

What is meekness?

What does the word *meek* mean in Matthew 5:5? Is the word *meek* used in Matthew 5:5 the same as *gentleness* in Galatians 5:23 where the fruit of the Spirit is listed?

Executive summary: The words in these two verses are derived from the same root. Meekness as a virtue for the Christian can only be established by the working of God's Spirit within us.

Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5 NASB

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **gentleness**, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23 NASB

The *Rodale Synonym Finder* offers these replacements for the word meek: humble, modest, unpretentious, free from pride, without arrogance, agreeable, willing, submissive, adaptable, patient, forbearing, tolerant, or long-suffering. This is an impressive list which flies in the face of the common misconception that meek people are weak and easy to trample.

Albert Barnes in his *Notes on the Bible* writes, "Meekness is patience in the reception of injuries. Christ did not trample others to secure His own rights....Meekness is the reception of injuries with a belief that God will vindicate us. Meekness comes from a heart too great to be moved by little insults. It looks upon those who offer them with pity.

He that is constantly ruffled; that suffers every little insult or injury to throw him off his guard and to raise a storm of passion within, is at the mercy of every mortal that chooses to disturb 'him. He is like 'the troubled sea that cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt'."

How do the major Bible versions translate the words?

The word in Matthew 5:5 is rendered as meek, gentle, or humble in the major English translations.

The word in Galatians 5:23 is rendered as gentleness in the major English translations with the exception of the KJV which puts the word as meekness,

What are the meanings of these words?

The words appear to have the same root.

In Matthew 5:5 the Greek word is *praus*.

📖 The Complete Word Study New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates: meek

📖 Strong's Concordance: gentle

In Galatians 5:23 the Greek word is *prautēs* - Strong's Number 4240

📖 The Complete Word Study New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates: meekness expressed not in a man's outward behavior only nor in his relations to his fellow man or his mere natural disposition, but expressed rather as an inwrought grace of the soul, first and chiefly toward God (James 1:21). That attitude of spirit in which we accept God's dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist...*prautēs* is a condition of mind and heart which demonstrates gentleness not in weakness but power. It is a virtue born in strength of character.

📖 Strong's Concordance: consideration, gentleness, humility, meekness.

Where are the words used in the New Testament?

Praus

Mathew 5:5 - Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 21:5 - SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, **GENTLE**, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'

1 Peter 3:4 - but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a **gentle** and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Prautēs

Galatians 5:23

James 1:21 - Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in **humility** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

James 3:13 - Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the **gentleness** of wisdom.

1 Peter 3:15 - but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness** and reverence;