

Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses - March 2003

Are You A Blessing To Your World?

The scriptures for this study are referred to as the *Beatitudes*, (*blessings*) that Jesus presented in Matthew 5:1-16. These verses show a gradual, step by step process culminating with our favorite Lighthouse verse (v. 16), "*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*"

This month we look at the third blessing — an inheritance that results from meekness. What does meekness have to do with being an effective Lighthouse? This important characteristic is often misunderstood by most Christians. But we will learn that it is valuable if we want to shine brightly as a light for Jesus Christ in a dark world.

And we will discover that the inheritance applies not only to a future kingdom (Dan. 7:18), but it is also a critical part of the abundant life brought to us by Jesus and it is ours to enjoy, right here, in this life. Let Him shine! — KC

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

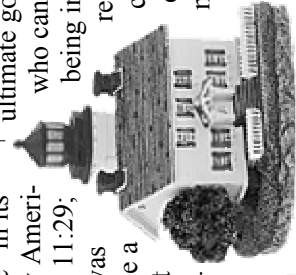
Matthew 5:5 NAS

What Is Our Condition?

Meekness —The Greek word here, "*Praeais*," is translated "gentle" in its three other usages in the New American Standard Bible (Matthew 11:29; 21:5; 1 Peter 3:4.) "*Praeais*" was used by the Greeks to describe a horse that had been broken. It refers to power under control.

In a very real sense, this word refers to those who have been broken before God. They have an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward people, because they know that God is in control of their lives.

This meek or gentle nature is part of the character of Christ (Matthew 11:29 "for I am gentle and lowly in heart"), and is produced only by the Holy Spirit



(Galatians 5:23). Meekness refers to an inward attitude, while gentleness is revealed through outward behavior.

The meek do not resent adversities because they know that these are opportunities, permitted by God for their ultimate good. The meek are Christians who can bear provocation without being inflamed by it. Instead, they return a soft answer when confronted with harsh circumstances or people. They maintain self-control when reacting to life's problems. They are cool when others heat up and explode.

Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is a lack of strength or courage when facing difficult circumstances. But meekness is a premeditated choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness. The meek purposefully sub-

...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light — Eph. 5:8

What Is Our Response?

The quality of meekness / gentleness / humility is an important character trait that God desires to be a governing attitude for every Christian.

As believers we are to: put on meekness (Colossians 3:12); receive the Word of God with meekness (James 2:1); restore the sinning Christian with gentleness (Galatians 6:1); show gentleness and humility to everyone (Titus 3:2); and even our testimony of the reason for our hope is to be shared in an attitude of meekness (1 Peter 3:15). The gentle spirit displayed by a meek Christian is "very precious in the sight of God" (1 Peter 3:4).

Meekness in our life is like a filter on the lens of a Lighthouse. It insures that the light which shines to the world around us is pure — not something contaminated with our own self-righteousness. Jesus in us is our only reason for hope, the basis of our peace and joy in life, and the only light which can reconcile a lost world. Meekness helps us communicate a clear signal without us getting in the way or becoming the object of attention. Meekness results in a humble heart, gentleness towards others and a sweetness that unmistakably reveals our Savior, and Him alone, to the world around us.

Let Him Shine!

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mit themselves to God, to his Word and to his discipline, who follow his directions, and are gentle towards all men (Titus 3:2);

What Is Our Blessing?

The meek are at peace even under the adverse conditions of life in this world. They are blessed with the same attitude and the same type of strength that Jesus possessed, even when He faced great challenges from the world and from the powers of darkness. The opportunity to have peace and joy in the face of difficulties that would normally overwhelm us is a significant blessing. And it is only available to those with a meek, gentle, and humble spirit.

They shall inherit the earth; is from Psalms 37:11. Not only does this refer to an inheritance that will be realized in His Kingdom to come (Rev. 5:10), but, just as importantly, we can have an abundant life *here and now* (Jn. 10:10).

Meekness, even though ridiculed and run down, has been proven to promote health, wealth, comfort, and safety, even in this world. The meek live more peaceful and abundant lives. The fruit of the spirit is evident in their lives and others can see in them a quality of life that is attractive and desirable. The meek are able to value every part of life, even the trials and tribulations (James 1:2-3), as being a gift from the Creator.

"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." Matt 5:16