MEEKNESS OVERLOAD

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Galatians 5:23 *gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Meekness (gentleness, NKJV) is the by-product of various factors, not the least of which are deep, complete humility, but an awareness of the seriousness of what our past conduct produced, especially toward our Jesus Christ. These properties have domesticated the beast, eliminated our self-will, and made our minds perceptive to the leadership of God's Spirit. This is supernatural and not the least natural - the outcome of God's grace toward us and His Spirit operating and growing in us. It very profoundly modifies our view of God, at times even radically - to understand His purpose, the tests of life, oneself, and others.

This is very significant concerning trials because meekness is the contrast of self-will toward God and ill-will toward men.

Meekness is the result of God by His Spirit operating in you and me. Godly sorrow softens our stubborn rebellion and our hearts so that we are made receptive to the Creator's workings to produce His image in us. Therefore, meekness and the qualities already mentioned also include our becoming pliable, malleable, submissive, and teachable. In the New Testament, this condition is referred to as "childlike."

The Lord corrects every son He loves (Hebrews 12:6), and sometimes His disciplines are tough to bear. We have strong drives within us to run from them, or at minimum, to murmur and grumble under their trial. Yet the meek will not do this. They will endure the deprivation, embarrassment, loss, pain, ignorance, or abuse with quiet patience because they understand that God is sovereign over all and working in their lives.

The response Aaron had to God's execution of his two sons is an illustration:

"Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace." (Leviticus 10:1-3)

That was shocking, a bitter pill to swallow, but Aaron took it suitably, meekly - the evidence of growth. In Psalm 39:9, you get a similar glimpse of meekness now from David, who refers to a stressful situation he was facing, giving us this example: "I was mute, I did not open my mouth, because it was You who did it."

The most outstanding illustration of this is Jesus Christ, who sustained horrific trials though He was the Son of The Almighty. John 18:11 states, "Then Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?""

Acts 8:32 carries added insight on Christ's meek attitude: "He was led [not dragged] as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so He opened not His mouth." Our Lord was the very King of meekness.

Meekness enables an individual to endure those offenses and insults patiently at the hand of others. It makes them able to accept instruction from the smallest of the saints. It allows them to face provocation without acting kindled by it. They remain composed when others become avid. Meek characters seek no private retaliation; they trust God's sense of justice and forget about it while striving to stay steadfast in their calling and adhere to God's standards.

The spirit of meekness empowers its possessor to extract great satisfaction from their earthly portion, be it great or small. Rescued from a selfish and greedy nature, they are satisfied with what they have. The contentment of the mind is one of the outcomes of meekness. The proud and selfish do not inherit the earth. Just as it says in Psalm 37:16, "A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked."

The world identifies us who love the Lord as being loving people - caring, patient, tender and kind. And it is all bundled with a spirit of meekness that can only come from the Holy One. Let us strive on a daily basis to be just like Him!

At His service, Pr. Teddy Santos