



Pacific Waves
P.O. Box 1759
Pearl City, HI
96782

Phone: 808-456-1031
Email: ssimpson@rainbows.net

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[HTTP://WWW.DECEPTIONINTHECHURCH.COM/](http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/)

Ebb Tide by Sandy Simpson



Missionary Sandy Simpson is a missionary and editor of Pacific Waves Newsletter.

Editor in Chief
Sandy Simpson

Contributing Editors
Juanita Simpson

Printer
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A word of encouragement to those of you who love the truth and are willing to stand firm in it ...

I get hundreds of emails each month from Christians all over the world. There are always those who do not want to practice discernment and, instead, defend false teachers. But there are also many who are coming away false teaching and cleaving to Jesus Christ and His Word. I want you to know this because if you have

decided to stand for the truth of the Bible against false teaching and false prophecy in your church, you are not alone. Just as there is a counterfeit “revival” movement being orchestrated around the world which is ruining true mission work and churches worldwide, please know that God always has His faithful servants during times of apostasy. When Israel strayed away from God after false gods and back to pagan practices, Elijah thought he was the only faithful servant left.

1 Kings 19:14 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

But the Lord encouraged Elijah with these words:

1 Kings 19:18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel— all whose knees have

not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."

Many Christians, just like the chosen people of Israel in the Old Testament, have been bowing the knee to another “Jesus”, the false “Jesus” of Word-Faith teachings. They have bowed the knee to false prophets and false teachers who do not preach the true Gospel. They have bowed the knee to another “Spirit” that is really the spirit of the kingdom of the air, not the Holy Spirit. But those of us who remain faithful are encouraged by one another as the day of the Lord approaches.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another— and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Address Correction Requested

October 05
Volume 3, Issue 2

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Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Gentleness by Sandy Simpson

Biblical Examples Of Gentleness

1 Thes. 2:6-8 We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

Paul is mentioned in the Word as being an example of gentleness. Now we don't normally think of Paul as being gentle, as certainly his character before he was saved was the opposite of gentleness. He was a man who delighted in persecuting Christians and even stood by as Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, was stoned to death. But when Jesus Christ reached out and saved him on the road to Damascus, Paul began to be a changed man. That is what a relationship with Jesus Christ and believing in Him as your Savior and

Lord will do for you. It will change you. I am not the same person I was when I was 21, and neither is anyone else who has been saved. The indwelling Holy Spirit changes the believer!

To be gentle is defined in the dictionary as: kindly, amiable, mild not severe, rough or violent, honorable, respectable, polite, refined, noble. But we also have a definition of what gentle means in the verses we just read about the apostles.

(1) **"Not looking for praise from men".** Those who are gentle do not look for fame and applause for what they say and do. They do what they do because they "do it unto the Lord".

1 Pet. 4:11 If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

Any true believer knows that it is



God to whom belongs all the praise. When we serve the Lord, we truly serve Him and not ourselves. This lets out most of the preachers on TV who make a big show but do not have a gentle spirit that does not look for praise from men. The kind of attitude of many modern preachers today does not reflect the fruit of the Spirit that was in the original apostles.

(2) **"We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children."** Gentleness is illustrated most commonly and most accurately by the picture of a mother caring for her children. A mother does not throw her young children at the wall, does not allow them to go out and play in the street, does not ignore

Warning—Beware Of “High School Of The Pacific” In Hawaii! by Sandy Simpson

High School of the Pacific (HSP) located in Kealukekua, HI is yet another in the many enterprises of the Unification Church whose “Messiah” is Sun Myung Moon.

This tremendous opportunity (of HSP) became reality by a generous investment in the education of specially gifted island children through the vision and initiative of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. In gratitude to them and to all that have endeavored so long and hard to make this school a reality, the staff and students of the

High School of the Pacific offer their heartfelt gratitude. (High School Of The Pacific, History, <http://highschool-pacific.org/history.htm>)

This cult group, better known as the “Moonies”, has a long history of trying to infiltrate the islands of the Pacific. They have been spreading money around with promises to build buildings, etc. with a cover story about helping “families”. The “Family Federation For World Peace and Unification”, another of Moon’s

organizations, tried establish a foothold in the Marshall islands some time ago by offering to build youth recreational facilities. They met with limited success in Kwajalein because some Christians saw through Moon’s ploy of trying to get into the islands and start brainwashing islanders with his heretical doctrines. But recently they also met with the Governor of Chuuk and presented what they are doing, and one of the administrators of HSP is now Chuukese. They also went to

Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Gentleness *cont.*

their needs.

She is patient with them, she feeds them, she clothes them, she teaches them, she holds them when they cry and laughs with them when they are happy. God is the perfect picture of gentleness because God does the same things for His children that a good mother does for her children. The apostles cared for those they brought the gospel to. They did this by being patient to explain fully the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them, to feed them the Word of God, to cloth them in acts of righteousness, to teach them sound doctrine, and to be there with them to share in their joys and sorrows.

