

Strong-Willed

Wisdom for the Ages: Revere and Fear. How Strong-Willed People Can Find Success. Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Monday, February 5, 2018 [Listen to "Thoughts in Worship 02.05.2018" on Spreaker.](#)

"Fearing the Lord is the beginning of moral knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Listen, my child, to the instruction from your father, and do not forsake the teaching from your mother." (Proverbs 1:7-8, NET).

Strong-Willed

Reverence for God is the key to success. If God is the One who created the heavens and the earth, wouldn't it just make sense to consult Him? Should we not consult Him regarding our lives in particular?



Think about a strong-willed seven year-old boy. Think about how caring, friendly, and intelligent he might be. People laud him for his winning smile and personality. Now, think about what it might be like to give him instructions, such as how to assemble a toy, keep his room neat, or manage his time. How simple or complex might it be? What

if he thinks he knows almost everything, and tells you are wrong a lot? How does that sit with you?

Here's a scary thought: even the most compliant among us, if we are not submitted fully to God, are like that willful boy.

God wants to speak to us as soon as we wake up, but some have other things to do. He wants to hear from us, but most would rather talk to friends with problems as insurmountable as ours. God has a roadmap for our days and nights, but some have decided we know better than He, and end up getting lost. Do you see where this is going?

Predicate for Prosperity

There is absolutely no way that proud/willful human being who is not willing to submit to God can prosper for long, if at all. Lasting success is predicated upon yielding the will to our Creator. He has a warehouse of wisdom and instruction for every area of our lives.

If you realize your need of help about relationships, prophecy, race issues, sexism, addictions, child rearing, work/life balance, interpersonal issues with church folk, or perspective on the news cycle in a world seemingly gone mad, learn to worship and respect your Creator.

Embrace wisdom and instruction like an obedient child listens to her parents, and you will prosper, no matter what trials you face in life. The bonus is that you will also be saved when Jesus returns.

A word to the foolish is wasteful. A word to the wise is sufficient.

The View From Down Here

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Tuesday, January 3, 2017

How your "ground game" can enrich your future.

[Listen to "Thoughts in Worship 01.03.2017" on Spreaker.](#)

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5). Meek. This is a huge word principle with few letters. Our world would be so much better a place if more people were meek. Many years ago, I heard a preacher on the radio say that meekness is power under control. That is to say, if I have the power to take advantage of a situation or usurp an upper hand, meekness says take the lower ground. In other words, meekness is patience, humility, and gentleness of spirit all wrapped in one. Biblical meekness puts us in a low position like the ground. And you know that the ground is walked upon; all sorts of things are dragged over its face and dropped; it is mined and excavated. Yet, the ground remains in position. Meekness is not weakness. It stands up under pressure. Though the heavens fall, a meek person knows his or her position in the grand scheme of things and is confident to gently, yet powerfully stand firm.

Promised Future

Jesus promised that those who possess this blessed attribute are joyous, spiritually prosperous, and are satisfied with God's favor, despite what's happening to them or in the world around them. He promised that they would inherit the earth. This should pique your interest!

This fact underscores the meek person's patience under pressure since this inheritance is yet to be realized. You see, God is not promising that meek people will be given yachts, mansions, luxury vehicles, and palatial estates. That would be anti-climactic considering these will all be destroyed one day (soon). No. Jesus is offering to give the meek the new earth.

According to Revelation 20-22, Jesus will come one day. He will reward the faithful with immortality, a 1,000-year vacation in heaven, a trip back to earth in the New Jerusalem, and eternal bliss in the re-created earth.

Life In The "Holy Mountain"

Notice what the Bible says: "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: And the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: For, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: And the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, Nor an old man that hath not filled his days: For the child shall die an hundred years old; But the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; And they shall plant vineyards,

and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; They shall not plant, and another eat: For as the days of a tree are the days of my people, And mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, Nor bring forth for trouble; For they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; And while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, And the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: And dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD." (Isaiah 65:17-25).

Your Part

Ask the Lord to instill this meekness principle in your heart. Ask Him to make you meek and lowly in heart like Jesus, and get ready to have rest unto your soul as you await your inheritance.