

INSIDE OUT

NINE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

The Fruit of the Spirit
#8 "GENTLENESS"
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
April 2, 2017

1. Welcome to our study on GENTLENESS. Please read together **Galatians 5:22-23**.
 - a. Do you think gentleness is a valued character trait in today's world?
 - b. Why or why not?

2. READ Matthew 12:6-21
 - a. What conclusions about Jesus have you come to after reading these scriptures?
 - b. One of the truest tests of greatness is how a leadership person, or one who is in a superior position, treats others. From this scripture what can you conclude about how Jesus treated those who might have been perceived to be lesser than he?
 - c. From verse 18, how does he show that he will proclaim justice to all the nations?
 - d. Explain what a "bruised reed" and a "smoldering wick" represent to you.
 - e. How did Jesus respond to those who were physically sick, emotionally ill, or spiritually weak?
 - f. How did Jesus respond to those who felt they were superior to others, such as the Pharisees, teachers, and religious leaders?
 - g. Generally, how do you find yourself responding to those around you who might be considered to be physically sick, emotionally hurting, lonely, abandoned, or without spiritual life?

3. Explain how all of us have some 'power' over other people.

4. What do you think this definition of gentleness means?
GENTLENESS IS POWER UNDER CONTROL

5. READ Matthew 11:28-29
 - a. How is Jesus described here?
 - b. How is Jesus' life a model of 'power under control'? Explain.
 - c. What promise are we given in these verses?
 - d. The Israelites understood the word "soul" to mean the entire person. With that definition in mind, how is gentleness and humbleness related to rest?
 - e. How do you think learning to be more gentle could help us learn to be more restful?

6. COMMENT: The taming of a wild horse is known as 'meeking'. It is the process of taking a powerful animal and bringing its passion and power completely under control.
 - a. What similarities do our human personalities have to the personality of a wild horse?
 - b. When does a wild horse become useful?
 - c. When do you think we become useful to the kingdom of God?

7. COMMENT: In scripture the words 'gentleness' and 'meekness' are interchangeable.
READ 1 Peter 3:3-4 in the King James Version (KJV) and the New International Version (NIV)
 - a. What words are interchangeable in verse 4?
 - b. Where are we told that real beauty comes from?
 - c. Why do you think we are attracted to gentle or meek people? And to those people who we know are powerful but have a gentle approach to life? (Think of why we are attracted to a magnificent stallion with a stunning saddle and a great rider)
 - d. How would you explain this statement to someone? "Meekness is not weakness."
8. READ Matthew 5:5
 - a. What promise is given by Jesus to those who are gentle?
 - b. Why does this seem so contrary to the way our society works?
9. READ James 3:17 in The Living Bible Translation (TLB)
 - a. How is God's wisdom described here? What specific adjectives are used?
 - b. What effect does God's wisdom have on conversations, discussions and disagreements?
 - c. If you had to rate your interactions with others, how would you rate them as compared to this verse?
 - d. What would need to change in you, so that your interactions with others would more closely align with what James has written?
10. READ Proverbs 15:1-4
 - a. What is revealed here about the power of words?
 - b. Contrast what is considered 'a gentle answer' to what 'a harsh word' would be.
 - c. What is the difference between the tongue of the wise and the mouth of a fool?
11. READ Proverbs 25:11-15 (try reading a few versions like The Living Bible and others)
 - a. What characteristics of words are given here?
 - b. What is the power of a gentle tongue?
 - c. How is this passage of scripture different from what we hear from people every day?
 - d. Do you think we believe what is written here, or do we feel that using our power, privilege or position to get what we want is still the right way?
 - e. For those who are raising children....what are your thoughts on these verses? Do they apply?
12. COMMENT: Another way to define gentleness is POWER UNDER GOD'S CONTROL.
 - a. What do you think that means?
 - b. How could not asserting our power actually be more Christ like?
13. Share a real circumstance in your life where you are called upon to show the real strength of gentleness. Is there a way your group support you in this?

WRAP UP:

What do you think the difference is between trying to be gentle and allowing the gentleness of the Holy Spirit to flow through you?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Your **EASTER Offering** envelope is in the mail. If you have not received yours yet please contact the office at 705-673-6110 and let them know. We want everyone to be able to participate in this great opportunity.

This season we are asking you to contribute over and above your regular giving so as a church we can reach out to Attawapiskat, and the Dominican Republic.

Your generosity affords us the opportunity to present out Good Friday outreach free to your friends, relatives, neighbours and family.

Your **EASTER Offering** also supports PLUNGE IN THE PARK, our community outreach baptism service held June 25th. This is a Sunday where we do not receive an offering so your help during the **EASTER Offering** will cover the revenues from our day at the beach as well as the scrumptious free BBQ.

YOU WONT WANT TO MISS 72: *The World's Darkest Hours*, a dramatic video and music production detailing the unjust execution of the man known as Jesus Christ. Set in a future age, the lives of the people who executed Jesus come under great stress as they discover who this man really was and the hoax they have been forced to propagate. Using the great commercial music and the music of the church, as well as powerful videos, you will experience a dramatic and moving presentation that will lead you to examine some of life's biggest questions.

At this Good Friday service, April 14th, 7p.m., we are also providing free *childcare* to age 12, and a meet and greet *reception* immediately following the presentation.

EASTER SUNDAY is April 16! As we celebrate Christ's resurrection, we begin our new series "Peace, Love, Party".

Practice using your Nine Risky Words...you never know what God will do!

"WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO CHURCH WITH ME?"

