

# Christian Essentials #3

## Walking in Humility Before God

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### I. Introductory Remarks.

In this message I want to talk about another one of the Christian's basic essentials that he or she must have operating in their lives if they are to be fruitful and successful in the kingdom of God. I want to talk about the importance of walking in humility before God.

**Proverbs 22:4** *By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.*

Jesus has said that He came to give us life, and that it would be a life filled with His abundance. Let's face it, God wants us to be fruitful and do well in this life. But there are certain characteristics we must put on if we are to bear fruit that remains. Humility is one of the most important characteristics we can possess as Christians because it leads us into all of the others.

In the life of Jesus one of the most outstanding characteristics that he possessed was that of humility. It was the one thing that stood out above all others even though God highly exalted Him in His ministry.

### II. Walking in Humility Before God.

It is important that we really understand the meaning and the importance of walking in humility before God, because if we don't we will find ourselves filled with pride and self sufficiency which is often manifested in harmful and hurtful ways in our relationships with others.

**Micah 6:6-8** *With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup>**He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?***

**James 4:10** *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

The question that should be going through our minds at this point is, "Just how do we humble ourselves in the sight of God?"

## **1. Humility Begins with a Broken and Contrite Heart Before God.**

***Isaiah 57:15*** For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite one.

Watchman Nee has been quoted as saying, "Our spirit is released according to the degree of our brokenness. The one who has accepted the most discipline is the one who can best serve. The more one is broken, the more sensitive he is. The more desire to save ourselves, at that point we are deprived of spiritual sensitivity and supply. Let no one imagine he can be effective and disregard this basic principle."

- **We must come to the place where our total sufficiency rests in God and His ability towards us.**

***Isaiah 66:2*** For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Having a broken and contrite heart simply means that we have come to the end of ourselves and have died to the flesh and everything that wants to exalt itself against God's purpose in our lives. We have come to the place where we realize we are totally dependent upon God. We have an awesome respect for God and His Word.

- **King Solomon's Example.**

When King Solomon realized the magnitude of what God had called him to be and do, he humbled himself as a little child in God's presence, realizing he would have to be totally dependent upon God, if he was to fulfill God's purpose for His life.

***1 Kings 3:7*** "Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

This is the same exhortation that Jesus gives to each one of us. The only way we can possibly get to know the Lord and fulfill the purpose He has for each one of us is by coming to Him as a little child would. It takes brokenness to do this.

**Matthew 18:2-4** *Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,<sup>3</sup> and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

A little child is dependent upon their parents for everything that pertains unto life. This is exactly the way God desires for us to relate to Him. He has given us all things that pertain to life. If we want to be partakers of all that God has given to us, we must humble ourselves as a little child. We must be totally dependent upon Him for everything that pertains unto life and godliness. He is our sufficiency for everything.

**2 Corinthians 3:5** *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,*

Andrew Murray has been quoted as saying, "Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all."

## **2. People who are Humble and Broken before God will be Reminded of their need for Forgiveness.**

As a result of being reminded of our need for forgiveness there will be a desire to continually come to the Throne of Grace to receive the forgiveness that is needed.

- **King David's Example.**

God calls David a man after His own heart. What was it in David's life that caused God to address him in such a way? Could it have been that David was constantly aware of his own sin and failures?

**Psalms 51:1-4** *Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup>Against*

*You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight; that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.*

- **The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.**

Jesus uses the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax collector to illustrate this point to His disciples and to all who would follow him.

**Luke 18:9-14** *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' <sup>13</sup>"**And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'** <sup>14</sup>"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

### **3. Humility Before God Will Entail the Surrender of Our Will.**

Humility is the path to death, because in death it gives the highest proof of its perfection. In death Jesus proved His surrender to God to the very utmost.

**Philippians 2:8** *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

In the passage before this we are encouraged to be likeminded or to have this same attitude that Jesus possessed. Humility must lead us to the perfect death of the cross as well. We must totally surrender our wills to the cross of Jesus.

**Mark 8:34** *When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

**Luke 17:33** *"Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*

Humility means the giving up of self, and the taking of the place of perfect nothingness before God. In death, Christ gave up His self, with the mutual reluctance to drink the cup. We have been baptized into His death.

### **III. Concluding Remarks.**

If we haven't come to the place in our lives where we have humbled ourselves before God, pride will manifest itself in many various hurtful and damaging ways in our relationships with others in the body of Christ. It will also affect our motives in ministries in the body of Christ.

Let us all purpose to have the same attitude that Jesus Himself had and walk in humility before God and watch His purposes and will be established in our lives just as it was in David, King Solomon, the apostles and all others who have humbled themselves before our God, Almighty.