
The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)

The Fruit of the Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

June 21, 2020

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)

New Series Messages: “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit II (Producers)”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- **What’s the purpose of each element, and how do we produce and use them?**
- Sermon: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Joy (The Strength of Life)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Peace (Keeping Your Heart)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Longsuffering (“Waiting” on the Lord)
 - Definition: Strength in the face of uncommon trouble
 - Purpose: Restrain our Anger so that we can Serve Each Other
 - Produce: We produce Longsuffering when we Endure Trouble

Lesson Text

Matthew 26:48–54 (AV)⁴⁸ Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. ⁴⁹ And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. ⁵⁰ And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. ⁵¹ And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out *his* hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest’s, and smote off his ear. ⁵² Then said Jesus unto him, **Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.** ⁵³ **Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?** ⁵⁴ **But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?**

2 Timothy 2:24–26 (AV)²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, ²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; ²⁶ And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Matthew 18:21–22 (AV)²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

Introduction

Gentleness is the fifth element of the Fruit of the Spirit. It’s in the cluster of spiritual fruit that includes longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness. They help us to get along with each other.

How many of you are challenged in dealing with cruel, mean, hateful, ugly, or nasty people (“Nice-nasty”)? How tough is it to hold your peace when they attack you; especially when they do it over and over again?

The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)

Page 2 of 5 (June 21, 2020)

Now add to this the interpersonal devastation of betrayal from people you considered close friends or loved ones! How hard is it not to react to these folks?

We live in a “Clap Back” society of cruel people living in a cruel world; and everybody wants to “Clap Back” when they feel that they've been wronged.

Luke 17:1 (AV)¹ Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

To deal with the people who offend us, hurt us, betray us, and are cruel to us the Holy Spirit produces the Fruit of Gentleness; so that we don't “Clap Back”!

In our lesson text, Jesus told Peter to put away his sword when confronted by his betrayer.

Matthew 26: ⁵³ **Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?**

Jesus had the Power to “Clap Back”, but if he did, considering 1 angel can destroy 185K men; With 12 Legions of Angels (7000 x 12 = 84,000 Angels) x 185K = 15.54 Billion People.

But he had the Strength of Character to Control His Power!

John 10:18 (AV)¹⁸ **No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

When attacked by cruel people, we have the power to “Clap Back”, and it's within our nature to do so. But the Holy Spirit produces Gentleness in us, giving us the ability to control our Power.

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)

“The Definition, Purpose, and Production of Gentleness”

I. The Definition of Gentleness

How do we define the Fruit of the Spirit, Gentleness?

Matthew 26: ⁵² Then said Jesus unto him, **Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. ⁵³ Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?**

Gentleness is synonymous with kindness, compassion, tenderness, meekness, and mercy.

The challenge with gentleness and its synonyms is that people sometimes confuse them with weakness; especially the people this fruit is intended for, the cruel.

Abraham Lincoln was well known for his gentleness. But it can never be said he was weak.

We must never mistake gentleness for weakness. Gentleness is about strength of character with a compassionate spirit.

The Definition of Gentleness is the Controlled Power to be Kind and Compassionate to those who are Cruel; especially when you have the power to not be!

Lamentations 3:22–23 (AV)²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Although the wages of sin is death, why does God NOT destroy us? Gentleness!

Why didn't Jesus send for a Twelve Legions of Angels when all power was in his hands? It is because He had the Controlled Power of Gentleness.

John 10:17–18 (AV)¹⁷ *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

When someone attacks us, we have the power to give an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth; But Gentleness gives us the Power to be Kind; and our Father is well pleased!

II. The Purpose of Gentleness

What is the purpose of Gentleness?

2 Timothy 2:24–26 (AV)²⁴ *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, ²⁵In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; ²⁶And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

The reason why there are so many wicked, evil, and cruel people around us is because our world is wicked, evil, and cruel. They are literally ensnared or trapped by the devil!

Ephesians 2:2 (AV)² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

John 8:44 (AV)⁴⁴ *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

The purpose of Gentleness is to Deliver the Lost out of the hands or snares of the Enemy

Jeremiah 31:3 (AV)³ *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

We can't deliver cruel people by being cruel; we can't deliver wicked people by being wicked; we can't deliver evil people by being evil.

We need the Controlled Power of Gentleness so we can deliver our enemies from hell!

Romans 12:21 (AV)²¹ *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

III. The Production of Gentleness

The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)

Page 4 of 5 (June 21, 2020)

Gentleness is the Controlled Power to be Kind to those who are Cruel. Its purpose is to deliver them out of the hands or snares of the enemy.

Now how do we Produce the Power of Gentleness?

Matthew 18: 21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

For some people, they will only give folk one time to cross them. For others, they may go “three strikes and you’re out”. Peter was willing to give them seven times.

Truthfully, all the Apostles struggled with Gentleness and Mercy!

Luke 17:4–5 (AV)⁴ **And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.** ⁵ And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

The ability to be Gentle and give Mercy over and over is not a human possibility; without God and the Holy Spirit, our ability to forgive will eventually run out!

The Holy Spirit produces Gentleness when we give people Mercy over and over again

Matthew 18: 22 Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

When you have the Holy Spirit, He gives you more gentleness every time you give mercy.

Lamentations 3:22–23 (AV)²² *It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ²³ **They are new every morning:** great *is* thy faithfulness.

God gives us new mercies every morning, because His Mercy endures forever!

God’s Mercy is not just given to you for you, but also for you to give to others!

Psalms 136:1–3 (AV)¹ O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. ² O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. ³ O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

When you have the Holy Ghost, the more you give Mercy, the more God will give you because His Mercy Endures Forever.

The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)

Page 5 of 5 (June 21, 2020)

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 26:48–54, 2 Timothy 2:24–26, Matthew 18:21–22

Sermon Outline

I. *The Definition of Gentleness*

II. *The Purpose of Gentleness*

III. *The Production of Gentleness*

Questions

I. **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. Would you rather have someone be very blunt with you with their words, or have someone “beat around the bush” with their words?
2. How did you handle a time when you had the opportunity to show gentleness when it was in your power not to be?

II. **Into the Bible**

1. James 3:17 tells us that godly wisdom is, among other things, gentle. Study James 3:13-18 and answer the following: (a) How does the wisdom of the world differ from the wisdom from above? and (b) How does the wisdom from above help us to maintain relationships with others?
2. Look again at James 3:17-18 and answer the following: (a) How does the wisdom from above, especially the attribute of gentleness, show itself as strength in our interactions with others? And (b) What role does the wisdom from above play in producing fruit?

III. **Life Application**

1. In the past when you were mistreated by cruel people you may have taken out your “sword” like Peter to “cut” people with your words, behavior or other actions to defend yourself. After hearing the sermon on the Fruit of Gentleness, what course of action will you take to display controlled power to these people?
2. How can you extend mercy to forgive those who have offended you instead of keeping track of their offenses?