

Character Trait for March 12-16 is Gentleness

Philippians 1:9-10, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ"

Character: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Gentleness: Showing concern and personal consideration for others.

Derivation: **Gentleness** - the quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered. The Latin origin of the word gentle is *gentilis*, a term that means "of the same family".

Weekly Verse: Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Bible Story: I Kings 19:1-18 tells the story of God appearing to Elijah as a gentle breeze.

Quote: "It takes strength to be gentle and kind."

Application: Gentleness is never self-important but is considerate, courteous, and modest, yet willing to try when a job needs to be done. It can be defined as restraint coupled with strength and courage.

Aristotle's classic definition of gentleness is halfway between excessive anger and indifference. That is, he felt the gentle person could be angry at the right time and submissive at the right time. The classical Greek also used it of animals that were powerful, yet tamed and under control. A Greek lexicon includes the meanings of humility, courtesy, and being considerate. It is the opposite of "hubris", the Greek word for haughty, boastful insolence.

In the Old Testament in Psalm 45:3,4 the Psalmist calls on God, "Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most Mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously, because of truth and gentleness and righteousness". Obviously, gentleness is not weakness. It is not allowing yourself to become a doormat. It is part of God's character as He moves triumphantly in mighty power and victory.

Discussion Questions:

Is gentleness a character trait that is valued in political leaders in our country?

Which friend of yours demonstrates gentleness best?

How do you think the term "gentleman" was derived from gentle?