

Daily Devotional, June 11, 2020 Meek, Never Weak

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5 (NIV)

The word meek can often come with negative connotations. It may be that people see being meek as being a doormat, for people to walk all over. In fact, one dictionary defines *meekness* as “overly submissive or compliant; spiritless; tame.” While another definition describes *meek* as, “patient, mild mannered, not inclined to anger or resentment.” It lists as a synonym the word *humble*.

It is interesting to note that these definitions do not list *weak* as a synonym for meek. Although weakness and meekness may look and sound similar, they are not the same.

Weakness is brought on by negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or courage. However, meekness is due to a person’s conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, combined with kindness.

In Matthew 11:29, Jesus described Himself as meek and lowly in heart, and yet we know that this was a man who defied the Pharisees, overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the temple, and never shrunk away from brandishing the truth as a double-edged sword. You would never describe Jesus as spiritless or tame. So, if we want to be blessed enough to inherit the earth, we need to learn to understand what it truly means to be meek.

In the original Greek, the word for *meek* is “*praus*,” (prah-oos’) which was originally used in one special sense. It described a beast that has been tamed. A horse that was once wild but has become obedient to the bit and to the bridle is “*praus*.” This lends significant meaning to the word. There is a form of gentleness in the word, but behind the gentleness there is much strength. Truly, the greatest characteristic of the one who is meek is that he or she is under complete control—not spineless or passive. Meekness is strength or power under control.

One great biblical example of a person who displayed meekness is found in ***Numbers 12:3***. Here we read: ***“Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.” (ESV)*** He was an inspirational and powerful leader. Moses was meek because he was disposed to God’s will, submitting to God’s control of his life, which gave him the strength and fortitude to carry out God’s purpose.

Another example from the Bible can be found in ***2 Corinthians 10:1***, where we see that the Apostle Paul, too, was meek. ***“Now I Paul myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am lowly (meek, humble) among you, but being absent am bold toward you.” (NKJV)*** The ultimate example, of course, is Jesus, who submitted Himself to the Father’s will and lived the perfect life of humility among humanity.

Jesus also cautions us to exercise self-control and to submit ourselves to God. ***“If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.” Luke 6: 29 (NIV)*** Both of those settings would involve some serious self-control.

In any circumstance that might be challenging for most, responding in meekness will come to us more easily if we recognize that God is in control of all things. When we have an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness and self-control toward others, God can direct our lives more completely, and this is the type of character that is most pleasing to Him.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for the beauty and the wonders of this day. Lord, if I have been arrogant towards you or towards others, please forgive me. Give me a heart of meekness, a heart that is submissive and obedient to Your Word and to Your Will. In the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.