(3) **"We loved you so much."** Gentleness as a fruit of the Spirit comes from a heart full of love. We are told to love the brethren, those who belong to the body of Christ.

1Pe 1:22 *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

Sometimes it is very difficult to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. But we are told to treat them with gentleness, even when they stray from the truth. We are to pull them from the fire and save them even as

they are falling with gentleness. But the Lord goes further telling us that we are to even love our enemies.

Lu 6:35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

The reason we are to love our enemies is because even God is kind to the wicked by giving them every chance to repent and turn to Him. We ought to do the same keeping in mind that God is not willing that any should perish but all come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. When we have the fruit of gentleness in our lives we turn insults and hatred into love. We react in a gentle way toward those who hate us.

(4) **"delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well"** As gentle servants of God we should be happily sharing the Gospel to everyone. That is the mark of a true believer. But we don't stop there. We also share our lives with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We uphold one another in prayer, we help each other with our needs, we cry with those who cry and laugh with those who laugh, we sharpen one another in the things of the Lord. We don't tear one another down and gossip behind people's

backs. We don't ignore people's needs when they are hurting. We have true compassion for them and our actions come out in gentleness.

(5) **"you had become so dear to us."** Anything that is dear or precious to you, you will treat with gentleness. If you just bought a new tape player, you don't go out and throw it against the wall. If you children borrow it you are careful to tell them not to drop it or spill Coke on it. When something is dear to us we treat it with gentleness. It should also be that way with our brothers in Christ. They should be dear to us so that we don't treat them violently, or harshly, or with anger, but we treat them as though they are a prized possession. Gentleness shows itself in the way we treat others. If we love them and consider them to be of value, we will treat them the same way God treats us.

TEXT: Gal. 5:23; Matt. 11:29-30; Num. 12:1-16

Read Gal. 5:23

INTRO:
In a culture of rough-and-rugged individualism, gentleness is thought of as weakness, being soft, and virtually spineless. Not so! ... Biblical gentleness is strength under control, in fact, the Greek word translated in Gal. 5:23 **"Gentleness"** came from a term that was used of a wild horse that had become obedient to the bit and bridle. It was therefore not the lack of power, but great power under the control of a master. Christianity is NOT for the weak! Being a Christian does NOT mean being soft spoken, weak, easily intimidated, it is strength under control of a master! Gentleness means finding a loving and kind way to do a tough job. It means a control over one's own life and situations in a way that allows kindness and compassion to show through. Gentleness is not afraid to do what is needed.

ILLUSTRATION:
Firing an employee is one of the toughest jobs a supervisor ever faces. An insurance sales manager was known for his tact and diplomacy. One of his young salesmen was performing so poorly that he had to be

terminated. The manager called him in and said, "Son, I don't know how we're ever going to get along without you, but starting Monday we're going to try." -- James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 472.

The Bible teaches us that Gentleness is Love's humility, strength under control ... this differs from the last element of the fruit of the spirit "self-control" in the sense that this quality is "God-controlled" rather than "self-control."

I. SECRET OF GENTLENESS
Matt. 11:29-30

A. Yoked - Read 11:29

1. Jesus tells us to take His YOKE upon us, to learn from Him because He IS GENTLE and HUMBLE in heart ... and if we do we will find REST for our souls!

a. **"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."** 11:29
b. What does this mean?
c. It simply means to stop letting your own strength expressed through your fallen nature and submitting to the control of God in your life.

2. These yokes were double yokes, most Jews would "break in" a new ox by yoking them to a seasoned and fully developed ox. a. The seasoned ox would control by its sheer strength the new undisciplined ox.

b. The new ox had no choice but to follow the mature ox around, the mature one led the way, did most of the work, and responded completely to the master.
c. The new ox's work load was actually quite easy since the big ox was the one doing most of the work ... but it was training the new one in spite of all the resistance it gave at first.

3. Once yoked, the new ox had little choice if it wanted a life of peace ... if it constantly bucked it ended up sore and bruised and exhausted, for it was no match for the seasoned strong ox.

a. How many Christians find their lives miserable? If they do it is because they are bucking against God's leading in their life and

Warning—Beware Of HSP In Hawaii! *end*

further away from knowing the God of the Bible than Moon. One day Moon will be eclipsed by the Son, who will come from heaven and all that was said by Moon will be taken into account.

