Lesson 8
“Practicing Gentleness”
Galatians 5:22-23

I. WHAT IS GENTLENESS?

A. Gentleness or meekness is to have a steadiness and ___________ that will not waver or be moved to extremes.

1. Gentleness is power under ___________, submitted strength.

2. Gentleness is the ___________ of our strength and will to God’s control and purpose.

3. It’s the ___________ of our power and strength to accomplish God’s greater purpose.

B. The fruit of the Spirit is ______ fruit that develops and grows within our lives.

1. _______ is the blossom through which the fruit of the Spirit is produced.

C. Gentleness is love expressing itself through a tender __________.

1. Only as our strength is submitted to God, and is brought under the control of the __________ through love, can we reach out and touch others.

II. HOW IS GENTLENESS DEVELOPED?

God will develop gentleness ___________ us in different ways.

A. He teaches us gentleness through _____ gentle touch.

Psalm 103:10-11

Pastor Randy Foster 4-2-17
1. God’s love for us is__________, but His strength is under control.

2. We can see the gentle touch of God in how __________ dealt with people.

- **John 4** shows us Jesus’ gentle touch to an ________________, the Samaritan woman.

- **John 8** shows Jesus’ gentle touch for the ____________, the woman caught in adultery.

- **Luke 19** shows Jesus’ gentle touch for the _____________ and self-centered, Zacchaeus the tax collector.

3. Jesus didn’t come with ________________ to crush and destroy people for their sins.
   a. Jesus came to save the lost through God’s gentle ___________. **John 3:17**

4. Jesus wants to reach out through us to the outsider, the immoral, the dishonest and self-centered with ________________, not condemnation.

5. Are we a body of believers that will _____________ anyone and everyone with a gentle touch?

6. The Holy Spirit enables us to be gentle so we can reach out and touch those ________________ from ourselves.
   a. All around us are people who are broken and hurting, empty and searching for ________ and acceptance.

7. We are _____________ to gently touch people with God’s love and grace.

B. God develops gentleness in us through forceful or ________________ circumstances.

1. Gentleness can develop through people who ____________ you. **2 Timothy 2:25**
2. Gentleness grows when people ________ you. **1 Peter 3:9**
3. Gentleness can increase through ________________. **Proverbs 4:13, 13:13**

III. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GENTLENESS?

A. God’s purpose for gentleness is not to make us a ________________ for people to walk on and take advantage of.

B. God wants to rescue and ________________ those who are helpless with gentleness.
   1. Any one of us could find ________________ in need of being rescued in gentleness. **Galatians 6:1**

C. We are to be gentle because it ________________ us.
   1. With gentleness we are to restore those caught in sin, but at the same time we are to be on ________.
   2. Let gentleness ________ you from falling into sin yourself. **Luke 6:31-37**
   3. We’ve been given the Fruit of the Spirit to enable us to display Christlikeness even to those who are ________ to us and Him!

D. Gentleness, what is it? Submitted strength, power under control. Gentleness is ________ touching.

*Today, let God use you to bless ________________ through gentleness.*