

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Forever, Let the Praises Sing, Great is Thy Faithfulness, 10,000 Reasons, Cornerstone

WELCOME

Gentle Attitude. Briefly share your personal definition of gentleness.

WORD

MATTHEW 5:5

“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”

If we want to find legit happiness, come and learn from Jesus Himself through the Beatitudes that He taught in His sermon on the mount.

“Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth.” The promise for being gentle or humble is inheritance of God’s abundant prosperity (**Psalm 37:11**). It does not mean we will become billionaires, although that can also happen, but this means that God will bless us in great ways like in matters of health, relationships or other aspects of our lives.

The key to becoming gentle can be found in the very sequence of the Beatitudes (**Matthew 5:3–4**). To find legit happiness we must first be poor in spirit. We must become broken and be accepting that we are spiritually bankrupt. It is then when we begin to mourn and grieve upon realizing that we are indeed spiritually bankrupt. Only then do we become ready we become ready for God’s agenda with a gentle and quiet attitude.

The word gentle comes from the Greek word “praus” (pronounced as prah-ooce). The same word is used in three passages in the Bible which can help us learn how to be gentle.

A GENTLE PERSON MAKES OTHERS A PRIORITY

In **Matthew 11:28–29**, Jesus modeled the attitude of being gentle by looking to the needs of others and offering them rest. But more than that, he showed us that a gentle person is able to look at other people as a matter of priority. Without any personal agenda, but in humility, we regard others more important than ourselves (**Philippians 2:3–7**). Jesus is inviting us to learn from Him and imitate Him.

Sometimes being too busy is actually self-centeredness in disguise. To satisfy our own personal

agenda and interests, we unconsciously get more than we can chew. As a result, we overlook the needs of others, we fail to see and feel their presence, and we fail to make time for them. But let us learn from Jesus: although He is God, He emptied Himself and took the form of a bond-servant (**v.7**). In order to see more of others, we need to pause, step back and let go of ourselves.

Remember that whatever gain we have now, we owe it all to God our Father who causes our success. As we make others a priority we will surely be amazed to experience that when we bless others, we ourselves are also blessed.

A GENTLE PERSON HAS STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL

People during Jesus’ time was expecting a kingly and mighty messiah. So, the Beatitudes were not their picture of happy and blessed people. Jesus may appear “weak” to his audience, but His humble gesture was fulfilling the prophecy about Him as the King coming in gentleness (‘praus’), mounted on a donkey (**Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4–5**). Meekness is not necessarily weakness but strength under control. Jesus is showing us that a gentle and humble person has his strength under control.

Perhaps you are doing the right thing right now and yet you still experience injustice and character assassination that makes you want to retaliate. The Bible reminds us that to be gentle and that we must keep our strength under control because we know that vengeance is the Lord’s. We can trust Him and let Him be our Avenger (**Revelations 17:14**).

Definitely, Jesus is not a wimp. He is all-powerful (**Hebrews 1:3, John 1:3**). However, He kept His strength under control in whatever situation He was

WORD (cont'd)

in in order to fulfill the prophecy for which He came to earth—to save us from our sins. Let us then follow Christ, be humble and be gentle. Then, we can have the privilege of seeing God work His way, in His time, to serve His greater plan and higher purpose in our life (**John 10:18**).

The Bible also talks about an imperishable quality of a wife being a gentle and quiet spirit (**1 Peter 3:4**). She will not react in an ungodly manner to her difficult husband not because she is weak or less of a person than him, not even because she has a victim mentality, but because she is empowered by God to keep her strength under control.

To keep your strength under control, trust God and rest upon His strength (**Psalms 37:11, 7**).

A GENTLE PERSON IS DEPENDENT ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The truth is we cannot be gentle on our own. Because we simply have no power to do it, we need the Holy Spirit to empower us. In fact, gentleness, including self-control, is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:22–23**). A gentle person is fully dependent on the Holy Spirit, which is the ultimate source of gentleness in life.

To put the attitude of being gentle into practice, whenever we are confronted with a situation that can charge our emotions, apply P.R.A.Y.:

Pause, Resist the first impulse, Ask God for help and Yield to the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Gentle and Mighty.** What is the promise for the gentle and meek according to **Matthew 5:5**?
- 2. Gentle Me.** Do you consider yourself a gentle person? In what aspect/s of gentleness can you improve on based from our discussion today?
- 3. P.R.A.Y.** Give a specific situation wherein you can practice P.R.A.Y.

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

What is your call to action for this beatitude? Take some time for personal reflection to see how much you needed to be gentle and humble to be able to attract your family and friends to Jesus by following His example of being gentle and humble.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends