

Humility—Not Easy to Find!

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Humility is rare and pride is common because everyone is born with a nature that is *opposite* to what God intended it to be. His plan from day one was for His creation to have total trust *in* Him and a genuine love *for* Him. That is the *only* way that results in happiness, contentment, and a satisfied life—where burdens are removed; needs are met; and desires fulfilled.

No one can see this at first, and the pathway *to* that position of trust, fulfillment, and satisfaction is not what most people would choose to follow. God's divine plan of humility and trust is opposite to the world's way of self-importance and pride. Isaiah 55:8 "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*"

Happiness in this life now and the assurance of eternal life later, depends upon our getting fully into God's will during our lifetime on earth—and preparation begins here. Matthew 7:21 "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*"

God's way of humility is to maintain an *attitude* of humility—but we do not often *recognize* humility—though it be of *major* importance. It is *so central* and *so essential* that we must be 1 Peter 5:5 "*Clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*" No one

would want God to *resist* them—and *everyone* needs His grace to *forgive* them.

Opposite to a coat of humility around us, is the world's attitude of conceit, arrogance, and pride. The world wants an outstanding reputation; Be looked up to by others; To have finances well beyond the average; Attain a high position in business; and, Be successful in anything that would lead to those things desired by the world.

God's way is *so* different—we are to 1 Peter 5:6 "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*" His way of humility is to go *down* instead of *up*; to desire a *low* position, not a *high* one; to be *content* with small pay, rather than *strive* for high salaries; to have *enough* money instead of a huge *surplus*; and to be in the *back* rather than be the *center* of attention.

1st example of humility—Jesus set the ultimate example of true humility. His entrance *into* the world sent a message *to* the world—born in a manger with no attendants; no crib for a bed; no soft blanket; and not a pillow for His head. Jesus said of the Pharisees—Luke 16:15 "*God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*"

The Creator of the universe was born in a *stable*, compared to a royal baby born in a *palace*—the contrast is remarkable! The Ruler of Heaven and earth came to this world in the humblest of surroundings. During the entire time He was with us, He wore clothes of the common people; His companions and friends were poor, humble, working-class people.

Modest homes of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus is where He met and relaxed. He was not given any special attention—Isaiah 53:2 "*He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*"

His disciples had a tough time understanding that what God wants to see in us is humility of spirit and no reputation in the eyes of the world. When the disciples asked who of them was the greatest, Jesus said Matthew 20:25-27, "*You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave.*"

The *humblest* and *lowest* position anyone could take, is the *greatest* and *highest* in the sight of God. We can readily see how *God's way* of humility and lowliness is completely opposed to the World's way of pride and conceit. When a man wanted to follow the Lord, Jesus told him Luke 9:58 "*Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.*"

Jesus did not even have a rented room and no place to call home—but it was a true position of humility. We have nice homes and fine furnishings—for which we thank God every day—but what a marvelous example the Son of God left for all of us. So many people worry about what others think of them—but Jesus had no such concern.

God will take pride out of our heart so we will *not* be concerned about what others think of us or how they treat us. Our *one* desire will be to please *God* and to know what *He* thinks of us. Jesus asked the Pharisees John 5:44 "*How is it possible for you to believe, while you receive glory from one another and have no desire for the glory that comes from the only God?*"

The only worthwhile thing is to really know *God* and what *He* thinks of us. We are not to be concerned about what *others* think, say, or do—because Romans 8:31 "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*" We should only be concerned with *God's* approval of our words and attitudes.

2nd example of humility—Moses had been adopted by the ruling family of Egypt. Even though he had everything the human heart could possibly want, when he had to decide the direction of his life, he refused all the *power, influence, and affluence* the throne of Egypt would offer.

Hebrews 11:24-26 “*By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*”

Moses was taught by God, and it is truly amazing how he was led to such a humble position in life. Instead of having the *highest* position, he chose to have *no* position. He had to start all over again—living by faith day-by-day in the living God of the Bible. Every night he went to bed without anything in for breakfast—that is the way of humility.

The human heart likes to have plenty of *everything* and more than enough *surplus* in reserve. Moses had a *huge* amount of everything in reserve while he was in Egypt, but he *chose* to enter a life of humility and faith with *nothing* in reserve. He was friends with *common* people; he *chose* a life of humility; he chose to be *tested*; and he accepted a position where people would complain to him about everything.

Moses *chose* that life; and a *wise* choice it was—Hebrews 11:26 “*Because he deemed the reproaches which he might meet with in the service of the Christ to be greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt; for he fixed his gaze on the coming reward*”—and Moses received eternal life! What an incredible reward *that* is for giving up worldly wealth and staying on a humble path!

As Moses followed God's plan of humility, he never really suffered any harm; and he enjoyed good health and strength all during the journey. Deuteronomy 34:7 “*Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.*” He was strong and vigorous his entire life—all resulting from following God's plan.

3rd example of humility—Elijah was a prophet of God who lived a very humble life. He did *not* have fine clothes but common attire—like John the Baptist. Elijah was not in a position to make money for his living or to have any kind of financial security. When a famine struck the land, he had to live by a stream and depend on God to feed him—by ravens.

Morning and evening the ravens brought him food and he drank from the brook. When the stream dried up, God gave him an even *more* humble situation—he had to board with a poor widow who had even less than he had. Elijah did not complain but trusted God each day for the needs *of* that day—this *living by faith* went on for over three years.

The nation of Israel was led into a wilderness to learn humility—they had to trust God each day for food and water—but in this way, God could perfect their faith in Him. God's way of humility and trust was the opposite to the world's way of opulence and excess. It was God's plan for His people to learn humility and to be led to a land of milk and honey where they had everything in abundance.

4th example of humility—Job enjoyed prosperity; had a fine reputation, and the townspeople sought his advice. He had financial security; much livestock, many friends, and everything else a person could want—but that life *would* have landed him in Hell had he *remained* in that situation. The end result of worldly prosperity is always

the Lake of Fire. Psalm 92:7 “*When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever.*”

Those who are *willing* to be corrected; to be humbled; and do *not* seek the world's reputation—they are the ones God can *teach*—they are the ones He can lead to eternal life. God's way of humility is that we be *dead to self* and *alive to Christ*. When dead to self, we will not desire *anything* that relates to the world's pride of heart. Our life will be *revolutionized*—and the path *to* that revolution is the way of *humility*.

Humility is being thought *nothing* of by the world; to be a *zero* in today's terms; to have *nothing* to speak of financially; to experience *trials, tests, and temptations*; to be persecuted, ridiculed, found fault with, and considered *nothing* by the world.

The test—If we have *placed* our life in God's hands and have *allowed* Him to have total control of our life—being willing to meet every situation in *His* way—we will have everything we could need in a scriptural way now here on earth and be assured of entering God's kingdom later! Proverbs 10:22 “*The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.*”

The Lord's way of humility leads to the final reward of Heaven. *That* is what the apostle meant when he said: James 2:5 “*Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*” The promise of Paradise is by the path of humility!



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