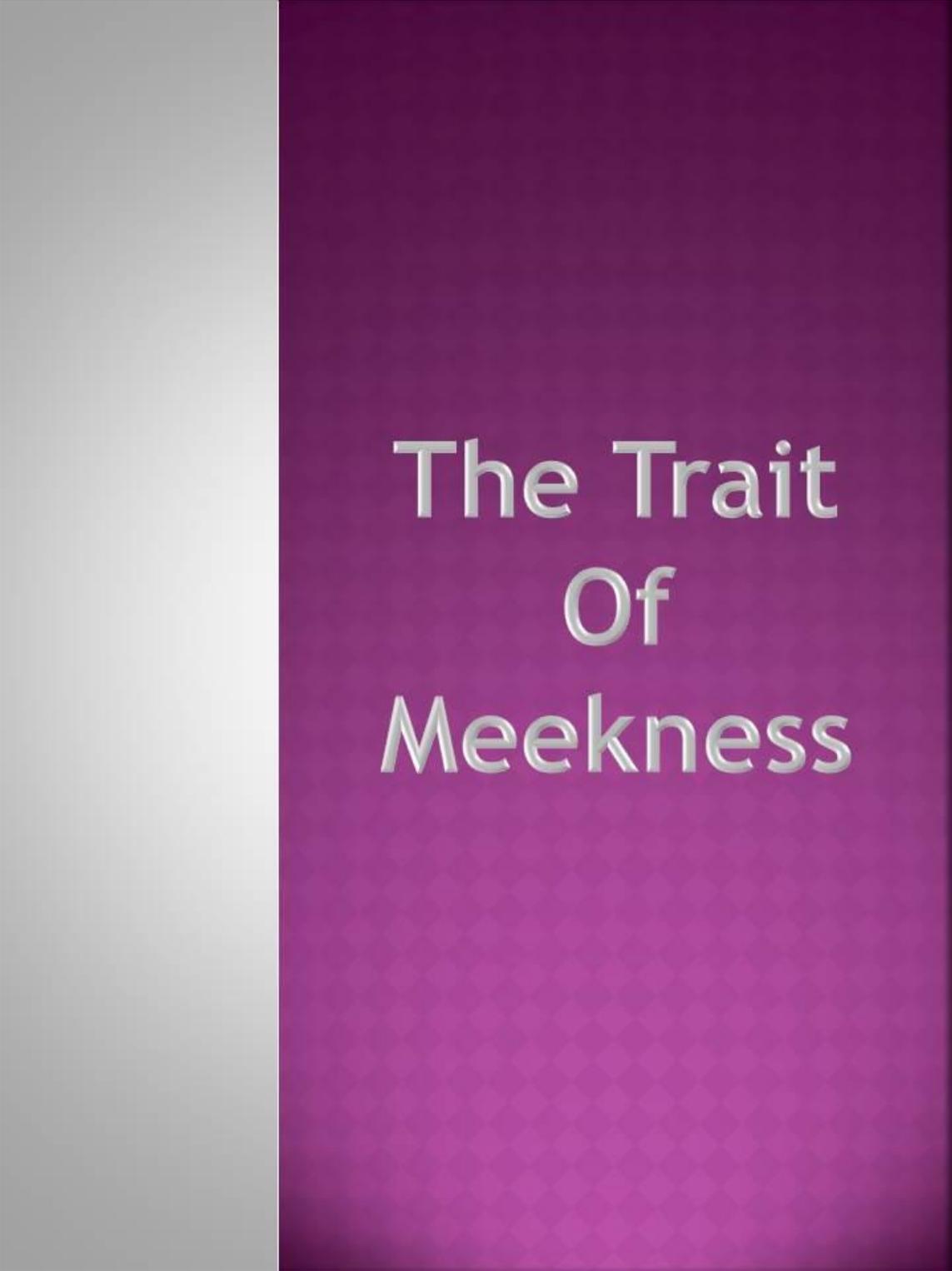




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The Trait Of Meekness

THE TRAIT OF MEEKNESS

By Ed Tidwell

God was fed up with the constant complaining of the children of Israel: “We’re hungry! We’re thirsty! We’re tired! We want to go back to Egypt!” But then, even after God provided all their needs, they complained about what God provided (for example – manna). Added to their murmurings was making and worshipping a golden calf. **THAT WAS THE FINAL AFFRONT!**

Scripture implies that God would have destroyed them except for the intervention of a man with a spiritual quality called MEEKNESS (Numbers 12:3). Then, the man Moses, caring more for the Israelites than his own life, spoke up for them: “***Oh, these people have sinned a great sin ... if you will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book [of life]***” (Exodus 32:31-33).

