

## Faithfulness & Gentleness



Galatians 5:22-23, BSB

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, <sup>23</sup> **gentleness**, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.



Faithfulness (faith, KJV)

Faith and faithfulness correspond to two different but related uses of the Greek word *pistis*. The first is trust; the second is trustworthiness.

Jesus has called us to childlike faith (trust) in Him and the Father. See Matthew 18:1-3. His trustworthiness is the only basis for our trust; our trust in Him reproduces His trustworthiness in us.

The Spirit grows in us this divine attribute in which we do not only grow in our trust of God but also become more reliable in our relationship with others.

Gentleness (meekness, KJV)

“I am gentle (meek, KJV) and humble in heart” says the Lord of Himself.<sup>1</sup>

Meekness is the result of genuine humility, the way we interact with others that stems from a modest view of ourselves. It can also be defined as the ability to patiently endure injuries and involves restraining passion, impulsive anger, and quick temper.

It is not about being mean, giving up our rights, or showing cowardice; instead, it is the antithesis of sudden anger, malice, or holding onto grudges.



a. How are we enabling the Holy Spirit to cultivate faithfulness, trustworthiness and gentleness within us?

b. Are there circumstances that serve as effective training grounds for developing gentleness?

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 11:29