

1. **Love:** Unconditional/sacrificial concern/loyalty for the well-being of others.
2. **Joy:** Deep, internal godly gladness often externally expressed by rejoicing.
3. **Peace:** Absence of tension/conflict and deep assurance of God's presence.
- 4: **Patience:** Longsuffering within trials without complaining or getting angry.
5. **Kindness:** Compassion in action. Benevolent friendliness in words/deeds.
6. **Goodness:** Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good. It involves doing what is right and is a summation of His nature and character.
7. **Faithfulness:** Reliable, steadfast, unwavering, remaining true to God's Word and calling-- keeping promises and persevering in the midst of trials; can be trusted.

I. God's faithfulness seen through His eight promises: Discovering God's will

- 1) Edenic—**Rule**—*Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. ...I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat.*” Gen 1:26-29; 2:18
- 2) Adamic—**Redemption** Christ will **overcome and destroy** the Evil one “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.*” Genesis 3:15
- 3) Noahic—**Restraint**— “**Never again will I curse the ground because of humans,** Genesis 8:21
- 4) Abrahamic—**Restore** ... “*And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” Gen 12:3 “*The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.*” Ps 67:7 **Through one man!**
- 5)Mosaic—**Reveal** ‘*If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit...*’ Lev 26:1-4; (see 5-46) **Up to God, now conditions>man**
- 6) Palestine—**Return** He will **bring you to the land** that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it... if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Dt 30:1-10
- 7) Davidic—**Reign** “When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will **build a house for my Name**, and I will establish the **throne of his kingdom forever**
- 8) New Covenant—**Regenerate** “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a **new covenant** with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah... “**I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. Jer 31:27-34; Ezek 36: 26,27; John 1:29; Luke 22:20; Matthew 5:17; Ephesians 2:8,9

II. What areas does God expect us to be **faithful** to in our daily lives? In addition to our love *for* and devotion *to* God in Bible study, prayer and fasting, here are nine more areas:

Finances— “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” Matt 6:21 How's your tithing, saving, and spending going? Are you consistent? Are you generous? “...for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor 9:6-7

Abilities— Develop your natural talents, acquired skills, and spiritual gifts. Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? I Peter 4:10, 11 (See *The Spiritual Gifts Survey -- Lifeway*) “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware... But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12: 1-7

Inter-personal relationships: “But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken.” Mt 12:36; Eph 4:32 How can you better control your attitude, temper, etc.?

Time-- Psalm 90:12-17 says, “Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Do you make lists and follow a daily plan? Are you diligent to work hard? What distractions are keeping you from God's best?

Health—“Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” 1 Cor 6: 19, 20 How is your eating, sleeping, and exercising going? Do you have regular medical checkups? See a godly counselor for help!

Family—Deut 6 Gen 18:19— For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children..” Are you being diligent in leading those whom God has given you?

Unsaved—Matt 18 & Mark 16 Go and preach the Gospel. Go and make disciples. Be strong, be courageous and do not fear or be discouraged the Lord is with you. Josh 1:9 Use Truelife.org, The GPS Guide: 4 Spiritual Laws

Leisure—recreation, entertainment— Have a take it or leave it attitude with media. “I will set no worthless thing before my eyes” Psalm 101:3 WWJW-- What would Jesus watch? “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.” Job 31:1 **Have you** made this kind of covenant?

(L)ivelihood-- “Now David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, died.” Acts 13:36 Our careers may end but not our calling. What is your calling? “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6 How God made you is how He wants to use you. How has He made you? What is your **S.H.A.P.E.?** (Read the *Purpose Driven Life* and do the *SHAPE Assessment*.) Psalm 37:4

Review the above and take a spiritual inventory of yourself in each category.

I. Gentleness: Calm and non-threatening; sensitivity and tenderness in treating others. Humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. Meekness (not weakness)—strength under God's control.

II. The Importance of meekness

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest (renewal, blessed quiet) for your souls. Mt 11:29

III. Some of the benefits of meekness:

1. "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the meek" (Isaiah 61:1). The Psalmist wrote, "The LORD takes pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with **salvation**" (Psalm 149:4). He will "save all the meek of the earth" (Psalm 76:9).

2. "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (James 1:21).

3. "He guides the meek in what is right and teaches them his way. (Psalm 25:9)

3. Not D _____, but U _____.

4. Not I _____, but P _____.

5. Not S _____, but U _____.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter **envy and selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have **envy and selfish ambition**, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3

IV. What it is not:

V. What it is:

"The greatness of man's power is the measure of his surrender." —William Booth

VI. Gentle people are...

1. Not F _____, but F _____.

Homework questions: Do you pass this test on gentleness or meekness?

- Have you dedicated yourself to God and yielded all your rights to Him? • Do you have full confidence that God controls all that happens to you? • Is it your goal to become more like the Lord Jesus Christ? • Have you received and responded to the good news of the Gospel? • Do others praise you for a meek and quiet spirit, or do they fear your angry spirit? • Do people resist your advice or counsel when you try to help them? • Do you speak evil of those in positions of leadership? • Do people ask you why you are so peaceful when serious adversities come into your life? • Have you exchanged your burdens for the yoke of Christ? • When you do good works and are praised for them, do you deflect the honor to others who helped you? Or do you look for compliments and praises from others?

- How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
- What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?