

MEEKNESS

-Ryan Parsons-

Proverbs 29:11

*A fool gives full vent to his spirit,
but a wise man quietly holds it back.*

If you were to calculate all the times in my life that I have acted like a fool, lost my temper, or said things I shouldn't, your calculator wouldn't like you. When I read the word of God, I am reminded of all those mistakes. Likewise, I am challenged by the exhortation to seek, find, and deploy self-control in my life. It is a process I am still working on. I understand that I have great power to use my life to accomplish MY will. However, the Lord asks me to yield my power and will to his own. Like a wild animal bridled or yoked (Matthew 11:28-30), I must yield control of the power I have within myself to be exerted for positive means rather than selfish. Power under control is meekness. No wonder Jesus names it as he preaches the Beatitudes.

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Both Paul and James exhort the church with the same message.

Colossians 3:12-13

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

James 3:13

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

As I consider these things, I am reminded how pathetic I really am to accomplish these things on my own. But the Bible isn't simply a New York Times best-seller, self-help book. It contains the words of God and the promise to equip and empower us with exactly what we need to succeed (2 Peter 1:3). As we attempt to be wise (Proverbs 29:11) and imitate the *meekness and gentleness of Christ* (2 Corinthians 10:1), we must allow the Spirit of God in us to produce the self-control we need to avoid foolish things (Galatians 5:16-26).

May God bless us as we strive to live wise and godly lives.

Keep Studying,
Ryan