

FRUIT
OF THE
Spirit



Gentleness

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

Products Are Manufactured



A machine in a factory works, and turns out product, but it could never manufacture fruit.

When you think of "works" you think of effort, labor, strain, and toil.

Fruit Grows Naturally



Fruit must grow out of life, and, in the case of the believer, it is the life of the Spirit (Gal. 5:25).

When you think of "fruit" you think of beauty, quietness, the unfolding of life.

FRUIT OF THE *Spirit*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness*

*Gentleness,
and self-control. Against such
things there is no law.*

GALATIANS 5:22-23

What is Gentleness?

Prautes

(prah-oo-tace)

*This Greek word for **gentleness** means meek or mild and implies humility, submissiveness, or teachability.*

- It is not an outward expression of feeling, but rather **an inward grace of the soul**, and calmness toward God and others.
- It is the **acceptance of God's dealings with us**, believing that all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

Gentleness ≠ Weakness

Gentleness is the opposite of weakness!

- We cannot live out *practices* without understanding its very important components.
- Gentleness is powerful, submissive, humble teachability under God's control.



Gentleness

Sacrificial Submission

- Do you sometimes fight God?
- Have you ever crossed your arms and patted your foot, waiting for Him to propose a solution you like better than the one He already presented?
- In simple terms, *prautes* describes **complete surrender to God's will and way** in your life.

It means to stop fighting God, let go, and ride the wind of God's will wherever He wants to take you on the journey.

Melissa's Knot



- What began as a small knot grew and grew over time until finally it became a big mess.
 - The knot was so big and so tight that it was going to be painful and difficult to extract.
 - One option was to cut the hair at the scalp, but that was untenable for an 11-year-old girl.
 - So, Melissa laid her head in mom's lap and totally submitted to the untangling process.
 - Mom began the tedious task of brushing and combing—one hair at a time—to conquer the big problem.
- Melissa endured the pain, bit her lip, and cried through the whole process of extraction.
 - Mom asked if she wanted to stop but she said, "No mommy, if you do, I'll never get it out."
 - So Mom continued to comb, and they eventually extracted the entire knot from Melissa's hair.
 - Melissa's tears were not the tears of resistance, but rather tears of submission.
 - She knew the beautiful end results would be worth the painful means of getting there and she willingly submitted herself to the process.

This is a great example of *prautes*; total, sacrificial submissiveness.

Jesus knew when He submitted to the cross that the end justified the means!

Sacrificial Submission

- **Is your life a tangled mess like Melissa's hair?**
 - ❖ Have you allowed certain circumstances to go unchecked in your life until they have become a big, balled up mess?
 - ❖ If so, submit to God's will and allow Him to untangle it. It may be painful at first, but the end justifies the means.
- **Supernatural Gentleness** begins with a submissive spirit toward God's will for our lives.

Selfless Humility

- *Prautes* also involves humility—Scripture repeatedly admonishes us to “humble ourselves.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 – *“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

James 4:10 – *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.”*

1 Peter 5:6 – *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time,”*

Selfless Humility

- Without humility, we fight a losing battle as we seek to submit to God and honor the earthly authorities that He has ordained over us.
- **Humility results from being filled with the Spirit** – the more we pour out ourselves, the more the Holy Spirit pours in Himself!
- Humility, expressed as gentleness, is a supernatural result of abiding in Christ. **It comes from the vine!**

Teachable Spirit

- Living out *Prautes* **requires us to be teachable** – ready to receive instruction, willing to be taught, anxious to learn and apply.
- A true sign of our teachability is obedience to the Word of God—not just listeners, but doers also.



Gentleness

Teachable Spirit

James 1:19-25

¹⁹My dearly loved brothers, understand this: everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, ²⁰for man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and evil excess, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save you. ²²But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his own face in a mirror; ²⁴for he looks at himself, goes away, and right away forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who acts—this person will be blessed in what he does."

Teachable Spirit

- Too often our teachability depends on the teacher. If we respect the teacher, we might accept the teaching. If we do not then we dump it.
- Sometimes we don't mind learning something new, we just don't like the vehicle that God choose to use to teach us.
- A big part of *prautes* is being willing and eager to learn, regardless of who He chooses as our unlikely teacher.

Living with *prautes* means we are malleable, regardless of whom God uses or what He chooses to teach us.

