

**SWEET SUMMER – LIFE FORMED BY THE SPIRIT
“GENTLENESS”**

**SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 11:28-30; GALATIANS 6:1;
JAMES 3:17; 2 TIMOTHY 2:24-25 & TITUS 3:1-5**

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INTRODUCTION

- Many of us view gentleness as a personality trait.
- Gentleness is a characteristic the Holy Spirit wants to produce in everyone.
- Galatians 5:22-23 NLT, “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives...gentleness...”
- If gentleness is absent in our lives, it’s an indicator that there are areas in our lives that we have not yet surrendered to Jesus.
- The Greek word Paul uses, *prautēs*, translates to gentleness, meekness, and humility.

I. GENTLENESS IS STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL

- The lie: Gentleness means weakness.
- Culture teaches us to prove our strength, but Jesus teaches us to surrender it.
- Matthew 11:28-30 NLT, “Come to Me...and I will give you rest...For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”
- Jesus describes Himself as gentle.
- Gentleness is a characteristic we are meant to learn from Jesus.
- Gentleness is a strength that has been surrendered to the Spirit.

II. GENTLENESS IS WISDOM IN ACTION

- The lie: If I am right, my response is justified.

- James 3:17 NLT, “But the wisdom from above...is also gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others...”
- Gentleness is what wisdom looks like in action.
- Gentleness means wisdom leads how we respond.

III. GENTLENESS CORRECTS TO RESTORE

- The lie: If I am not harsh, they won’t take it seriously.
- Galatians 6:1 NLT
- Paul says those who are spiritual should restore the other person gently.
- The goal is restoration.
- 2 Timothy 2:24-25 NLT, “A servant of the Lord must not quarrel...Gently instruct those who oppose the truth...”
- Our responsibility is to speak truth in a way that reflects the heart of the God who gave it.
- Gentleness keeps our difficult conversations from becoming destructive.

IV. GENTLENESS FLOWS FROM THE MERCY WE HAVE RECEIVED

- The lie: Their behavior determines my response.
- Titus 3:1-5 NLT, “...be gentle...to everyone. Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient...But when God our Savior revealed his kindness...he saved us...”
- Paul tells believers to show gentleness to everyone.
- When we forget our own story, it’s easy to become harsh with other people.

CLOSE

- Remember how God dealt with you...
 - not with contempt.
 - not with harshness
 - *but with gentleness and mercy.*