Divine Principle and Rev. Moon teach that all religions will be abolished one day except for the Unification Church. I guess this is survival of the fittest. He states the same for languages...that only one will survive and that will be his native tongue Korean. It will be according to his personal delusion of grandeur a "Unification theocracy" established for world domination where Moon and one of his designated leaders will have total power. Considering his age and the fact that his exit out of this world is soon to be accomplished, I don't think he will see his mission

Bible Study *end*

probably lose the war? If you have only 10,000 men and the enemy has 20,000, maybe you had better send a delegation to the other king long before time for war in order to see if you can make peace with him instead of fighting. But in order to make peace you have to submit to the conqueror and give him whatever he asks, even if he asks everything.

How does this apply to disciples? We need to look at the final goal. Who will be the great Conqueror? As the man building a tower must look to his final goal which is completion of the tower, so we must look toward the end of history to understand that God is and will be the final Victor. We are, therefore, very foolish to try to hold out against Him. The only way we can be on the winning side is to submit to God. A disciple recognizes that his only hope is in complete submission to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Nothing less will take him to the goal. Does unwillingness to be a disciple mean we are in rebellion against God?

Jesus' third illustration is in **Luke 14:34-35**. Why does Jesus seem to change the subject and begin talking about salt? **Matt. 5:13** Jesus spoke these words to His first disciples. He

complete—unless of course he rises from the dead. Moon (at the time this article was written) is 80 years so time is not on his side, neither is God. He will soon have to answer to his Maker for all his blasphemous claims and the ruination of so many lives through his revelation of marriage.

What else can be said of a man whose theology and practices are dangerous to the average person. It's incredible that he's gone this far, but in the end he will know how wrong he was. The concern for us is how to reach all those who are dedicated loyal followers of his teachings. We would love to see them loyal and follow the true Christ.

Sun Myung Moon is a false Christ, a false prophet, and a false teacher. The Bible is clear about the end

said, "You are the salt". What are the uses of salt? 1) to give flavor; 2) to kill germs; 3) to preserve foods. This implies that the world is tasteless, filled with ideas that are like deadly bacteria, and rotten to the core. How important is salt? It was used in trading in early times - like money is used today. Salt makes a difference in the world. How are disciples of Christ like salt? They bring about change. How important are disciples in the world?

"Salt is good", but only if it's salty. How do Christians lose their saltiness? Compromise with the world causes us to lose our saltiness. We start looking, acting and talking like unbelievers. Nobody can tell the difference. So of course they have no desire to be Christians like us. Or we allow our true salt to be watered down with false teachings and practices that don't honor our Lord. We become a hindrance to the spread of the Gospel in the world instead of a help. Unbelievers don't want to follow weird teachings and practices. What they need is the simple Gospel lived out by a true disciple of Jesus - one who is abiding in His Word and bearing fruit for Him. **(John 8:31-32 & 15:8)**

It seems that Jesus is referring to

times:

Matthew 24:23-27 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. 'So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Christian parents are responsible for the upbringing of their children in the things of the Lord:

Deut. 11:18-19 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children.

talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Psalms 34:11 Come, my children, listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

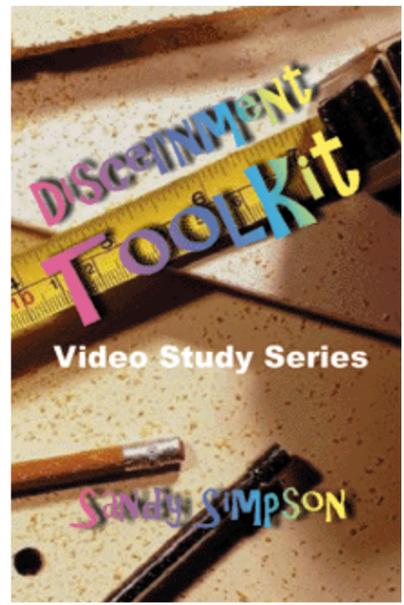
It is my considered opinion that you should NOT send any children from your island to the High School of the Pacific. ■

NOTE: Special thanks to Mike Oppenheimer at Let Us Reason Ministries for his articles "Rev. Moon—The Dark Side Of The Moon" and "Who Is Mr. Moon?", 2002 from which we liberally quoted. For more information on the Moonies, go to this web address:

<http://www.letusreason.org/Moondir.htm>



Juanita Simpson is a retired missionary still serving the Lord in Micronesia after 43 years of ministry.



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Warning—Beware Of HSP In Hawaii! *cont.*

Lukinor, Satawon, Kosrae, Pohnpei, the Marshalls, Palau and Yap. The documented photo evidence of this is currently on their web site.

But now, with this new HSP enterprise, they are apparently winning the youth over. They are doing this by offering full tuition scholarships to HSP where the students will live in a dorm situation. I must warn you that this is simply a ploy to indoctrinate and brainwash the youngest and best minds in Micronesia. Cults are known for targeting youth, knowing that they represent the next generation and may be able to make the situation more favorable for Moon to set up shop in the islands. But let's look at what the Unification Church teaches so that you will know what will be taught to students being sent to HSP.

