

TOPIC: HEART HUMILITY

“...humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time”
(1 Peter 5:6).

KEY POINTS

- ❖ *Humility*: A modest or low view of one's own importance. Webster: “Having or expressing a sense of inferiority, dependence, or unworthiness; meek; lowly in feeling or manner; submissive; deferential.”
- ❖ Without a doubt, God has a marvelous and phenomenal plan for each and every one of us His children. He created us. He loves us. He died for us. He saved us.
- ❖ However, when His work is completed in us and His glory is being revealed in us and through us, it can be very easy for our humanity, or “flesh”, to get in the way. We can actually start thinking highly of ourselves, or even begin to think that somehow we contributed to our own success.
- ❖ The Lord doesn't want this to happen.
- ❖ The ways in which God chooses to perfect His plans are usually much harder than we think they need to be and demand much more sacrifice than we think is warranted.
- ❖ Questions come up in our minds about God's reasoning, decisions and the way He conducts His business. Therefore, we often choose to do things our own way instead of His, which quickly leads us down the path of pride: “If I was doing this, I'd do it this way.” “Why would God even care if I skip a few steps along the way? It's OK as long as I make it to the finish line.” “I have a brain too.” It's as if we're saving. “I know better than God.”
- ❖ On the other hand, there are the times we're doing what God wants us to do and others make it their business to get in our way and oppose us. This brings on feelings of frustration, anger, hostility and even revenge.
- ❖ And all the while, the Lord is trying to forge and form our character into the image of His.
- ❖ Day by day, we come to crucial decision points where we can choose to go left or right – toward the path of pride, or toward the path of humility.
- ❖ Pride and humility are both one-way streets. Pride leads only to destruction (Proverbs 16:18), while humility leads to exaltation by God (1 Peter 5:6).
- ❖ *Being exalted without humility is a spiritual death trap.*
- ❖ Philippians 2:3-9 emphasizes our need to follow Jesus' own example of humility.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

1 Peter 5:1-11; Philippians 2:1-11

- ❖ From our heart, we have to believe that God knows what He's doing and that if He's taking us down a rough path, it must be the best way for us to go. He's re-making us in His own image, after His own likeness, for His own divine purposes. We must follow gladly, with 'heart humility'. Try this:
- ❖ Read Leviticus 8, 9 and 10. Mark every time you read: “just as the Lord commanded Moses” or similar words. Also mark where you read that Moses gave commandments.
- ❖ God was extremely specific about the way He wanted His priests and Levites to look and act. In chapter 10, a couple of the sons of Aaron the high priest decided it was all just too much. They decided to do things their own way and they broke one little rule. One “small, inconsequential” rule.
- ❖ The incense oil in their holders had to be lit, so...a fire is a fire, right? As long as the incense is lit, who cares about the method?
- ❖ Apparently God did—a whole lot! He “fired” them for their disobedience and they died.
- ❖ We may or may not see such drastic results of disobedience, but let's determine to do what's right and pleasing to God.
- ❖ Let's obey with a willing heart.
- ❖ Let's kill pride and give life to humility.
- ❖ The Lord definitely desires to exalt His people. But He can only exalt the humble.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Who are some people that you consider humble, and why? Share.
2. Share scriptural examples of the humility of Jesus. Are there facets of His life that don't fit your past/current understanding of humility? Explain.
3. 1 Peter 5:6 tells us to humble ourselves to God so that He can exalt us. How is this sequence demonstrated in the life of Jesus?
4. Is it selfish/self-serving to practice humility with the future hope of being exalted?
5. How has humble obedience to God benefited your life? Share.

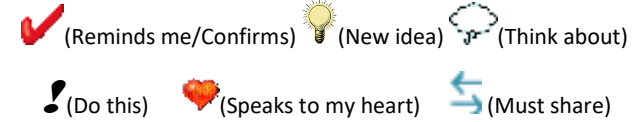
Prayer Time

Lord, You know all things and You know what is best for every life and circumstance. I pledge, with Your help, to obey You gladly and humbly.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start Up: This is the first week of "Fall". Share a time that you fell (physically/metaphorically), or saw someone else fall. Was it funny or serious?