

Gentleness

I think when we consider the word gentle, or gentleness, when referring to someone, we have somewhat of an example of how definitions in our language changes with time.

In today's culture, gentle seems to reflect weakness in someone.

As used in the Bible, I don't think this could be farther from the truth.

Truly having a gentle spirit, may be one of the hardest character traits of God for us to develop in our own lives, as it reflects true inner strength, as we navigate through this life of challenges.

When medical doctors graduate from medical school, they recite an ethics vow derived from an ancient Greek text called the Hippocratic Oath.

It basically states that they promise to use their knowledge and skills, to the best of their ability, to help people's physical health needs, but to do nothing that might cause harm.

Christians have, in effect, made a vow to God to use their knowledge and skills to help people with their spiritual needs.

We do this by obeying the instructions Jesus gave us in Mark 16: 15-16 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

We also must, do no harm, with our example, as we navigate through this life, and that is where a gentle spirit is needed.

Solomon said in Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

We all have been in stressful situations, or faced by people who are angry, stressed, or just quarrelsome.

How we conduct ourselves in these times determines whether we do harm, or glorify God.

It takes tremendous inner strength to remain calm and pleasant in times of trouble or despair, or in the face of insult or attack. But that is what Jesus did throughout his life, and what God wants and expects from us.

I don't think it comes naturally to us, but with God's help, it is a character trait like His that is developed through practice, in our quest to please and be more like Him.

It's the ability to demonstrate God's love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness, and remain pleasant and gentle, regardless the situation, allowing your light to continue to shine, glorifying God.

That is the Gentleness of God.