

Trust is not a passive state of mind. It is a vigorous act of the soul by which we choose to lay hold on the promises of God and cling to them despite the adversity that at times seeks to overwhelms us. —Jerry Bridges

Spurgeon's Catechism
Compiled by Charles Haddon Spurgeon
[1834 -1892]

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

69.Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace (Heb. 10:39), whereby we receive (Jn. 1:12), and rest upon him alone for salvation (Phil. 3:9), as he is set forth in the gospel (Isa. 33:22).

70.Q. What is repentance to life?

A. Repentance to life is a saving grace (Acts 11:18), whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sins (Acts 2:37), and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ (Joel 2:13), does with grief and hatred of his sin turn from it to God (Jer. 31:18-19), with full purpose to strive after new obedience (Ps. 119:59).

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Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Meekness is not weakness. Within the last few years, I was privileged to read Dane Ortlund’s book, *Meek and Lowly*. The impact on me was humbling, to say the least, and profitable to be sure. Obviously, the title is drawn from the words of our Lord in bidding us to learn of Him and to know that He is “meek and lowly in heart.” In a world where boasting and self-promotion seem to be the preferred way, such an attitude is clearly distinguished and will often be noticed for what is not asserted or claimed. Often such a way is held in contempt and becomes the focus of those who perceive it as weakness. The precedents we find in Scripture depict any but weakness. And here, we have it presented to us as a reason to sense blessedness. At this, the outset of the Sermon on the Mount we are told of precious conditions of blessedness. All these beatitudes speak to us of the visitations of the grace of God, joyful surrender to the will of God, and expectation that looks beyond this present world. We note the similarity between the first calling our attention to those who have no allusions of personal righteousness, and this third one where we see those surrendered to the will of God.

Regarding meekness we look first at the comments of John Gill on this verse: “Blessed are the meek,.... Who are not easily provoked to anger; who patiently bear, and put up with injuries and affronts; carry themselves courteously, and affably to all; have the meanest

thoughts of themselves, and the best of others; do not envy the gifts and graces of other men; are willing to be instructed and admonished, by the meanest of the saints; quietly submit to the will of God, in adverse dispensations of providence; and ascribe all they have, and are, to the grace of God. Meekness, or humility, is very valuable and commendable.” From there we look at several examples in Scripture. We are aware of many who were used mightily of God in working out the plan of redemption. Always in view is the character of Christ and the presence of the Spirit bringing these things to pass.

We begin with Moses. I have always been inspired to read Moses and in reading Moses. We are reminded that he was exiled from Egypt because he would defend one from a wrongdoer. He was not without strength to endure for the next forty years. We then see the boldness that came as he was called by the Lord to deliver His people from bondage. It was with boldness that he faced the most powerful ruler in the world and prevailed. Obviously, we know that it was God who had raised up this pharaoh to make His power known, but the Lord worked through Moses. But for all that was done, we read of Moses: *(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) (Numbers 12:3).*

Again, when we think of men of the Bible and their exploits, David often comes to mind. As a youth able to deliver his flock from a lion and a bear. And of course, he bursts on the

scene as the slayer of the heathen giant Goliath. From there his exploits are recorded as a great warrior and defender of the Lord's people. He stood out as a mighty man of God among many mighty men of God. But our text may be a direct quote from David who wrote in the Psalms, *For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. (Psalms 37:10-11)*. In considering David's words here we would conclude that he knew and experienced such blessedness. We would note here that the Hebrew word for "blessed" speaks of happiness. When translated into the Greek, it is the same word as used in our text.

It was often necessary for Paul to invoke apostolic authority. This was especially true of writing to the Corinthians. Yet, he wrote these words to them: *Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: (2 Corinthians 10:1)*. While Paul could be bold in presenting the Word, he was nevertheless fully submitted to them in the way of wanting them to understand that the love of Christ was in Him toward them.

Of course, the ultimate example of meekness is seen in our Lord. We cite the words previously alluded to. *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:29-30)*. Indeed, this meekness was on display throughout His earthly ministry. He was fully submitted to the will of the Father and was obedient in all things, even the "death of the cross." *It had been prophesied of Him hundreds*

of years before: All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. (Matthew 21:4-5). He meekly submitted to all that was appointed unto Him to endure – the kiss of the betrayer, the contempt of the mob, the spitting, and the scourging. He "openeth not His mouth..."

Elisabeth Elliott wrote: "Meekness is teachability. "The meek will he teach his way" (Psalm 25:9, KJV). It is the readiness to be shown, which includes the readiness to lay down my fixed notions, my objections and "what ifs" or "but what abouts," my certainties about the rightness of what I have always done or thought or said. It is the child's glad "Show me! Is this the way? Please help me." We won't make it into the kingdom without that childlikeness, that simple willingness to be taught and corrected and helped. "Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21, KJV). Meekness is an explicitly spiritual quality, a fruit of the Spirit, learned, not inherited. It shows in the kind of attention we pay to one another, the tone of voice we use, the facial expression."

And so, we find the mandates to meekness in Paul's writing to both Timothy and Titus. Peter not only displayed it in his epistles, but also in such declarations as "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

We are to delight in such blessedness (happiness) as is becoming to us as we gladly follow Him who is "meek and lowly in heart."
bhs

There cannot be a heaven without Christ. He is the sum total of bliss, the fountain from which heaven flows, the element of which heaven is composed. — Charles Spurgeon

God knows what I need before I even ask him. What does God know?

God knows my situation perfectly. God knows every single detail with perfect clarity. God knows its beginning and its ending. He knows how long it will last. Even more, He knows how long it should last. He knows how it will affect me, and He knows how it will affect those around me.

God knows what I need with perfect wisdom. God knows how to give me what I truly need. God knows what outcome will bring me the most good, simultaneously bringing Him the greatest glory. God knows what will actually help in every situation.

God knows the future with as much clarity as He knows the present. God knows my grandchildren. God knows their grandchildren. He knows the impact of every decision into eternity. God is not bound by time in His understanding or His answering. He is truly perfect in wisdom.

And if God knows all this, what an encouragement to pray. So often, I have no idea what I need, but He always knows. If He is perfect in understanding, and I am a child in my understanding, then my prayers should look a lot less like prescriptions for God to follow, and more like Psalm 123:2. “Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.” Our God knows what we need. Let that encourage us to pray today.

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In a book published in 1630, five years before his death, Richard Sibbes wrote: Suffering brings discouragements, because of our impatience. “Alas!” we lament, “I shall never get through such a trial.” But if God brings us into the trial he will be with us in the trial, and at length bring us out, more refined. We shall lose nothing but dross (Zech. 13:9). From our own strength we cannot bear the least trouble, but by the Spirit’s assistance we can bear the greatest. The Spirit will add his shoulders to help us to bear our infirmities. The Lord will give us his hand to heave us up (Ps. 37:24). . . . It yields us comfort in desolate conditions, that then Christ has a throne of mercy at our bedside and numbers our tears and our groans. —Dane Ortlund

Not only is all your affliction momentary, not only is all your affliction light in comparison to eternity and the glory there. But all of it is totally meaningful...Therefore, therefore, do not lose heart. —John Piper

He who fears God has nothing else to fear. His soul shall dwell at ease. He shall lodge in the chamber of content. —Charles Spurgeon