

“Be His Apprentice”
with Elder Andrew Neill
May 17th, 2026
Sermon Study Notes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhxKPWzJwDA>

<https://www.livinghopebranch.org/sermons/2026-05-17-elder-andrew-neill-be-his-apprentice-worship-service/>

Summary

In his sermon "Be His Apprentice," Elder Andrew Neill inspires listeners, especially younger ones, to embrace apprenticeship as a transformative path toward spiritual and personal mastery. He defines an apprentice as someone who learns closely under a master to bridge the gap between who they are and who they aspire to be. Central to this journey is the quality of meekness, which Andrew clarifies as power combined with obedience to God—not weakness as commonly misunderstood.

Drawing from biblical and historical examples—Moses, David, Nephi, and George Washington—he illustrates how meekness enabled these leaders to liberate their people physically or spiritually, demonstrating courage, obedience, and vision. The sermon culminates in a call to embody meekness by revering God and embracing divine instruction, warning against the modern dangers of moral relativism and self-mastery. Ultimately, the message is clear: apprenticeship under God, marked by meekness, is the pathway to true freedom, purpose, and legacy.

Highlights

1. **Apprenticeship is a transformational journey** from novice to mastery through close mentorship.
2. **Meekness is defined** as power plus obedience to God, not weakness.
3. **Moses, David, Nephi, and George Washington exemplify** meekness in action, leading physical and spiritual liberation.
4. **The meek are chosen by God** to protect and free His people.
5. **Reverence for God is the foundation** of true wisdom and knowledge.
6. **Moral relativism leads to spiritual bondage**; divine obedience grants freedom.
7. **True leadership requires** surrendering power and recognizing God’s ultimate authority.

Key Insights

1. **Apprenticeship as Transformation:** The role of an apprentice transcends mere learning; it involves a complete transformation to become like the master. This reflects a spiritual principle that growth requires humility, guidance, and practical experience, emphasizing the importance of community and mentorship in personal development.
2. **Meekness Is Strength Under Control:** Meekness, often mistaken for weakness, is actually the powerful balance of strength and obedience. Andrew's reference to the Greek word *praus* (power + obedience) profoundly redefines meekness as a dynamic force essential for leadership and spiritual growth.
3. **Biblical Leaders as Models of Meekness:** By showcasing Moses, David, and Nephi, the sermon reveals how meekness empowered them to confront enormous challenges—physical bondage, existential threats, and spiritual captivity—highlighting that divine obedience equips ordinary people for extraordinary purposes.
4. **George Washington's Meek Leadership:** Washington's willingness to relinquish power after victory illustrates meekness on a national scale. His example teaches that true leadership is not about clinging to power but serving a higher purpose and trusting God's plan.
5. **The Danger of Moral Ambiguity:** Andrew warns that rejecting objective truth leads to spiritual slavery, where individuals are bound by their own carnal desires. This insight challenges contemporary cultural narratives and calls for a return to reverence for divine law as the foundation for freedom.
6. **The Inheritance of the Meek:** Referencing Matthew 5 Verse 7, meekness is not passive but active, granting a divine inheritance. The meek are entrusted with the protection and liberation of others, underscoring a sacred responsibility to act courageously for justice and freedom.
7. **Wisdom Begins with Reverence:** The sermon closes with Solomon's Proverbs, emphasizing that the "fear" (reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. This frames learning and growth as rooted in awe and respect for God, encouraging lifelong humility and obedience.

Outline

1. Introduction to Apprenticeship

- Definition of an apprentice: learning under a master for skill and transformation.
- Purpose: bridging the gap between current self and aspirational self through mentorship.
- Benefits of apprenticeship: faster learning, guided experience, and practical wisdom.

2. The Defining Quality of a Successful Apprentice: Meekness

- Explanation of meekness versus weakness (Psalm 25 Verse 9).
- Biblical example of Moses as the epitome of meekness—powerful yet obedient.
- Greek root *praus*: power plus obedience equals meekness.
- The analogy of a warhorse to illustrate the balance needed.

3. Biblical Examples of Meekness and Apprenticeship

- David: youthful shepherd, brave and obedient, fought for physical freedom (defeated Goliath).
- Nephi: spiritual warrior, obedient to God's commands, fought for spiritual liberation (retrieved brass plates).
- Comparison of David and Nephi's battles: physical vs. spiritual liberation.
- God's pattern of choosing the meek for great tasks.

4. Historical Example: George Washington

- Washington's imperfections: not a perfect general or strategist.
- His unique power: the ability to inspire and lead with vision.
- Acts of meekness: risking his life, leading against odds, and ultimately surrendering power.
- Legacy of Washington's meekness in American history.

5. The Role of Meekness in Leadership and Society

- Biblical mandate: meek shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5 Verse 7).
- The responsibility of the meek: to liberate and protect the weak and captive.
- The danger of pride and self-mastery in modern times.
- The necessity of divine guidance over moral relativism.

6. Closing Reflection on Wisdom and Reverence

- Proverbs of Solomon: wisdom begins with the fear (reverence) of the Lord.
- The misunderstanding of "fear" and its true meaning as awe and respect.
- The folly of despising wisdom and instruction.
- Call to embrace apprenticeship, meekness, and divine obedience.

7. Final Exhortation

- Be like Moses, David, Nephi, and Washington.
- The simple yet hard formula for freedom: power plus obedience to God.
- Everything else leads to bondage; obedience leads to liberation and purpose.