HUMILITY: Essential For A Closer Walk

October 4, 2017
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- (James 4:10 NIV) *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

- *In The Kingdom The Way Up Is Down!*

- Those Who Seem To Be Closest To The God Are Those Who Go Through A Trying And Humbling Walk In The Presence Of The Lord.
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• We Cannot Come To Salvation In Christ Without Humility

• Until We Recognize Our Need -- We Can Never Come To The Fullness Of A Closer Walk With Him
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- **Matthew 5:3-5 (NIV)** (3) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4) Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (5) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- **Matthew 5:3-5 (NLT)** (3) “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. (4) God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (5) God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth."
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• WHO ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT???

• The Poor In Spirit Are The Humble

• "Blessed & Approved By God Is The Person Who Is Totally And Completely Poverty Stricken In Their Spirit"
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• WHY IS HUMILITY SO IMPORTANT?
  • It Helps Us To Be Detached From The Emphasis Of "Things" In Our Lives
  • It Helps Us To Be "Attached" To God
  • Poverty of Spirit is Essential for Knowing God’s Approval
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- There Is A Powerful Before And After Of Pride And Humility In The New Testament Account Of Peter

  1 Peter 5:6 (NIV) *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

- Peter Ended Up Declaring The Benefits And Blessings Of Humility -- But It Wasn’t Always That Way.
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- **Mark 14:27-31 (NLT)** (27) On the way, Jesus told them, “All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, ‘God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” (28) But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.” (29) Peter said to him, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.” (30) Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, **Peter**—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.” (31) “No!” Peter declared emphatically. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the others vowed the same.
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• Peter Made Two Adamant Declarations:

1. No Matter What I’ll Not Fall Away From You
2. Even If I Have To Die – I’ll Never Disown You

• He Was Prideful And Didn’t Know That He Was Set Up For A Big Fall
• When He Should Have Been Praying -- He Was Sleeping
• He Failed And Denied Jesus Three Times!!!
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• **Overconfidence In Self -- Is A Deadly Peril To People Of Faith**
  - (Prov 28:26 NIV) *He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.*
  - (Prov 16:18 NIV) *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*
  - (1 Cor 10:12 NIV) *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*
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• We Need To Trust In God – Because Whoever Trusts In Self Is Foolish

• (Psa 119:117 NIV) Uphold me, and I will be delivered; I will always have regard for your decrees.
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• PRIDE BLOCKS US OFF FROM GOD’S WILL

• The sin of pride is strongly condemned because it violates the first principle of wisdom, which is to fear the Lord.

• This Kingdom Walk Is Not About What We Can Do In Our Strength – It’s About What Christ Can Do Through Us – As We Serve Him In Humility
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• Pride Puts Up Wall Between Us And God

• Pride Must Be Dealt With Before God Can Use Us
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECULAR PERCEPTION OF PRIDE:</th>
<th>SCRIPTURE SAYS:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Never admit a weakness</td>
<td>Delight in your weakness</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Hold on to your rights</td>
<td>Yield your personal rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Seek vindication at all costs</td>
<td>Wait on God's vindication</td>
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<td>• Seek recognition and praise</td>
<td>Let praise come from others</td>
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<td>• Seek worldly knowledge</td>
<td>Seek God's wisdom</td>
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<td>• Desire the approval of others</td>
<td>Desire the approval of God</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Perceive humility as weakness</td>
<td>Perceive humility as a strength</td>
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PRIDE RISES UP IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE:

- *Sell Out To The Worldly Concepts Of Achievement*
- *Balance The Burden Of Guilt For Our Sins With Self-Righteousness*
- *Get A Wrong Focus On Self*
- *Pride Comes From The Wrong Beliefs*

- **TO DEFEAT PRIDE We Make Our Attitude That of Christ!**

Pray for a Heart of Humility

- **Recognize** humility as a Christian's most divine clothing.
  
  **Embrace** God's perspective toward pride.
  
  **Pray** for God to reveal your blind spots.
  
  **Focus** on the character of Christ, not on your own sin.
  
  **Respond** with humility to God's influences in your life.

- **Accept** everything God allows in your life with gratitude.
  
  **Develop** a servant's heart toward others.
  
  **Respond** to rebuke and submit to the life of Christ within you.