Moon publicly declared himself to be the Messiah at the opening session of the Assembly of World Religions held in San Francisco CA. a number of years back in 1992. According to Moon and his new revelation, "a new Messiah, a Lord of the 2nd advent, is necessary." Won't he be surprised when the real Lord comes in His 2nd advent!

Ultimately, Moon's goal is to be able to completely disregard the Bible. His followers are taught:

"Until our mission with the Christian church is over, we must quote the Bible and use it to explain the Divine Principle. After we receive the inheritance of the Christian, we will be free to teach without the Bible" (Master Speaks, March/April, 1965, p.1).

"The bible is not the truth itself, but a textbook teaching the truth. It must not be regarded as absolute in every detail" (Divine Principle p.9).

"God is now throwing Christianity away and is now establishing a new religion, and this new religion is the Unification Church." (Time, Sept. 30, 1974, p. 68).

"Divine Principle asserts that God is perpetual, self-generating energy, the first cause and the primal source of all that exists...Causing the visible creation and operating through it, God is responsible for the innumerable types of patterns which energy forms to make the world we touch, see and know" (Young Oon Kim, Unification Theology and Christian Thought, pp. 11).

Concerning the Holy Spirit, Moon claims he...*"appears feminine, masculine and impersonal... like God himself is invisible and incorporeal- a bright light or a field of magnetic energy (Unification Theology p.201-202).*

Moon's own Kingdom of God on earth will be established by what he identifies as the "third Adam". The "third Adam" is Rev. Moon and he claims he has already begun to establish God's kingdom.

"He [God] is living in me. I am the incarnation of Himself... The whole world is in my hand, and I will conquer and subjugate the world." (Proclamation of the Messiah by Reverend Sun Myung Moon, 8/24/92)

Moon teaches that Jesus was only a man who attained Deity by fulfilling the purpose of creation. Jesus was not the unique, only begotten Son of God who was pre-existent with the Father before all created things.

Jesus attained deity, as a man who fulfilled the purpose of creation but can by no means be considered God Himself. (DP p. 209, 210)

Yet Moon has no trouble attributing the titles of God to himself.

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." He calls himself "the Lord of the Second Advent", "Father of the Universe", and the "Visible God"... "God and man are one. Man is incarnate God." (Unification Theology p.53)

Besides Moon's self claims to be the Messiah, God, King of Kings, he does have a very metaphysical, occult view of God and the Bible.

"Unification theology starts with the fact of polarity as the main clue for understanding the essential nature of God, hence it is not primarily interested in defending Trinitarian doctrine of the 4th century creeds." (Unification Theology p.53)

"God's essential Positivity and essential negativity are attributes of His essential Character and essential form ... Here we call the of God positivity and negativity, masculinity" and "femininity respectively." (Divine Principle p. 24).

The God of the Bible is a personal Creator and Father who loves his children and interacts with them. He's not just an "invisible essence like electricity or magnetism." Moon

also states:

"The Holy Spirit is a female Spirit, this is because she came as the True Mother, that is, the second Eve'...She is also the spiritual wife of Jesus (Divine Principle, p. 215)

This mother of course would be his own wife.

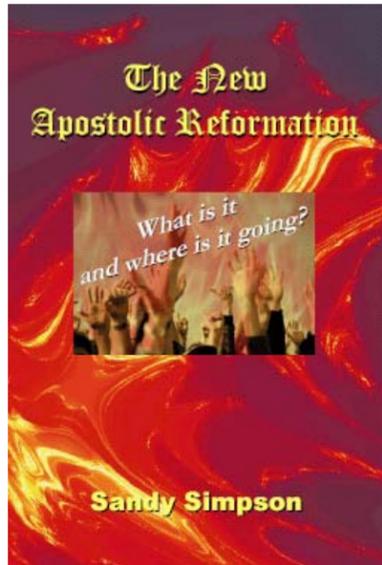
Creation means nothing more than the Creator, God, projecting Himself into a substantial form...When God takes form, this is creation...Genesis gives us the impression that God's creation is accomplished through some magic of His words...But now it has been revealed that it was not this easy at all. God invested Himself in creation. He did not reserve even one ounce of power. Creation was...His total effort of giving all of Himself." (Sun Myung Moon & The Unification Church p. 18).

"God is just like you and me. All human traits originate in God." (Rev. Moon, Christianity in Crisis, p. 4)

Moon says in the forward of his speech:

"The words that follow are not concepts of one man's thinking. Rather they are a direct revelation from God especially for this age." (Mid Week magazine Mar.19, 1997)

He goes on to say:



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"Wherever you go, please try to spread Rev. Moon's message through television or other media. You will never perish."

But the problem is that if you do espouse the doctrine of the most irreverent Moon you are certain to perish.

