

19 03 23

Gentleness –Pt 1 God is gentle with His children

This is our first study on the word “gentleness”. In this teaching we establish three points– (i) God’s gentleness made David great (ii) wisdom from above (from God) is gentle, and (iii) as a nurse cherishes her children so God was gentle with Israel by gathering them together.

A meaning for the word “gentleness” from the scriptures–
To be gentle is to show meekness

“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you...” (2 Cor.10: 1). See also Tit 3:2.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our four points–

1. God’s gentleness made David great.

“Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great” (2 Sam.22: 36). See also 2Sam.22: 36.

2. The wisdom from above (from God) is gentle

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (Jam.3: 17).

3. As a nurse cherishes her children so God was gentle with Israel by gathering them together

“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children” (1 Thes.2: 7) – CF. – “O Jerusalem...thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings...” (Matt.23: 37). See also Lk 13:34.

Illustration

Raising children is an act of love, kindness, selflessness, and longsuffering as we established last week. But it is also a beautiful picture of what it means to be gentle. There is consistent tension in the family on giving instruction when children are disobedient & giving them chastisement. And then there will be opportunities for the parents to show amazing gentleness when, potentially the children do not deserve it, as Saul did not, David did not, and neither did Israel. Yet, God in all wisdom dealt with them with gentleness as a nurse cherisheth (is gentle with) her children.

Questions of the scriptures

- i) How do we see the gentleness of God in the spiritual battle?
- ii) How is does God show gentleness to His children today?

Answers from the scriptures

i) In all of our temptations He will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God...will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1Cor 10:13).

ii) He gave us His only begotten Son (Jn.3: 16), who is both meek and gentle to us. Do you exhibit the gentleness of God, a gentleness that sets believers apart from the world, as it did David? Think on that question until next week when we will look in detail at the gentleness of Christ, and how that impacts believers, as it did Paul.