

The image is a conceptual illustration. In the center, two large, blue-skinned hands are shown from the wrist up, palms facing each other. The hands are holding a detailed world map. The map is color-coded by continent: North America is yellow, South America is green, Europe and Africa are orange, Asia is purple, and Australia is pink. The oceans are blue. Labels for continents and countries are visible on the map, including 'CANADA', 'MEXICO', 'WORLD', 'CHINA', and 'AFRICA'. Numerous white doves are depicted in various stages of flight, scattered throughout the scene. Some are perched on the fingers of the hands, while others are in flight against a background of a light blue sky with soft, white clouds. The overall composition is symmetrical and conveys a message of global peace and unity.

Blessed are the meek, For they shall  
inherit the earth.

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*Matthew 5:5*

# Introduction

The Kingdom that Jesus was proclaiming was not what his listeners anticipated.

It was not to be characterized by military strength. In fact, He pointed out that the Kingdom of God is not for the arrogant, the proud, the strong and the confident.

They were looking for a Messiah to overthrow the Romans, not one who proclaimed, “Blessed are the meek...”

The people ultimately rejected Jesus for the very reason that He failed to live up to their expectations for the Messiah.

# Introduction

Meekness isn't a characteristic that's promoted today. In fact, the world's philosophy is quite opposite. The world says, "The more assertive you are, the more success you'll have."

It's used as a slur. It's the same as calling somebody "milk toast," or a "spineless jellyfish." We say someone is as meek as a mouse.

Meekness is actually a by-product of someone who is poor in spirit and who is mourning over their sinful condition, or the first two beatitudes.

# Introduction

Our poverty of spirit causes us to see our own unworthiness before God.

By being poor in spirit we're able to see that we're totally dependent upon God and His grace. And as we begin to mourn over our lost and sinful condition this is what produces godly sorrow that leads us to repentance and a receptive heart before God.

This is what brings out true meekness in a person.



# Definition of Meekness

So, in the Bible, Meek is **not** synonymous to weak.

The Bible calls Jesus and Moses meek, and neither were pushovers.

**Meekness is Strength Under Control or Gentleness.**

The Greek word is “*Praus*”. It refers to a wild horse that’s been tamed, or medicine that tames a fever. Someone who was meek is then someone who has great strength under restraint.

# Definition of Meekness

The Bible and the dictionary definition of meekness represent two different concepts. The dictionary defines meekness as "deficient in courage, or weak". Jesus wasn't saying, "Blessed are the weak."

Meekness is not, passive submission, not cowardice, not indecisiveness, nor is it shyness.

A soothing medicine brings comfort; the wrong medicine can bring death. A gentle breeze cools and soothes; a tornado kills. An unbroken colt is destructive; a broken colt is useful. A soft answer brings calm; an angry answer leads to more anger (Prov. 15:1).

# What does Meekness look like?

Meekness is power completely surrendered to the will of God.

There are a number of Biblical characters who are described as being meek but who were by no means weak.

Abraham

Joseph

Moses

Jesus

Just to name a few.

# Ex. 1. Abraham---Genesis 13:8-9

Abraham says to Lot, “Look we are family, you choose which portion you want, and I will take what is left.” On the surface that sounds kind of foolish.

Did Abraham have the power to claim whatever land he wanted? Yes, but he didn't.

It is a beautiful picture of submission to God. Abraham knew in his heart that God was in control, and that God would work things out for him.

Meekness is seen in that he had the right and the power, but he never used it for his own benefit!



# Ex. 2. Joseph

He had 7 brothers and because he was his father's favorite, they hated him. He was sold and taken to Egypt.

He became Prime Minister of Egypt and the same brothers who sold him into slavery came begging for grain. He could have.....

He had the power, but it was under control. He looked at them, loved them and gave them everything they needed.

Meekness made Joseph look beyond the murderous intentions of his brothers to the sovereign control of His God.

Meekness shows up when you are right, and you have the power to wrong someone who has wronged you.

# Ex. 3. Moses

He was the meekest man who ever lived (Numbers 12:3), yet Moses was certainly not a weak man.

Moses always had power, but he did not always have it under control. Once, in a fit of anger, He killed an Egyptian task-master and hid his body in the sand (Exodus 2:12).

For forty years God put Moses on the “backside of the desert” (Exo. 3:1) in Midian refining the character of Moses (Exo 2:15-23), training him on how to get that power under control.

