

Meekness -(Zeph. 2:3; 1 Tim. 6:11)

Meekness (Greek praoteetos), Meek (Gr. praotes).

Trench, a well recognized N.T. scholar, defines meekness as follows, "Meekness is an inwrought grace of the soul and the exercises are first and chiefly toward God through Jesus Christ. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good and therefore without disputing or resisting. The meekness before God is also such in the face of man." The believer who is meek is without guile, is an honest believer void of double mindedness or guile.

Oswald Sanders, writes, "Meekness is not mere amiability of mildness of disposition. It is not spineless or servile man, for meekness is not an invertebrate virtue. It has nothing in common with the self-styled or self-afflicted humility, but is the opposite of an haughty and self-assertive spirit." Meekness is not weakness for it is actually a very strong word. It implies forces and strengths held in check under strong control. The word meekness is used for the breaking in of horses, with the idea of controlled energy, forces of personality held firmly in hand."

Meekness is an attitude that does not insist on its own rights, or on having its own way through strife and envy or anger. It stems from faith in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all.

In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend them against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means that God knows the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His elect, and that He will deliver His elect in His time. (Isa. 41:17; Luke 18:1-8). A meek believer if insulted or treated wrongly he will not retaliate. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will. (Gal. 5:23).

Examples of meekness:

Moses, he was a meek man in God's eyes - Num 12:3. David was meek in his dealings with King Saul - 1 Sam 16:9; Jer. 26:14. Job was a meek man. John the Baptist was a meek man subject to Holy Spirit. Jesus is a meek Saviour, Isa. 42:1-4; Isa. 53:7; Matt. 11:28, 29; Hebr. 10:7; Matt. 26:47-54. The Centurion was a man in authority submitted to his superiors, Matthew 8:5-13. The apostle Paul was a man of meekness, 1 Thess. 2:7; Acts 9:17.

Promises of blessings to the meek:

- 1. Satisfaction** - "The meek shall be satisfied" Psalm 22:26
- 2. Discretion** - "The meek will He guide in judgment" (having insight in making right decisions – no double mindedness) Psalm 25:9
- 3. Instruction** - "... The meek will He teach His ways." Psalm 25:9
- 4. Salvation** - "... to save all the meek of the earth" Psalm 76:9
- 5. Exaltation** - "The Lord lifts up the meek;" Psalm 147:6
- 6. Beautify** - "He will beautify the meek with salvation." Psa. 149:4
- 7. Joy** - "The meek also will increase their joy in the Lord." Isa. 29:19
- 8. Inheritance** - "The meek shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5
- 9. Single mind** - "Therefore put away all filthiness and unrestrained wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." James 1:21
- 10. Repentance** - *Turns the double minded soul into a single focused mindset of faith.*