



SERIES: Getting Ripe With God
TEACHER: Jim Firth

TOPIC: Gentleness
DATE: 11/26/2023

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QUESTION #1

In this message, what resonated with you?

QUESTION #2

Was there anything you wrestled with?

QUESTION #3

Ruby Bridges was a resilient 6-year-old. She prayed for those who were saying terrible things about her. She handled a tough situation with grace and profound forgiveness. Jim says this type of toughness means someone can endure intense cruelty and still feel compassion for the perpetrator.

What is the word Jim uses for this? What is this inner toughness like?

QUESTION #4

Jim says gentleness is equated with weakness or passivity. Do you agree or disagree? Does the definition of gentleness as “strength under control” give it a better connotation to you, because it’s firm and resolute?

QUESTION #5

Read Colossians 3:12-14 below.

What does it mean to clothe yourself in these virtues? Can you think of examples? How does the virtue of love work to bind them together?

Colossians 3:12-14, NIV

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

QUESTION #6

Jesus didn't send an army of angels to defend him, even though he had the power to. How is this strength under control, or holding power in restraint?

QUESTION #7

James and John asked Jesus in Luke 9:51-56 if he wanted them to command fire to rain down and consume their enemies. Jesus didn't praise their idea, but rather replied that they didn't know what spirit they are of, because He didn't come to destroy men's lives but to save them.

Do you struggle with wanting revenge? Do you see how Jesus replied with gentleness when he could've used his power instead? What do you think about the mission of Jesus as it relates to saving people and not destroying them?

QUESTION #8

Not many people are gentle by nature, including the apostle Paul. But the Spirit transforms us to have more and more gentleness. What might this look like in a person's life? What thoughts, habits and behaviors does a gentle person have?