Unification Church teachers state:

"Only Father has been able to solve the secrets of heaven which have been veiled for 6,000 years. True Father proclaimed that he knows more about God than anyone in the world." (Prof. Taek Yong Ob, Today's World, June, 1997, p. 17.)

Who is Father according to Moon?

"The real teacher, the king of teachers, is Father. The real King of Kings is Father. ...My teaching is the real one." (Sun Myung Moon, "Let Us Realize That My Family Is The Representative and Central Family", Today's World, Sept/Oct. 1994, p. 7.)

So here is Moon blaspheming God by calling himself the Father and the King of Kings.

"Within this world there is no individual whom God loves more than Reverend Moon. There is no one else who knows God more than Reverend Moon." (Unification News, June 1996, p. 3).

I'm sorry but I have to strongly disagree. There seems to be no one

Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Gentleness *cont.*

they are fighting against God's strength ... you can't win doing this!

b. Rest came from working WITH the seasoned ox ... and it also meant a light burden since the seasoned ox did most of the work.

4. The seasoned ox did not kick or bite the new ox, it just kept going in the right direction.

a. The seasoned ox has no need to draw attention to himself, he just humbly does his work.

b. One of the clear qualities of a Spirit filled gentle Christian is humility!

ILLUSTRATION:

Nearing his journey's end, Calvin gave strict instructions that he be buried in the common cemetery with no tombstone. He wished to give no encouragement to those who might make it a Protestant shrine. Today, his grave site is unknown. -- "John Calvin," Christian History, no. 12.

B. Conditioning - Read 11:30

1. When Jesus says here, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." He is not saying it is easy being a Christian but that it is easy on us when we don't fight Him as a Christian!

a. His burden is light and the yoke is easy when we submit to His control in our lives.

b. When we fight it is just the opposite!

2. In fact, fighting God only makes us weaker because it will drain our strength, but submitting means developing strength by following Him.

3. The obedient person is not perfect, just smart!

ILLUSTRATION:

Strong people make as many and as ghastly mistakes as weak people. The difference is that strong people admit them, laugh at them, learn from them. That is how they become strong. -- Richard J. Needham, Leadership, Vol. 10, no. 1.

4. Obeying Christ appears to the world as a weak way to live, and yet it is just the opposite! Living for Christ by obeying His commands makes people of the world uncomfortable because it means yielding up control of one's life, our culture sees this as

a weakness, but it is precisely this yielding that allows us to do things the world cannot do!

a. Such as keeping our passions under control

b. Such as forgive others!

c. The natural man does not forgive easily! The spiritual person DOES forgive for he or she is enabled to forgive others because they themselves have been forgiven!

5. Our burden is light because Christ has showed us the way and given us the strength to make the journey, He is conditioning us by His Holy Spirit to be like Him!

II. STRENGTH OF

GENTLENESS Num. 12:1-16

A. Control - Read Num. 12:1-9

1. Moses found himself in a difficult situation ... his own brother and sister turned on him! a. How often do Christians find themselves in situations where their own brothers and sisters in Christ become jealous and turn on them?

b. No doubt it was a case of jealousy!

2. They used his marriage to a non Jew as the point of their attack ... often jealous people will use things against us that are really NOT the issue!

a. They felt they were used by God too in great ways ... so why was Moses top dog?

b. It is interesting to note that GOD heard their gripes ... God hears our gripes about others, and HE isn't pleased!

c. "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" **And the LORD heard this.**"

3. **Miriam and Aaron were out of control!**

4. God however sees Moses as one who is under control ... God says Moses is "very humble, more humble than anyone else on the face of the Earth."

a. The concept here in Hebrew is the same as "Gentleness" in Gal. 5:23.

b. Moses demonstrates his humility in the face of jealous accusations, he says nothing! A humble believer doesn't feel the need to rail against his critics, he is under control ... it is the natural man that speaks great boasts!

ILLUSTRATION:

Muhammad Ali was in his prime,

and as he was about to take off on an airplane flight, the stewardess reminded him to fasten his seat belt. He came back brashly, "Superman don't need no seat belt." The stewardess quickly came back, "Superman don't need no airplane, either." Ali fastened his belt. -- James S.

Being a Christian does NOT mean being soft spoken, weak, easily intimidated, it is strength under control of a master!

Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 295.

5. God stepped in to defend Moses, Moses felt no need to do so himself. a. All 3 are summoned by God to appear at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting ... right before God's presence!

b. God called Aaron and Miriam to step forward without Moses. c. God shares with them how He is willing to use them as prophetic and priest by speaking to them via visions and dreams, but with Moses He talks face to face as one friend to another!

d. Their out of control attitude toward another servant of God's cost them humiliation and pain, pride comes before a fall! (1. The Spirit of God withdraws from them for the moment "... and He left them."

