

HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION

Let us all endeavor to draw closer to Jesus Christ in faith, so that the transformation that produces humility and submission to the will of God is produced in us.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Faith is the basis for our interaction with God and His word. It is also the foundation of our relationship with God. Scripture explicitly states that “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (see Hebrews 11:6).
- ❖ Faith informs our choices, our attitudes and the things we say. How we conduct ourselves is largely a reflection of our faith.
- ❖ It requires faith for us to exhibit humility and submission like Jesus did.
- ❖ Robed in flesh as the Son of God, the man, Christ Jesus, understood that His purpose was to fulfill the will of the Father, the Eternal Spirit (John 6:38 NASB).
- ❖ Philippians 2 lets us know that this was the mindset Jesus had. Likewise, having the proper mindset is required if we are going to please God in any way.
- ❖ It is likely for this same reason the apostle Paul told the Romans that they needed to be transformed by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2).
- ❖ Proverbs 23:7 (KJV) says, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he,” referring to humanity, or mankind.
- ❖ We need to cultivate a mind-frame and attitude of humility, which involves submission.
- ❖ Paul told the Philippians that Jesus first humbled Himself and then obeyed (Phil. 2:8).
- ❖ Humility can be defined as the state or quality of not thinking you are better than other people; remaining teachable, knowing that you do not have all the answers.
- ❖ Humility is the virtue that enables us to focus on someone else’s well-being and not just our own.
- ❖ When we exercise humility we are not devaluing ourselves; rather, we are acknowledging the value that exists in other people.
- ❖ This is the very definition of the humility and submission Jesus demonstrated in Hebrews 12:1-3.
- ❖ The focus of Jesus’s humility and submission was to acknowledge value in humanity and to reconcile humanity back to Himself.
- ❖ He wanted to restore the pure relationship between God and human beings as evidenced in the Garden of Eden.
- ❖ Jesus’ humility was to the benefit of humanity, not Himself.
- ❖ Similarly, there may be times in our faith journey where humbling ourselves to the will of God will seem more beneficial to others than to ourselves.
- ❖ But remember, Jesus’s humility and obedience wasn’t all about suffering and shame (Phil. 2:9-11 KJV).
- ❖ Glory and power and dominion were the results of His humility and submission.
- ❖ There is an aspect of blessing associated with humility before God. (See 1 Peter 5:6.)

KEY SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-11 NIV

- ❖ However, we should not humble ourselves to God just to obtain blessings. Rather, we should humble ourselves because it is His desire for us.
- ❖ Humbling ourselves requires reframing the way we think. As Paul said, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5).
- ❖ To experience the type of humility and submission Jesus demonstrated both in attitude and action truly requires faith.
- ❖ It requires complete trust and confidence in the word of God that says all things work together for the good of them that love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).
- ❖ It is the same sentiment that says ‘God is in control of my life and His purpose for me is eternally good.’
- ❖ Why is this important? Because, in reality, humility and submission are a real struggle because our human nature and our spiritual desires are at war with each other.
- ❖ Paul describes this war in Romans 7, where he details his desire to do the right thing and the physical challenge there is in actually acting on his godly desire.
- ❖ Jesus epitomized the struggle between the human nature and spiritual desires in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46).
- ❖ Through His example we know that if we are to escape the consequences of pride and disobedience (falling into temptation), then we too must appeal to the Eternal Holy Spirit for help.
- ❖ Let us all endeavor to draw closer to Jesus Christ in faith, so that the transformation that produces humility and submission to the will of God can be produced in us.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In your own words, define the words “humility” and “submission”.
2. Why do you think these two aspects—humility and submission—are so important to serving God? What does the Word of God have to say? (Support your answer with scripture.)
3. In your opinion, why do you think it is so challenging for us as human beings to demonstrate humility and submission?
4. How can we go about displaying these aspects in our day-to-day lives?

Prayer Time

Lord, please empower me by Your Holy Spirit, so that I may live a life of humility and submission to Your will. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Start-up: What do you do when you’ve discovered you made a major error? Do you try to hide your mistake or admit the truth?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

NOTES

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

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

✍️ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline