(Lamentations 3:23). "For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever" (Psalm 117:2). "The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him" (Psalm 32:10). "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:20). God "will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). Abraham trusted in God's promise for a child, "because he considered him faithful who had made the promise" (Hebrews 11:11).

Since God is faithful, we also should be faithful in our dealings with God and with others. "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21, 23). "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). "The Lamb will overcome... and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers" (Revelation 17:14).

**H. GENTLENESS.**

The Greek word *Prautes* can be translated "gentleness, humility, meekness." The dictionary gives us these definitions:

Gentle - mild, not severe, rough or violent, polite. These traits refer to absence of bad temper or belligerence. (Note the relationship to both peace and self-control.)

Meek - implies a submissive spirit. Some would describe it as power under control.

Humble - not proud or arrogant; modest; having a proper opinion of one's self. Being humble means agreeing with God; not having too high an opinion of yourself but also not denying the value that God places on you.

**Jesus’ example of gentleness** (Eddie Foster)

Even after pointing out the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus Christ defined a spirit of gentleness and showed how He truly felt about even those who were opposed to Him. In Matthew 23:37 He lamented: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” Gentleness is feeling this way about other human beings.

In Matthew 11:29, Christ said, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am *gentle* and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Here Christ makes a connection between gentleness and humility.

This connection is also seen elsewhere in the Bible. The apostle Paul reinforced this idea in 2 Corinthians 10:1: “Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the *meekness* and *gentleness* of Christ—who in presence am *lowly* among you, but being absent am bold toward you.”

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barrier, the dividing wall of hostility..." (Ephesians 2:14). "It was he [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists,

and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faithand in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13). "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (Philippians 2:2). "For since there is still jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?" (1 Corinthians 3:3). "God is not a God of disorder, but of peace" (1 Corinthians 14:33).

**3. Peace as freedom from anxiety.** Scripture tells us in many ways not to be anxious. And it tells us how to avoid anxiety. The key is to set our hearts and minds on things above and not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-2). "Do not worry, saying 'what shall we eat?' or 'what shall we drink?' or 'what shall we wear?'... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31). "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

Paul’s advice to the Philippians gives us a strategy for finding this kind of peace, which involves several aspects of the fruit of the Spirit:

Be joyful. "Rejoice in the Lord always". Our joy is in the Lord.

Be gentle. "Let your gentleness be evident to all." Remember that the Lord is always near. He is "an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Do not be anxious about anything.

Pray. In everything present your requests to God. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "pray continually."

Be thankful. "With thanksgiving". 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances." Gratitude indicates that we realize the source of our blessings, including peace.

Rest in God's peace. "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Again, this kind of peace does not rest in or depend on the circumstances. It goes beyond the circumstances. We can achieve it "in all circumstances". It "transcends understanding". It recognizes that "What is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). The circumstances are

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