(2. Miriam is struck with leprosy! Aaron was probably spared because as High priest he was not allowed to have any physical imperfections since he represented Christ as high priest ... but he is certainly humiliated in the eyes of Israel in all this.

6. Moses shines as an example here of one who even though offended has a different way of dealing with it, the natural man would strike back, the spiritual man is under control and gets things done with a gentleness that is only God breathed!

B. Compassionate - Read Num.

12:10-16

1. If Moses had responded in the natural he might have yelled, "HA, serves you both right, see if you give me a hard time again!"

a. Aaron immediately responds by crying out to Moses for compassion! b. No doubt Miriam must have looked toward her brother Moses too for help!

2. Moses immediately cries out to God to heal his sister! What an act of "Gentleness!"

a. Rather than take delight in their suffering Moses cries out for them to be restored.

b. Moses is not thinking of himself, only the well being on Aaron and Miriam and their ministry within Israel.

c. This is the quality of "gentleness" at work, the obvious work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Moses.

3. No doubt this act of love and compassion on Moses' part had a great impact on his relationship with Miriam and Aaron following this, an act of love and kindness can dramatically change even the hardest soul!

ILLUSTRATION:

A woman was suffering from depression, so her concerned husband took her to a psychiatrist. The doctor listened to the couple talk about their relationships, and then said, "The treatment I prescribe is really quite simple." With that he went over to the man's wife, gathered her up in his arms, and gave her a big kiss. He then stepped back and looked at the woman's glowing face and broad smile.

Turning to the woman's husband, he said, "See! That's all she needs to put new life back into her." Expressionless, the husband said, "OK, Doc, I can bring her in on Tuesdays and Thursdays." -- James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 334.

4. Miriam is required to stay "unclean" the prescribed 7 days outside the camp (see Lev. 14:9) before she is allowed to return. a. Moses' love for her and her healing as well as Israel's love by stopping and waiting for her full return was an act of gentleness consistent with the quality of the

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fruit of the Holy Spirit.

b. Gentleness and graciousness is the expression of a strong individual, one is controlled by God rather than their own passions and desires.

c. Moses' ability to forgive and even restore his jealous sister is testimony to what God had said about him, that he was indeed the meekest ("gentle" or "humble") man in all the Earth.

5. No wonder Jesus said in the beatitudes, Mat 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

a. Meekness or gentleness is a quality that cannot be absent from a Spirit filled Christian.

b. It is what allows us to conquer the world ... for it is strength under control - God's control!

c. The next quality "self-control" is what allows us to conquer ourselves, but this quality of "gentleness" lets us conquer the world!

6. Are you truly a "gentleman" or a "gentlewoman"!

a. The term "gentleman" no doubt came from the idea of a strong controlled male who is humble and gentle, a biblical foundation for such a term.

b. God give us Christians whose lives demonstrate the quality of gentleness! Be filled with the Spirit!

CONCLUSION: "Gentleness" in our culture suggests "soft, easy going, almost weak!" This quality however is anything but weak! The Greek word translated "Meek" or "Gentleness" is found also in the beatitudes, "Blessed are the meek" and Jesus said that such "meek" people will "inherit the Earth" ... and in the passage of the fruit of the Spirit the same word is used and translated "gentleness." It literally meant a wild horse that had become obedient to the bit and bridle. In other words, strength under control!

STORIES OF GENTLENESS

The Fish Tank

At their school carnival, our kids won four free goldfish (lucky us!), so out I went Saturday morning to find an aquarium. The first few I priced ranged from \$40 to \$70. Then I spotted it—right in the aisle: a discarded 10-gallon display tank, complete

with gravel and filter—for a mere five bucks. Sold! Of course, it was nasty dirty, but the savings made the two hours of clean-up a breeze.

Those four new fish looked great in their new home, at least for the first day. But by Sunday one had died. Too bad, but three remained. Monday morning revealed a second casualty, and by Monday night a third goldfish had gone belly up. We called in an expert, a member of our church who has a 30-gallon tank. It didn't take him long to discover the problem: I had washed the tank with soap, an absolute no-no. My uninformed efforts had destroyed the very lives I was trying to protect. Sometimes in our zeal to clean up our own lives or the lives of others, we unfortunately use "killer soaps"—condemnation, criticism, nagging, fits of temper. We think we're doing right, but our harsh, self-righteous treatment is more than they can bear.

