

The Lost Fruit

Lost from many Bible translations of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 is the word *humility*. Many translations render it *gentleness*, many others *meekness*, and a couple *humility*. Personally, I think gentleness is a weak translation, though it is the most popular. Diving in! You know how I love word studies. 😊

Strong's #4240 πραύτης (results from biblehub.com)

KJV: meekness

NASB: gentleness, consideration, humility, meekness

Word Origin: [from G4239 (πραύς - Meek)]

1. mildness
2. (by implication) humility

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
meekness.

From praus; mildness, i.e. (by implication) humility – meekness.

From biblehub's **Topical Lexicon**:

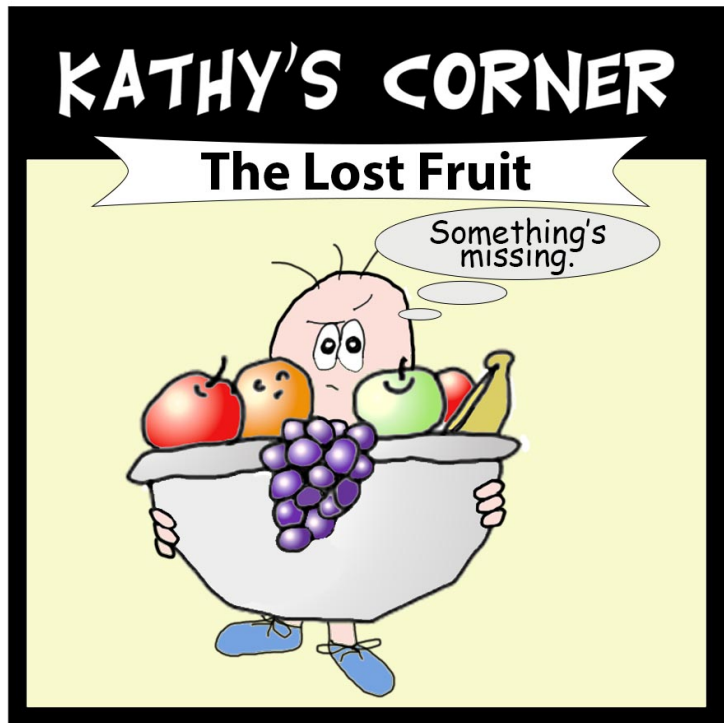
Concept and Spiritual Texture

Gentleness or meekness (Strong's 4240) expresses interior strength under Holy Spirit control. **Far from timidity, it is the poised disposition that gladly submits to God's will and channels power for another's good.** It therefore belongs to the cluster of virtues labeled "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:23), standing in needed contrast to human anger, rivalry, and self-assertion. *(Highlights mine)*

Why does it matter? Although *gentleness* and *humility* can be interchangeable in some applications, as a fruit of the Spirit gentleness just doesn't seem as pointed to me. Humility is an under-taught virtue that Christians really need. If it wasn't for the fact that it is a fruit of the *Spirit given to us*, we would probably by choice ignore it because of our tendency toward selfishness.

It is important to God. His word points it out in Moses: **Moses was a very humble man, more so than anyone on the face of the earth.** (Numbers 12:3 CSB) His word also shows it was important to David, as David credited God with his victories, and he owned his transgressions and repented, and he said of himself: **Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty.** (From Psalm 131:1 CSB) And, Jesus said of Himself: **"I am lowly and humble in heart"** (From Matthew 11:29 CSB).

It was demonstrated by Jesus whose image we are to be conformed into: **"(Jesus) emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when**



he had come as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.” (From Philippians 2:7-8 CSB)

We (*servants*) are not greater than our Master. There is a cross for each of us to take up *daily*.

We all know that “there are two sides to a coin.” Side one— **“Knowledge puffs up. Love builds up.”**

How many people have stored up in memory many verses from the Bible, but cannot apply them humbly and gently to others? Speaking the truth in love is representative of the spirit that wins for Jesus—not for the sake of argument. We want to be rid of what doesn’t belong in others, the church, (and ourselves), but we should be discerning so as not to offend what/who **does** belong. You have growth—that is great, but you have not walked in another’s shoes. There may be similarities, but every life is unique. Be careful not to place stumbling blocks for the immature in Christ. Jesus said, **“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall away—it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.”** (Matthew 18:6 CSB) Interestingly, this verse comes from a passage where Jesus was addressing the importance of humility to his disciples. Here is the passage:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “So **who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a small child and had him stand among them. “Truly I tell you,” he said, **“unless you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child—this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one child like this in my name welcomes me.****

“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall away—it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.” (Matthew 18:1-6 CSB)

On the other side of the coin, **correction hurts!** It hurts our pride. As a brother or sister points out our sin—shortcomings, we must receive it if it is truth. May the Holy Spirit reveal it to us and convict us with truth, so that we are able to humble ourselves instead of getting our backs up, or getting our necks stiff. Proverbs 29:1 warns us, **One who becomes stiff-necked, after many reprimands will be shattered instantly—beyond recovery.** (CSB)

Why does it matter? (*continued*) Many limitations in the body of Christ are due to pride. Many of the personal failures and poor decisions in my life were due to pride. We are instructed to “give no place to the devil.” **Pride gives the devil a great place to work from.** There is a good pride, or self respect, but there is pride that is an exaggerated self-esteem, or self-importance; it is a vice—the pride I am speaking of as a limiter of God’s will. Do you see how this pride opposes humility, or why it is important to have the lost fruit?

In life, many times we receive certificates of accomplishments or rewards. Sometimes they are proof that **we were willing to pay the price** required for a desirable end, or beginning—you are qualified! Sometimes they show achievements in vanity—“Look how good I am at such and such,” or “Look at the groups I have been accepted into.” “Look at how successful I am.” “Look how useful I am.” “Look at what I drive, where I live, who my friends are, etc.” Think about Proverbs 22:1-2: **A good name is to be chosen over great wealth; favor is better than silver and gold. Rich and poor have this in common: the Lord makes them all.** (CSB) Ah!—“A good name!” There is no better name

than the name of the Lord! Is it more important to us than wealth or gold—than being rich—than our pride?

Again, *A servant is not greater than his Master.* Let all be done with an eye to Kingdom purposes. Let His will be done.

From Genesis 1:11-12, God said, **“Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.”** And it was so. **The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.** And God saw that it was good. (CSB)

We still enjoy the fruit that Jesus’ humility has sown. Every fruit has seed in it *according to its kind*. What kind will you sow—the kind Jesus sowed? Sow seeds of humility, and we might just see more of it; and, of its results — **may God see that it is good!**