Moses who confronted the Pharaoh, the most powerful world leader, and demanded in the name of God that He set the Israelites free.

# Ex. 3. Moses---Number 12:1-2

The story concerns a rebellion led against Moses by Miriam, his own sister and Aaron, his brother.

While Moses was in Midian, he married a woman named Zipporah, who later died. Moses remarried a Cushite (Ethiopian). She was black and those closest to Moses were displeased.

While it is true that later the Israelites were forbidden to marry the inhabitants of Canaan, it was not true at this point. The point of contention may have been race.

# Ex. 3. Moses---Number 12:1-2

See how Moses reacted to this rebellion led by his brother and sister.

Moses does not defend himself. It is God who defended him and issued punishment on the leaders of the rebellion (Num. 12:4-10).

God reprimanded them for their disobedience asking, “Why were you not afraid to speak against my servant, Moses.” (Numbers 12:8)  
Miriam, who must have been the real instigator, was struck down with leprosy.

“In other words, God said to Miriam, ***“You’re brown, this girl is black, and you think white is better.***

# Ex. 4. Jesus

Jesus was the most powerful man who ever lived and yet His power was always under His Father's control.

He got angry when He chased the money-changers out of the Temple ... but I submit that He never lost His temper. He rebuked the Pharisees ... but ate with prostitutes and tax collectors. He welcomed children, spoke to large crowds, but felt the touch of a woman whose fingers brushed the hem of His garment. And even after being spit on, reviled, slapped, and nailed to a cross, how did Jesus react?

In meekness. He said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34)



# How does one become meek?

The quality of meekness is not natural but supernatural. It is not produced by self-effort but by submission to the control of the Holy Spirit. The “natural” response to adversity or criticism is either anger or despair. But the meek man responds differently because the Lord is in control of his life.

Meekness is self-control which manifests itself in a gentle spirit based on an unshakable confidence in God.

Meekness comes because you have so surrendered your life to God that He is free to demonstrate his power in you in the most difficult moments of life.

# What Is The Test Of Meekness?

**Being meek is exhibited through out attitude.**

- **Attitude Toward The Circumstances Of Our Lives**

Too many face the difficulties of life by fretting. “Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity... (11) But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace... (22) For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But those cursed by Him shall be cut off. .. (34) Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.” (Psalm 37:1, 11, 22, 34).

The meek person is the one who does not fret over circumstances in their lives but rather by faith cast all their burden on the Lord trusting that He will take care of them (1 Peter 5:7).

# What Is The Test Of Meekness?

- **Attitude Toward A Brother/Sister Who Sins.**

Meekness is remarkably evident in how one treats a fellow believer in sin.

The Apostle Paul advises the believers in Galatia, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are to spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted” (Gal 6:1).

Seek to restore the individual through gentleness and concern. Church discipline is never about punishment and is always about restoration.

How one reacts to the sin of a fellow Christian reveals volumes about their own spiritual condition.

# What Is The Test Of Meekness?

- **Attitude Toward Those People Who Disagree With Us**

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, (25) in humility (meekness) correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.” (2 Tim. 2:24-25)

Meekness is that quality which is best demonstrated when you are dealing with unreasonable people, deadline, surrounded by problems and getting frustrated.

# What Is The Test Of Meekness?

- **Harshness:** Is there a harshness in your treatment of others or a lack of gentleness?
- **Grasping:** Are you always focused on being first? Is it always your way or the highway? Is being number 1 your driving force? How much do you care if your actions affect others?
- **Vengeful:** Are you known as someone “no one should cross”? How forgiving are you?
- **Uncontrolled:** Does rage fill your soul so that life is a series of explosions?



# What Is Promised To The Meek?

This Beatitudes has a promise attached to it:

“They shall inherit the earth.”

It is not a promise that as Children of God we will own oil wells, gold mines or enormous wealth. If that happens, why not! But, this is not what this is about.

There is a future aspect to this promise as well. When Jesus says, “they shall inherit the earth.”

# What Is Promised To The Meek?

We shall inherit the earth.

He means it quite literally. Here the emphatic pronoun is used so it literally says, "Blessed are the meek for they only shall inherit the earth"

Inherit in the Greek means "to receive an allotted portion." Inherit is a future tense verb. It is a millennial promise.

In that day when the believer comes into the completeness of their inheritance it is then that the promise found in this beatitude will find complete fulfillment.

# What Is Promised To The Meek?

"The godless may boast and throw their weight around, yet real possession eludes their grasp.

