

Gentleness

Today I will walk in the strength of gentleness. Gentleness is both an attitude and attribute of God – strength under control – the control of the Holy Spirit in me. Gentleness is power harnessed to serve others with the love of Jesus. Today my actions will reflect this in the same way Jesus did, though He is almighty God He responded with gentleness toward those who crucified Him. This fruit of the Spirit, gentleness, in Jesus is power harnessed to serve others in love. When the world deals harshly with me, I too will respond in gentleness with the power of the Spirit.

Today, as I face difficult situations, or deal with difficult people, I will respond in the same way that God, my loving Heavenly Father responds to me – with gentleness. I will not do this in my own strength – in truth I cannot do so – but rather by submitting to God, His Word and His Spirit as a follower of Jesus. Through submission I am choosing to allow His Spirit full reign in my life to produce the strength of gentleness in and through me, reflecting Jesus to others. Today I will walk in the strength of gentleness.

Regardless of when anger may seem an appropriate response I will respond with the strength of gentleness. Gentleness will always keep anger focused on the desired end; love others as Jesus loves me. In all my interactions with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers and even enemies, I will respond as Jesus, with gentleness. Steady resolve and definitive actions will mark my life as they did Jesus'; this is not incompatible with the fruit of gentleness. Rather they define the strength and power that are found in the fruit of gentleness, ultimately leading to freedom.

Today I will walk in the strength of gentleness. As with all fruit, necessary care and cultivation is required of me. I will do this by prayerfully submitting to the filling and control of the Holy Spirit daily. As I do the fruit of gentleness will materialize in and through me, and I will be more like Jesus. Today I will walk in the strength of gentleness.

Study: Gentleness

Day 1: The Strength of Gentleness - *Proverbs 15:1-4* (Page 491); *1 Timothy 6:11-13* (Page 913)

Day 2: Jesus and Gentleness - *Matthew 11:28-30* (Page 742); *Luke 23:34* (Page 807); *Hebrews 12:2* (Page 927)

Day 3: Wisdom in Gentleness - *James 3:17-18* (Page 931); *Proverbs 29:11* (Page 502)

Day 4: Gentleness and Authority - *2 Corinthians 10:1-6* (Page 887); *Romans 15:1* (Page 867); *Proverbs 15:1* (Page 491)

Day 5: With one Another - *Colossians 3:12* (Page 903); *Ephesians 4:2* (Page 896); *Ephesians 4:32* (Page 897); *Ruth 2:20* (Page 209)

Day 6: Appropriate Response - *1 Thessalonians 5:15* (Page 907); *1 John 3:14-20* (Page 942); *Deuteronomy 15:7* (Page 151)

Day 7: Reflected in Jesus - *Matthew 12:19-20* (Page 743); *1 Peter 2:21-23* (Page 935); *Isaiah 40:11* (Page 547). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

Memory verse: James 3:17 *"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere."* James 3:17

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?