

WARREN WIERSBE ON THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT ... GENTLENESS/MEEKNESS ...

- The final three qualities are self-ward: faith (faithfulness, dependability); meekness (the right use of power and authority, power under control); and temperance (self-control). Meekness is not weakness. Jesus said, “I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29), and Moses was “very meek” (Numbers 12:3); yet no one could accuse either of them of being weak. The meek Christian does not throw his weight around or assert himself. Just as wisdom is the right use of knowledge, so meekness is the right use of authority and power.
 - It is possible for the old nature to counterfeit some of the fruit of the Spirit, but the flesh can never produce the fruit of the Spirit. One difference is this: when the Spirit produces fruit, God gets the glory and the Christian is not conscious of his spirituality; but when the flesh is at work, the person is inwardly proud of himself and is pleased when others compliment him. The work of the Spirit is to make us more like Christ for His glory, not for the praise of men.
 - The cultivation of the fruit is important. Paul warns that there must be a right atmosphere before the fruit will grow (Galatians 5:25–26). Just as fruit cannot grow in every climate, so the fruit of the Spirit cannot grow in every individual’s life or in every church.
 - Fruit grows in a climate blessed with an abundance of the Spirit and the Word.
- “Walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25) means “keep in step with the Spirit”—not to run ahead and not to lag behind. This involves the Word, prayer, worship, praise, and fellowship with God’s people. It also means “pulling out the weeds” so that the seed of the Word can take root and bear fruit. The Judaizers were anxious for praise and “vainglory,” and this led to competition and division. Fruit can never grow in that kind of an atmosphere.
- We must remember that this fruit is produced to be eaten, not to be admired and put on display. People around us are starving for love, joy, peace, and all the other graces of the Spirit. When they find them in our lives, they know that we have something they lack. We do not bear fruit for our own consumption; we bear fruit that others might be fed and helped, and that Christ might be glorified. The flesh may manufacture “results” that bring praise to us, but the flesh cannot bear fruit that brings glory to God. It takes patience, an atmosphere of the Spirit, walking in the light, the seed of the Word of God, and a sincere desire to honor Christ.
 - [Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 720). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]

MOSES

THE MEEKEST PERSON ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH



*Now the man Moses was very meek,
more than all people who were on the face of the earth.
(Numbers 12:3 ESV)*