The meek, on the other hand, although they may be deprived and denied by men, yet because they know what it is to live and reign with Christ, can enjoy and even possess the earth, which belongs to Christ.

Then on the day of regeneration there will be a new heaven and new earth for them to inherit."

# In Essence....

## 1. Meekness is Being Gentle not Judgmental

A meek person is gentle and understanding, gently leading those who are young in the faith.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.” (Romans 14:1 NIV)

Not: “I told you so.” “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.” (Gal. 6:1)

The one thing that angered Jesus was the self-righteous attitudes of the Jewish leaders as they always seemed to be judging others rather than sitting in judgment on themselves.

# In Essence....

## 2. Meekness is Being Tender without Surrender

We can't please everyone in this life, so a meek person is tender without surrendering what is right. One test of spiritual maturity is how we handle disagreeable people, those who irritate or contradict us at every turn.

There are three alternatives when it comes to confrontation: Retreat in fear, attack in anger, or respond in love. Meekness responds in love without compromising convictions.

We can be tender without surrender. Meekness isn't passivity, nor is it giving in. It's not reacting in anger and blowing others away.

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."  
(Proverbs 15:1)



# In Essence....

## 2. Meekness is Being Tender without Surrender

When someone has an argumentative spirit, it indicates an ego or pride.

A meek person is blessed because they can be tender without surrender.

Meekness is being able to disagree agreeably.

When we disagree, we can be passive and run, aggressive and fight, or meek and respond in love without compromising our beliefs.

Meekness as one of the qualifications for spiritual leadership: “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition.” (2 Tim. 2:24-25a)

Spiritual leaders are not argumentative. Instead they gently instruct and believe that it's the Lord who changes a person's heart, not their arguments.

# In Essence....

## 3. Meekness is Being Teachable not Unreachable

Meekness is a teachable spirit. Meek people are eager to learn. Meek people don't pretend they have all the answers.

The Apostle James said, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (James 1:19)

This verse tells us how to keep our temper under control, which is the meaning of meekness, power under control. If we're to be quick to listen and a whole lot slower to open our mouths, then our tempers will never be an issue.

# In Essence....

## 3. Meekness is Being Teachable not Unreachable

We need to use our ears a whole lot more than our mouths, which may be why God gave us two ears and one mouth.

Are you open or closed to change or new ideas? Do you say, “This is the way it’s always been done.” A meek person is teachable not unreachable.

“He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.” (Proverbs 13:18)

“I’d rather change my mind and succeed than have it my own way and fail” Author unknown.

# In Essence....

## 4. Meekness is Acting not Reacting

A meek person takes the initiative. The Apostle Paul said, We're all going to get hurt, and meekness involves how we're going to respond. Our natural desire is to retaliate and get even, but to retaliate is to react. But when we respond with forgiveness then we've taken the initiative. John Powell tells a story of how he and a friend were walking down the street when his friend stopped to buy a paper. The man selling the paper was grumpy and discourteous. John's friend responded, "Have a nice day." When Powell asked his friend if the man always was that rude, and he said, "Yes." Powell then asked if he was always that nice to him, which his friend said, "Yes." And when asked why his friend responded, "I'm not going to let one man ruin my whole day."

# In Essence....

## 4. Meekness is Acting not Reacting

Consider Moses. His own family criticized him for marrying Zipporah. It was an interracial marriage. So they challenged Moses' leadership. But Moses didn't say a thing to defend himself; instead he was content letting God handle the matter.

As a meek man Moses prayed for his sister's healing and God heard and healed.

Meekness is the ability to handle hurt without retaliation.

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” (Proverbs 16:23 NKJV)

Meek people are self-controlled, controlling their reactions toward life and life's hurts in and through the power of God.



# In Essence....

## 4. Meekness is Acting not Reacting

When Jesus quoted this beatitude He's quoting from what it says in Psalms 37:11 "But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Meekness allows its possessor to be content with whatever they have. It's such a spirit of meekness that the Apostle Paul exhibited.

"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:11-13).

# Conclusion

The Lord invites us to join his meekness.

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me: for I am gentle (meek) and lowly in heart: and you will find rest for your souls." (Mat 11:28-29)

A yoke is a wooden frame which was put on the back of animals and around their necks joining the two animals for a common task, such as plowing or pulling a wagon. If you are yoked with Jesus Christ, who do you think is pulling the load? Jesus can do the impossible and teach you meekness, and you will find rest in your soul.