This is a good story to illustrate that we need to be careful to always be gentle in our dealings with people. This does not mean that we do not stand up for the truth, or even separate ourselves from false teacher warning others to stay away. But we treat people with gentleness keeping in mind that God is looking for repentance from them. Sometimes this involves being careful not to offend someone because it may push them further away from the truth. Sometimes it means being pretty blunt with them, not in a harsh way, but in a way that will challenge them to return to the Lord. John the Baptist called the Pharisees "snakes" as they were coming to be baptized by John, but he did so to challenge them to repent instead of doing it for a show to look holy. We think what he did was not loving but he knew what kind of people they were and realized that they needed to know who they were, which was hypocrites. What he said did not hurt them but I believe the because he challenged them to truly repent a few of them did later on. We must always balance two things in our walk with Christ ... telling the truth and doing it with gentleness. James S. Hewett said: "Tact is the art of making a point without making an enemy." As we study the character and teaching of the apostles we can see good examples of how this plays out in real life. Lao-Tse said: "I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality; the third is humility, which keeps me from putting

myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others, and you can become a leader among men." Charles Haddon Spurgeon also wrote: While preaching on John 13:14, the duty of disciples to wash one another's feet, Mr. Finlayson of Helmsdale observed, "One way in which disciples wash one another's feet is by reproving one another. But the reproof must not be couched in angry words, so as to destroy the effect nor in tame, so as to fail of effect. Just as in washing a brother's feet, you must not use boiling water to scald, nor frozen water to freeze them." This is a good example of how to balance rebuke and reproof when trying to help brothers in the Lord or enemies alike. 1Pe 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Wearing Away

Under the headline "Gear Blamed in Crash that Killed Senator," the April 29, 1992 issue of the Chicago Tribune reported, "A stripped gear in the propeller controls of a commuter plane caused it to nosedive into the Georgia woods last April, killing former U.S. Senator John Tower of Texas and 22 others, the government concluded Tuesday.

"A gear that adjusted the pitch of the left engine's propellers was slowly worn away by an opposing part with a harder titanium coating, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

"It acted like a file, and over time it wore down the teeth that controlled the propeller," said acting board chairman Susan Coughlin."

Like the titanium-coated gear that wore away the softer gear engaged to it, so one abrasive, unkind spouse or friend can wear away the spirit of another.

The Bible says that two men can sharpen one another. We can either use the sharpening stone of the Word of God and truth to sharpen one another, or we can hammer and file away at one another and have the opposite effect. A gentle spirit sharpens others instead of making them dull and useless.

The Full Vessel

On one occasion a nurse in one of the London hospitals complained to the

Chaplain-General to the forces that she had been rudely treated by some patients. "Thank God for that," was the reply. "What do you mean?" asked the astonished nurse. "Why," said the Bishop, "if you are carrying a vessel and somebody knocks up against you, you can only spill out of the vessel what is inside. And when people misjudge and persecute us, we can only spill what is inside. In the case of a godless man, he will probably swear. But if you are filled with the Holy Ghost, you will manifest the gentleness of Christ, and make men astonished."

If we are indeed filled with the Spirit, then the fruit of gentleness will spill over into life and effect others, bringing them closer to a relationship with Christ.

Conclusion

As Christians the fruit of the Spirit will come out in our lives, and one of those fruits is gentleness. We are to clothe ourselves in the fruit of the Spirit. It is a conscious choice we make to submit ourselves to Christ and to serve Him and His purposes in our lives rather than giving in to our carnal nature.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

If we are living in the Spirit in the love of Christ, gentleness will be evident to everyone.

Php 4:5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.



Bible Study by Juanita Simpson

The Parables of Jesus - Part 12 The Cost of Being a Disciple Luke 14:25-35

Salvation is free, but following Jesus as His disciple is costly. We cannot do anything to earn our salvation (Eph. 2:8-9), but being His true disciple may cost even our lives!

This lesson is not actually a parable, but it is parabolic. It includes 3 illustrations or tiny stories that help us understand what Jesus is teaching just as His longer parables do. To whom was Jesus speaking this teaching? "Large crowds". You would think He might be saying as many leaders are today - "Look at these huge crowds that love Me!" And to the crowds, He might say, "You will all go to heaven because you are here listening to Me and want to follow Me." (like we might think or say in church) But instead of making Christianity easy for them, He makes it hard! Were the people in the crowds that followed Him really His disciples? Probably most were not, just as most who call themselves Christians today are not true disciples.

Jesus wanted to clear up any misunderstandings about what a disciple is so He spoke this crystal-clear teaching on the cost of discipleship. It is not cheap! Many people think that salvation is cheap.

It is free but not cheap. In God's kingdom everything of real value bears a price tag. Salvation, too, has a price tag. It cost Jesus His life. True discipleship costs us everything we are and have. It requires letting go or giving up everything but Jesus.

