

February 3, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Gal. 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* (NIV)

The eighth fruit that we have, because of the Spirit living within us, is gentleness! The Greek word is **prautes** which means *mild, tender, full of mercy, humility and gentleness*. There are so many instances of the LORD's gentleness with us. He does not treat us as our sins deserve as David wrote in **Psalms 103**. And Paul says in **Eph. 4:2, 5** *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient with one another in love. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The LORD is near.* (NIV)

Have you ever been around a horse that is full of himself and he does not want to be ridden? They can surely be a 'hand full.' And they can also be very dangerous. But there are certain trainers that have found the best way to 'break' a horse is not by force, but by a process called 'gentling.' Specialized trainers know how to win over the trust of a horse by being overly patient and gentle with a horse. As they begin to see the horse trusting, then they are able to slowly mold the horse into one that does not fight a bridle or saddle, but actually enjoys it because they find trust in the one leading and riding them. It forms leadership, a relationship and a sense of security. There becomes a symbiotic bond between the rider and the equine. Depending upon the horse, this process can take weeks, months, or even years.

Doesn't that sound just like us? The LORD wants us to become gentle and treat others with that same gentleness. How's that process going for you? I can tell you; the LORD is still working on me! It is not in my nature, but it certainly is in His.

Dear LORD, help us to become more like You and less like us. May our gentleness become evident to those we are around or come in contact with. Give us Your gentleness and allow it to flow through us. In Jesus Name, Amen