Imagine This: 9 Key Elements for A Fulfilling Life Feb 13, 2021

**THE KEY ELEMENT OF GENTLENESS**

David Welch

Galatians 5:22

*He [the Holy Spirit] brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.*

**GENTLENESS IS … A KEY ELEMENT OF A CHRISTIAN’S CHARACTER**

*But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.*

*1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV)*

**1. CHOOSE GENTLE DISCIPLINE OVER HARSH CORRECTION**

*Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.*

*Galatians 6:1*

*A gentle answer makes anger disappear, but a rough answer makes it grow.*

*Proverbs 15:1 ERV*

**2. CHOOSE TENDER DIRECTION TO THOSE LESS MATURE**

*Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:7–8*

**3. CHOOSE HELPFUL DIALOGUE OVER HURTFUL DEBATE**

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15

**4. CHOOSE A COUNTERCULTURE DEMEANOR**

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

Titus 3:1–2

5Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5

**CONCLUSION: CHOOSE MEEKNESS OVER MIGHT**

 "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

John 10:18

 ... Pilate said. "Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"  Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above..."

John 19:10-11

29Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29