

HUMILITY

God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

(James 4:6)

According to *Webster's Dictionary*, "humility" means a "state of being humble." In the Scriptures we read that humility is something highly desirable in the eyes of God. It is listed as the opposite of pride, which God hates.

And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

(Matthew 23:12)

He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones,
And has exalted those who were humble.

(Luke 1:51, 52)

"He has brought down rulers from their thrones." Upon reading these words, I cannot help but think about the Babylonian, grass-eating king Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel. God reduced Nebuchadnezzar, for a period of time, to an animal-like state, until he recognized that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind; until he recognized that it is Heaven that rules (Daniel 4:25, 26); until he praised, exalted, and honored the King of heaven and proclaimed:

All His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.

(Daniel 4:37)

On the other hand, we read that Moses was a humble man, more than any man who was on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3).

Our example is Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus is gentle and humble in heart (Matthew 11:29). Paul instructs believers in the letter to Philippians to have the same attitude, which was also in Christ Jesus.

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:5–11)

Jesus spent His entire life on earth in total dependency upon God, the Father. He didn't say or do anything apart from the Father.

Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."

(John 5:19)

Jesus said,

"For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak."

(John 12:49)

Jesus showed us how to live, once we are indwelt by Him: In total dependency upon God. When we see God in all His majesty, in all His power and wisdom, our pride is replaced by humility. *God is the able One*. In the parable of the vine and the branches in the gospel of John, chapter 15, we see clearly that Jesus is the true Vine and we are the branches.

Jesus said,

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."

(John 15:5)

This statement alone should crash any pride in us. Right? Sure, we can do a lot of things apart from Jesus, but all that we do in the energy of our flesh is only temporal, earthly, and it will not last. It will be burned up. Jesus is talking about the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit, which will last eternally. Beloved, let us focus on the eternal.

When we see ourselves as "nothing" apart from God, we become totally dependent upon God and true humility is achieved.

So often we see that God uses the weak, the totally insignificant “nobodies”—at least as far as the world is concerned. But God doesn’t see as the world sees. God knows our hearts. And He is looking for men and women who are humble in heart, willing to be available to Him—the able God.

Natural men (those without the Holy Spirit) don’t consider humility to be something desirable. Actually, the opposite is truth. Let us ponder the words of Jesus Christ:

That which is highly esteemed among men is detestable
in the sight of God.

(Luke 16:15)

Pride As Contrasted With Humility

When pride comes, then comes dishonor,
But with the humble is wisdom.

(Proverbs 11:2)

It is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly,
Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

(Proverbs 16:19)

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty,
But humility goes before honor.

(Proverbs 18:12)

A man’s pride will bring him low,
But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

(Proverbs 29:23)

Why does God hate pride in us? Pride keeps us from Him. Pride builds selfishness. Pride is self-serving. And that is why pride is at enmity with God.

Pride was first found in Lucifer, the highest of all angelic creatures. His beauty and splendor went to his head, and he was not satisfied with his position. He wanted to be like God. *High places are slippery places!*

Isn’t it what we are doing—running around like a bunch of little gods who want to be in control of everything? It sure is a far cry from the following verses:

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with
humility of mind let each of you regard one another as
more important than himself;

do not merely look out for your own personal interests,
but also for the interests of others.

(Philippians 2:3, 4)

We should regard one another as more important than ourselves—imagine that! False humility doesn't count. Others can fool us, because we don't know anyone's heart. We can even fool ourselves. But God seeks the mind and heart. Nobody can fool Him.

The Good News is that one day, even our body—the body of our humble state—will be transformed into conformity with the body of the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20, 21). Until then:

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

(1 Peter 5:5, 6)

The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord
Are riches, honor and life.

(Proverbs 22:4)

He has told you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

(Micah 6:8)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk
in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have
been called,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing
forbearance to one another in love,

being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the
bond of peace.

(Ephesians 4:1–3)

And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and
beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness and patience;

bearing with one another, and forgiving each other,
whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord
forgave you, so also should you.

(Colossians 3:12, 13)

Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

(James 4:10)