

HUMILITY

“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:5 - 7)

Let’s keep it simple! Humility is not a sin but pride is! There are six things the Lord hates and seven that are an abomination to Him and a proud look is at the top of the list (Prov. 6:16- 19). God will not be mocked! Even the man of sin who exalts himself above all that is called God or worshiped will some day bow his knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (2 Thess. 2:1 - 4; Phil. 2:1- - 11).

The question is, will you humble yourself, or will God have to do it for you?

THOSE WHO HUMBLLED THEMSELVES

- Jesus humbled Himself (Phil. 2:7).
- We are to have the same attitude that Jesus did (Phil. 2:5).
- Peter, in our text, said that “all of you” should clothe yourselves with humility. He commanded “humble yourselves” that God may lift you up (1 Pet. 5:5 - 7).
- In humility we are to consider others better than ourselves (Phil. 2:3).
- Paul himself served the Lord with great humility (Acts 20:19).
- We are commanded to be completely humble, gentle, and patient bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:2).
- Paul instructed to Colossians that as God’s chosen people we are to clothe ourselves with spiritual virtues like humility (Col. 3:12).
- James wrote: “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up” (Ja. 4:10).
- God considered the humble estate of the Virgin Mary and exalted her so that all generations would call her blessed (Lk. 1:48).
- Remember! The eyes of the Lord range to and fro throughout the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him (2 Chron. 16:9).

THOSE WHOM GOD HUMBLLES

- Remember that God brought Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand (Ex. 13:9). Deut. 8:3 states, however, that God humbled them and caused them to hunger. As they followed God’s leading with the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (Ex. 13:20) God deliberately led them into the desert where there was no water. Three days without water is a humbling experience (Ex. 15:22).
- Then there is the story of Gehazi who lied to get a little money and a couple of sets of clothing from Naaman. His punishment was that Naaman’s leprosy would cling to him and his descendants forever (2 Ki. 5:27). How humiliating!
- Something similar happened to King Uzziah. We are told specifically that his pride led to

his downfall (2 Chron 26:16). He became so cocky and confident that he dared to disregard the Law of God and go into the temple and burn incense on the altar of incense. That's when God afflicted him with leprosy and he was a leper until the day of his death (2 Chron. 26:21). It would have been much better for Uzziah to humble himself and let God exalt him rather than the other way around.

- Then there is the story of Nebuchadnezzar. When he was the most powerful man on earth God taught him a lesson in humility by robbing him of his reason for seven long years. During those years he ate grass like an ox and his body was covered with the dew of heaven. His hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird (Dan. 4:33).
- His son Belshazzar knew all about this but was so lifted up with pride that he dared to defile the sacred goblets from the temple in Jerusalem. On that unforgettable night a sleeveless hand wrote his doom in unforgettable letters across the wall. That very night he died and his kingdom was given to the Medes and the Persians (Dan. 5:25 - 30). How humiliating!
- Then there is the story of King Herod. He was so eloquent that the people said that he spoke with the voice of a god and not a man. Immediately God struck him down because of his pride and he was eaten of worms and died (Acts 12:21 - 23).
- Before selling your soul for earthly accolades let's get a little perspective about how God regards the "most powerful" men on earth. When all the kings of earth combine their efforts against the Lord's Anointed One, He that sits in the heaven will laugh and hold them in derision (Ps. 2:1 - 5).

NOT ALL SUFFERING IS CHASTENING FROM GOD

While it is true that God chastens those whom He loves (Heb. 12:6) and has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts (Lk. 1:51), it is important to remember that not all suffering is chastening from God.

- Jesus learned obedience by the things which he suffered, but His suffering was not chastening nor a result of sin in His life (Heb. 5:8).
- Job suffered greatly but not because of sin in his life (Job 1:8, 22, etc.).
- Jesus met a man blind from birth but his blindness was not because of sin (Jn. 9:3). That man was born blind so that the work of God could be displayed in his life.
- When Jesus appeared to Saul on the Road to Damascus He warned him about all the things he would suffer for the name of Christ (Acts 9:16).
- Paul also warned that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).
- In some mysterious way, when believers suffer we have fellowship with the sufferings of Christ (Phil. 3:10).
- Fortunately, the sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us (Rom. 8:18).

CONCLUSION

Peter knew what it was to swallow his pride and humble himself before God. While Peter's

denial of Jesus is recorded elsewhere, we quote from Mark's Gospel as it is believed by many that Peter was actually the source of what Mark wrote:

“You will fall away” Jesus told them, “for it is written: I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered”. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee. Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not”. I tell you the truth, Jesus answered, “Today — Yes tonight – before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times” But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same” (Mk. 14:27 - 31).

The words of Jesus, of course, came true. Peter not only denied Christ three times but the final time **“he began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, ‘I don't know this man you are talking about’ ”.**

After the rooster crowed a second time Peter remembered the words of Jesus **“and he broke down and wept” (Mk. 14:66 - 72).**

No wonder the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write: **“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:5 - 7)**