

## Pursue Meekness

Ponder: What is Biblical meekness? Why do I need to pursue it?

Scripture: “. . . follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness” (1 Timothy 6:11, KJV).

“That fellow is as meek as a mouse.” What an unfortunate illustration of meekness! The poor mouse is simply weak and afraid, in comparison to the strong, hungry cat. Biblically, however, meekness is not weakness. To the contrary, it is strength under control.

Think of a dam built across a river. Above the dam, the flood rampages, eroding the land and destroying everything in its path. The moving water’s strength is out of control. That same water, however, generates useful energy as it moves through the turbines of a hydroelectric plant in a controlled release.

In Biblical meekness, people voluntarily place their strength under God’s control. Such is not normal for a sinful person! Our tendency is to use our strength to get whatever we want, even if we have to run roughshod over others to get it. When we’re acting that way, we don’t even stop to consider the will of God. No wonder Paul said to “pursue” (follow after, chase) meekness.

Sometimes Paul’s word for meekness is translated gentleness. Here again, the world’s way of looking at gentleness may involve being soft and docile. Forget that! Instead, think of a gentleman cowboy from the movies. He’s strong as can be, as the bad guys know all too well. But he is kind to the ladies, polite and respectful. He doesn’t throw his weight around, but isn’t afraid to use his strength to do right.

As He pleaded with those burdened down with sin to come to Him, Jesus said “I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29). Our Lord certainly wasn’t soft or weak; but He was gentle in the best way. He willingly subjected His infinite strength to the will of the Heavenly Father.

When Paul exhorted the Corinthians to correct the things amiss in that congregation, he pleaded with them “by the meekness and gentleness of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:1). Paul had apostolic authority. He could have puffed out his chest and ordered them to obey! But God’s Spirit had produced His fruit in Paul, one manifestation of which was meekness (Galatians 5:23).

Let the Holy Spirit produce fruit in you. Pursue meekness!