Gentle

Galatians 5:22-But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (KJV)

The current world can benefit from a greater amount of gentleness in relationships. The prevalence of daily rancor, anger and violence has reached an intolerable level. Wars, mass shootings and hostility in public places are now everyday occurrences. Increased gentleness will lead to de-escalation of the current negative behavior. The Lord's intercession is necessary and desired for the de-escalation to occur

1 Thessalonians 2:7-But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children. (KJV)

The likelihood of reduced hostility in daily life requires widespread repentance. Believers have the responsibility to improve daily relationships by being gentle. Gentleness affects daily interactions and facilitates a greater likelihood of calm. The family home is the best place for gentleness to be encouraged and practiced. Mothers and fathers teach their children the value of gentleness by their example.

2 Timothy 2:24-And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (KJV)

The hunger in the believer's soul yearns for gentleness in personal relationships. The Holy Apostle Paul expresses the place of gentleness when serving the Lord. Gentleness reveals the Lord's presence and the sense of purpose in the believer. Personal relationships grow, mature and are strengthened by gentle interaction Goals are achieved when believers work together combining efforts in gentleness. **Titus 3:2-To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.** (KJV)

Lack of self-control and expressions of anger run counter to gentle behavior. Hostile exchange of words and facial expressions cause relationships to deteriorate. Love is removed as a possibility in relationships filled with acrimony and anger. Failing to forgive and put aside past wrongs prevent gentleness from developing. Gentle behavior draws believers together and hostility causes their separation James 3:17-But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. (KJV)

Serious and attentive believers learn wisdom from the Lord and apply it daily. Learning to be gentle involves accepting the Lord's wisdom as being beneficial. Believers loving the Lord with a full heart, mind and soul learn to be gentle. Becoming gentle on a consistent basis requires maintaining unity with the Lord Embracing the Lord's wisdom reveals itself in the believer's gentle behavior.

Venerable Acacius who is mentioned in <u>The Ladder</u>. St, Mardarije of Libertyville. November 29/December 12, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic