to adopt spiritual attitudes so by watching us people will have a different view of God and a different attitude toward the world.