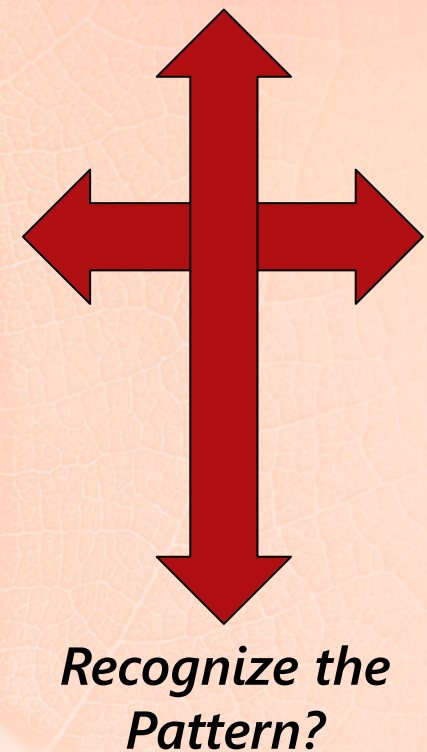
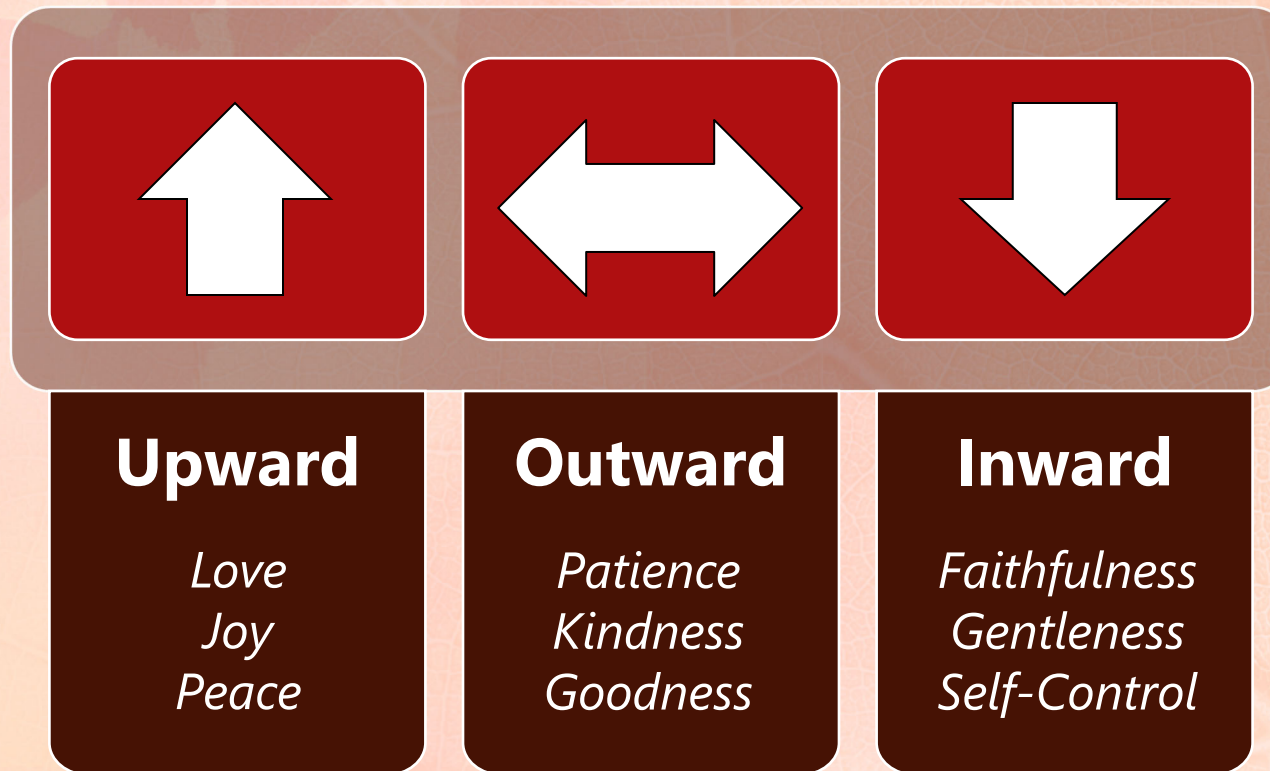
Powerful Witnesses

- Believers have **the pure, undiluted power of the Holy Spirit** residing within them.
- Understanding why we have that power and realizing what we are to do with it are paramount to unlocking **Supernatural Gentleness** in our lives.
- Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you shall be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

God's supernatural character trait of **Gentleness** is manifested in us by the Holy Spirit when we are:



Ninefold Fruit of the Spirit



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Cultivating and Sharing Supernatural Fruit

➤ Cultivating & sharing *Gentleness*:

- ❖ For our lives to be characterized by **Supernatural Gentleness** we must be living in-sync with the Holy Spirit by having our minds set on things above, not of this world. We must abide in the vine!
- ❖ Gentle Giants express calmness amid the storm, and they draw others to the source of that calmness!
- ❖ They are sacrificially submissive, selflessly humble, imminently teachable, and supernaturally inpowered.

FRUIT

OF THE

Spirit



Self-Control

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