

**DOES GENTLENESS WORK TODAY?**  
**Fruitful Living - Part 8**  
**May 26, 2013 - Memorial Day Weekend**

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> GENTLENESS and self-control.”*

Gentleness is the **POWER** of your  
**POTENTIAL** under God's control.

**FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF GENTLE PEOPLE**

**P - Your PERSONALITY is under God's control.**

**Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)** *“God can do anything, you know – far more than you can ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams. He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us.”*

**John 15:4 (Phillips)** *“You must go on growing in Me and I will grow in you. For just as the branch cannot bear fruit unless it shares the life of the vine, so you can produce nothing unless you go on growing in Me.”*

You can't have the **FRUIT**  
without the **ROOT**.

**O - Your OUTLOOK is under God's control.**

**Philippians 2:4-5 (NLT)** *“Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Jesus had.”*

**2 Peter 1:6-7 (TLB)** *“Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly...<sup>7</sup> This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply.”*

Gentle people are not **DEMANDING** of their own way.

**James 3:16 (GNT)** *“Wherever there is jealousy or selfishness, there is also disorder and every kind of evil.”*

**W - Your WORDS are under God's control.**

**James 3:6, 8 (NLT)** *“The tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.<sup>8</sup> But no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.”*

**Luke 6:45b (NLT)** *“What you say flows from what is in your heart.”*

**Ephesians 4:29 (MSG)** *“Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.”*

Before you speak... say it to **YOURSELF** first.

**E - Your EXPECTATIONS are under God's control.**

**Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)** *“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.”*

There's **POWER** in gentleness.  
It gets people's attention.

**R - Your RESPONSES are under God's control.**

Gentle people are **PRO-ACTIVE**  
not **REACTIVE** in their responses.

**Proverbs 16:32 (CEV)** *“Controlling your temper is better than being a hero who captures a city.”*

Seek **FIRST** to understand, then to be understood.

**Matthew 5:7 (CEV)** *“God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy!”*