

## Word on Wednesday Bible Study “Humbling Ourselves” Pastor Lamont Harris

“You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with **humility** toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE **HUMBLE**. Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,” (1 Peter 5:5, 6 NASB 1995)

### I. Introduction

- A. English Definition of humble:
  - 1. Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one’s own importance.
  - 2. Modest or meek in spirit and manner.
- B. New Testament Definition of humble.
  - 1. Tapeinos (5011): Lowly in spirit. Inner lowliness describes the person who depends on God rather than self (James 1:9, 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).
  - 2. Tapeinophrosune (5012): The mindset of having a humble opinion of oneself; moderation related to one’s inner perspective (Eph. 4:2, Phil. 2:3, Col. 2:18, 23, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Peter 5:5)
  - 3. Tapeinoo (5013): To make low. To show humility or true lowliness (Matt. 23:12, Luke 14:11, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6).
  - 4. Tapeinosis (5014): To bring low. Self-abasement leading one to perceive and lament his moral littleness and guilt (James 1:10, Acts 8:23).
- C. Definition of humbling ourselves:
  - 1. To say or do something which shows we have behaved out of a prideful, self-centered and arrogant disposition; but have now repented, and now we are gentle and humble in heart.

### II. Clothing ourselves with humility

- A. Nothing should be done out of selfishness or pride, but with the mindset of having a humble opinion of ourselves (Phil. 2:3)

- B. We must have a mutual deference toward others (Phil. 2:4).
- C. We are commanded to have a heart filled with kindness and benevolence (Col. 3:12).
- D. We should receive the word with a mild disposition and gentle spirit (James 1:21).

### **III. God opposes (resist) the proud**

- A. The heart has the capacity to become proud (Deut. 8:14, 2 Kings 14:10, 2 Chron. 25:19).
  - 1. Uzziah's heart became so proud, that he acted corrupt and became unfaithful to God (2 Chron. 26:16).
  - 2. To have a proud that heart is an abomination to God (Prov. 16:5).
  - 3. When Nebuchadnezzar's heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly (Dan. 5:20).
- B. God will have a day of reckoning with anyone who is proud, lofty and lifted up (Isa. 2:12).
- C. God will put an end to the arrogance of the proud (Isa. 13:11).
- D. When someone is proud, their soul is not right within, and they do not have peace (Hab. 2:4).
- E. When someone is proud, their mental faculties start to decline, and their thoughts are scattered (Isa. 5:15, Luke 1:51).

### **IV. Pride is the twin to proud**

- A. A person's pride will cause them to be brought low (Prov. 29:23).
- B. Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall (Prov. 16:18).
- C. Jesus said, "For from within, out of the heart of men proceed ... pride ... All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man." (Mark 7:21 – 23).

### **V. God gives grace to the humble**

Quotation from Proverbs: *"Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted."* (Prov. 3:34).

- A. Paul acknowledges he is what he is because of the **grace** of God.

*"But by the **grace** of God I am what I am, and His **grace** toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the **grace** of God with me." (1 Cor. 15:10).*

- B. God's grace is sufficient to give us the power we need in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).
- C. God's grace is freely bestowed on us (Eph. 1:6).
- D. Grace was given to each of us according to what Christ wanted to give us (Eph. 4:7).

## **VI. Humbling Ourselves**

- A. The first step to humbling ourselves is the act of consecration, to humble our soul (Lev. 16:29, 16:31, 23:27, 32; Num. 29:7).
- B. Repentance, seeking God and prayer is required (2 Chron. 7:14).
- C. Fasting is an important means to humbling ourselves (Ps. 35:13, 1 Kings 21:27 – 29, Ezra 8:21, Isa. 58:5).
- D. God hears the desires of the humble (Ps. 10:17).
- E. We must deny our self and apply wisdom (Prov. 11:2).
- F. Follow the example of Jesus, "... for I am gentle and humble in heart (Matt. 11:29).
- G. Learning to live life with humble means (Phil. 4:12).
- H. Summary to humbling ourselves.  
*"To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;" (1 Peter 3:8).*

## **VII. The mighty hand of God (submitting to God's sovereign activity in our life)**

- A. God allows us to continue in prideful behavior until we fall (Ps. 5:10, Prov. 28:14).
- B. Exposes us in our areas of arrogance and pride (Isa. 16:6, Jer. 48:29).
- C. Becoming broken until we become contrite and repentant (Job 17:1, Ps. 51:17).
- D. Pride, sin, and a haughty spirit will cause us to destroy ourselves (Prov. 16:18, 21:24).

## **VIII. God will exalt us at the right time**

- A. If we wait on God and follow His course for our life, He will exalt us (Ps. 37:34).
- B. "... Whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Mark 23:12, Luke 14:11).

C. God exalts those who are humble (Luke 1:52).

**If we clothe ourself with humility ... God will exalt  
us at the right time**