

Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund A Book Review by Jesse Smothers

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” -Matthew 11:28-30

The Heart of Jesus

In the 89 chapters of the 4 gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Charles Sturgeon pointed out that there is only one place where Jesus tells us about His own heart. Of all the countless ways He could describe His heart towards His children, He chose to say that He is gentle and lowly in heart.

Effectively all Christians know about the sacrifice of Jesus, and what He has done with His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. However, even though we know about His glorious work, His heart and who He is can be as mysterious to us or unknowable to us as a dark chasm. He has not left us on our own to figure out His heart for us though, He tells us— He is Gentle and Lowly.

The Heart of Jesus for Sinners and Sufferers

As son's and daughters of the Most High King we still stumble and struggle through life and the temptations of the flesh, world, and the schemes of the Evil One. It is far too easy to feel that Jesus is disappointed in us or distant from us during these times, but it is during the suffering and sinning that Jesus draws near to us and longs for us evermore because of the very nature of who He is. For He is gentle and lowly at His core. It is extremely difficult for us to think that the mess of us actually grips at the heart of Jesus. Yet this is the wonderful news of Jesus's grace and mercy.

Comfort, strength, and rest in our kind and gracious King

Jesus is a Savior who moves towards us in our sin and suffering when we think He does just the opposite, because it seems like He ought to do just the opposite! Jesus came for the sick, weak, and desperate, as Mark 2:17 says, “And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

When we are made children of God, the heart of Jesus still moves towards us in our sickness and weakness. It is of great comfort to know that Jesus is not a reluctant Savior, but one who delights in showing His mercy and grace. When it seems to us as if Jesus should grow tired of showing His grace and mercy, He offers us comfort, strength, and rest forevermore.

This book tenderly and beautifully displays the way Jesus thinks and feels towards His children. The pages are filled with the wonderful depths of the heart of Christ, and if you would like to take more joy and delight in Jesus's heart towards you, this is the book to read.