

DAILY READING: GENTLENESS

Today I will walk in the strength of gentleness. Gentleness is an attitude and an attribute of God. Gentleness is strength under control—the control of the Holy Spirit in me. Gentleness is not weakness, it is actually power harnessed to serve others with the love of Jesus. Today my actions will model Jesus' actions when He responded with love to those who sought to take His life. When the world deals harshly with me, I will respond in gentleness. The Spirit will help me do this.

Today, as I face difficult situations or deal with difficult people, I will respond in the same way 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. Through submission I am choosing to give His Spirit full access to my life to produce the strength of gentleness in me and reflect Jesus to others.

Even my anger will flow through my personality as gentleness. The desired end of gentleness is always love for God and others. When I talk to my family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers and even enemies, I will respond with the gentleness of Jesus. Actions of gentleness will mark my life as they did Jesus'.

Gentleness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. As with all fruit, necessary care and cultivation is required. I will ask the Holy Spirit to direct my life today. This way 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.

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 the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere."

James 3:17

DAILY STUDY: GENTLENESS

DAY 1: The Strength of Gentleness - Proverbs 15:1-4 (Page 491); 1 Timothy 6:11-14 (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 10:1-4 (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.

ACTIVITY:

Be gentle with those around you. It is easy to be rude without meaning it, especially when it comes to the people we know best. Focus on your attitude and behaviors. Are you being gentle and loving or rude?

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?