

Fruit of the Spirit

Gentleness

Bottom Line: Gentleness is the voice God uses with us.

This week, we're going to look at gentleness first, because it's how God speaks to us. I want you to hear everything that follows in this series in the same voice that God is using towards you.

When the Lord is talking with us about our process of transformation, it is always with a deeply affectionate, beautifully gentle voice and manner. It isn't a whisper. It's a voice filled with quiet confidence in who He knows Himself to be for you. He loves talking to Jesus in you. There is no anger or tension in His tone. He is incapable of frustration or disappointment, so those can never appear in how He speaks.

INSERT PERSONAL REFLECTION: (EXAMPLE). His gentleness communicates to us the love and kindness that He adores. The Father put us into Christ so that He could speak to us the same way He spoke to His Son, no matter if we're having a good day or a difficult one. I remember a time in my life when I felt I had failed miserably. No matter my efforts, my circumstances remained unchanged... and I felt overwhelmed by all I was not. In the midst of that time, God came to me and said, "You are My beloved son in whom I'm well pleased."

He said it gently, but with total confidence. It was His reality, but it seemed totally absurd to me. And no matter how long a list I made of why He should not have this perspective, He simply kept repeating gently, "You are My beloved son in whom I'm well pleased." And I still didn't believe Him.

So over the next weeks and months, He had the most delightful time proving Himself to me. At conferences around the world, people came up and said, "The Lord told me to tell you..." or they handed me a slip of paper with the verse, "You are my beloved son in whom I'm well-pleased." This happened 273 times! Until I finally surrendered to His perspective over mine. And every time, I could hear the gentleness in His voice as He told me who I really was in His eyes.

His relentless gentleness transformed me into a gentle man. His uncommon love would finally become my reality as well. Regardless of my failures, I was His son ... and greatly beloved.