God inspired the following character trait to be written by Moses: “***Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth***” (Numbers 12:3). Moses was ready and willing to give up his own life to save his people. From these Scriptures, it is easy to see why Moses was a friend of God (Exodus 33:11). Do we see the duality? Thousands of years later, a similar incident occurred and was carried out to its completion to save all of mankind by the second Moses, Jesus Christ.

Webster’s Dictionary defines “meek” as: 1. Patient and mild; not inclined to anger or resentment. 2. Too submissive; easily imposed on; spineless; spiritless. 3. Gentle or kind. It’s easy to see definition number two, spineless and spiritless, is not a valid Bible definition by the example of Moses’ courageous, spirited willingness to die for his people

SAUL’S POOR EXAMPLE

When the children of Israel began to want to be ruled by a human man, like the Gentile nations around them, they wanted an outstanding man. Because the Israelites looked to physical characteristics such as height and handsomeness, God selected such a man to be their king. At the time, he thought so very little of himself that he hid from the coronation ceremony even though he knew God had chosen him to be the king of Israel (I Samuel 10:21-24).

But, as so often happens with leaders, Saul eventually lost his quality of meekness and began to think more of himself than he did of God. His own self-importance drove him to take matters in his own hands rather than follow God’s instructions (I Samuel 13:1-14). Because of his continued disobedience, God removed him from his office by death (I Samuel 31:1-6). Saul’s demise was brought about by his loss of humility and by thinking more highly of himself than of God. That led to his disobedience and subsequent rejection by God as king: “So Samuel said, ‘***When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? ... Why then did you NOT OBEY the voice of the LORD? ... Because you have***

rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king’” (I Samuel 15:17, 19, 23). This is a lesson for all of us to keep in our minds and hearts lest we be rejected by our wonderful, caring God.

A QUALIFYING CHARACTER TRAIT

Sometimes when we face problems, like whenever we find ourselves stuck in traffic or we have a misunderstanding with someone, or if we must face magistrates, or we find ourselves in a financial bind, or any number of other predicaments, we would do well to remember and obey the words of the apostle Paul to Titus: *“to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men”* (Titus 3:2).

We should always try hard to remember and follow the wonderful example set by Jesus Christ in His ultimate trial and test that led to His horrible death: *“Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”* (I Peter 2:23). There also is the example of Jesus Christ after His arrest: *“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so He opened not His mouth”* (Acts 8:32). Notice that a meek person does not argue religion or try to force religion on others, but only defends the hope that lies within us (I Peter 3:15).

MEEKNESS: A FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In stark contrast to the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), the apostle Paul wrote of the fruits of the Holy Spirit of God: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law”* (Galatians 5:22-23). God’s perfect laws of liberty (James 1:25), intertwine and are interdependent, perfectly meshing with one another while building and lifting us up. Having this quality of meekness automatically invokes and lifts up the wonderful blessing of love within us. This love is so powerful that a spirit of calmness or peace settles within us (John 14:27) and leads us to become more patient and gentle with others while building faith and trust in God.

Being meek means we no longer think more of ourselves than we should. It also means we should cheerfully submit to the rulership of God’s government and to those Jesus Christ has put in leadership positions over us (Hebrews 13:7, 17). It also means we hold others in higher esteem, putting their interests above our own (Philippians 2:3). It has the true meaning of really becoming a family, the very purpose as to why we were born. In the end, God will not only bless us, but also give us a bonus! *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”* (Matthew 5:5). God will grant us rulership on earth if we demonstrate the precious trait of meekness like Moses and not think highly of ourselves like King Saul. When we develop the spiritual quality of mild patience in our dealings with others, God will then be able to use us as empathetic, caring kings and teachers in His wonderful Kingdom and divine family!