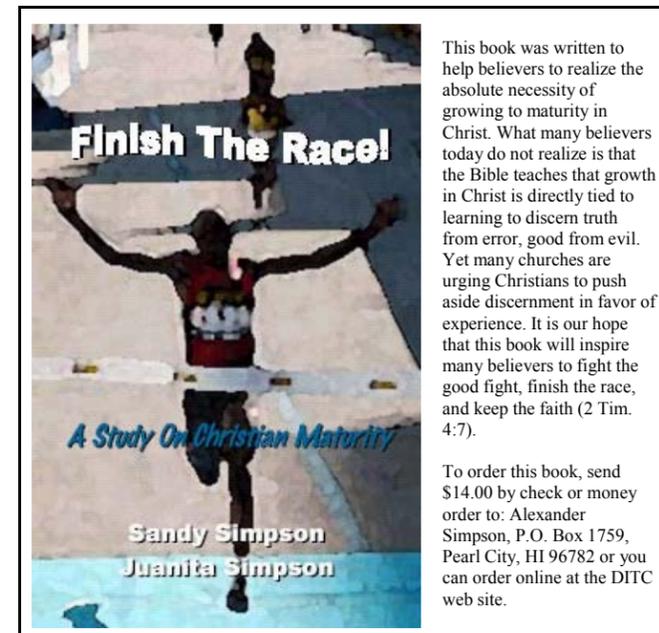
First we look at what a disciple is not! **Luke 14:26-27, 33** Jesus states this in a negative way, using "does not" and "cannot". It makes it much stronger than using positive statements. He tells us 2 things that will disqualify us from being disciples.

What is a disciple? "One who follows the teaching of a teacher"; "All who show that they are disciples by abiding in His Word" **John 8:31-32**; "those who believe on Him and talk about Him to others"; "those who are like Jesus, imitators of Him, bearing fruit for Him" **John 15:8** I have 3 simple questions which are hard to answer: 1.) What's the difference between simply being a Christian and being a disciple? 2.) Can we believe in Jesus and still not be His disciple? 3.) What will happen to us if we are not His true disciples? [Let's look for the answers.](#)

The second qualification is: carry your cross and follow Me. What did people think when they saw someone carrying a cross in Jesus' time? It was an instrument of torture and death. They were going to be hung on it till death. How do we understand this today? Bonhoeffer, who was executed by the Nazis for standing up for Christ, said, "Christ calls us to come and die." Will we die in order to follow in the footsteps of Jesus? Will we die to all other loves so that His love can be first? Will we die to all our plans and desires so that Jesus' plans & desires can be fulfilled? If necessary, will we actually die for the Lord as Bonhoeffer did? None of us want to die to our preferences, but we cannot be His disciple unless we do.

The third qualification is found in **verse 33**. You cannot be My disciples unless you give up everything you have. The order of these qualifications seems to be - loved ones and self, then goals and plans, and finally everything we have. What do we have? Life, strength, time, talents, money, possessions. What does Jesus leave for us? Nothing! It all goes to Him for now and forever. It's the only way to be His disciple. Paul said it a different way in **Romans 6:13**. We become disciples and we conquer our sin nature in the same way. "Do

To order this book, send \$14.00 by check or money order to: Alexander Simpson, P.O. Box 1759, Pearl City, HI 96782 or you can order online at the DITC web site.



This book was written to help believers to realize the absolute necessity of growing to maturity in Christ. What many believers today do not realize is that the Bible teaches that growth in Christ is directly tied to learning to discern truth from error, good from evil. Yet many churches are urging Christians to push aside discernment in favor of experience. It is our hope that this book will inspire many believers to fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:7).

not offer the parts of your body as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness." We have to give up everything we are and have to Jesus if we want to be His disciple.

Next Jesus gives 3 illustrations. The first one is in **Luke 14:28-30**. Jesus is saying, "Don't start what you cannot finish." Many were following Him, wanting to hear what He had to say and to receive His blessings of healing and help. But how many were willing to go all the way to the cross - rejection, suffering and martyrdom? A builder has to carefully plan ahead before starting his building. What does he have to consider? Whether he has enough money, workers & material to finish the job. What will happen if he puts in the foundation and then runs out of money? He will be put to shame and called a fool because he shouldn't have even started what he was not able to finish. When I lived in Guam I saw many foundations without buildings on them. Evidently the builders did not carefully calculate the cost and had to abandon them.

What does this illustrate in the life of a disciple? What does he need to consider? What or who is the foundation? Jesus Christ our salvation. What is the rest of the building? It's the Christian life that we build on that foundation. What kind of shame will come to a Christian if he starts and isn't able to continue in his Christian life? When I served as Chaplain of the Women's Prison in Guam I saw this illustrated in the lives of the inmates. Women inmates in the prison made lifestyle changes, leaving drugs, etc. behind. What happens to them when they go out on parole? But how do we know if we can continue? **Phil. 4:13** If we are truly disciples of Jesus we can depend on Him to help us complete what we start. **Phil. 1:6** But if we refuse to be His disciple - putting Him first in everything - how can He help us make it?

Jesus' second illustration is found in **Luke 14:31-32**. A king who is going to war must carefully consider his enemy's strength and his own strength and resources. Who wants to go to war knowing that you will