

Humility Quiets the Soul

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Humility is one aspect of God's character that is absolutely contrary to the character of Satan. When he lived in heaven, Lucifer fed a desire within him to become as the Most High. His grand status as one of the chief angels was not enough for him. He sparked a rebellion and convinced a third of the heavenly host to follow him in an adventure of disastrous ambition.

Contrast those actions with the actions of Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself and surrendered the power of His deity for a season to become fully man, to die for the sins of the whole world. The blood Jesus shed at Calvary satisfied the demands of perfect justice. He paid for every sin, once and for all, and now, we can rest in the perfect Finished Work of God.

When the enemy is on the move, he makes noise—inwardly and outwardly—to agitate our souls. He wants to distract us in order to lure us into walking our own way, according to our

own strength. Yet, when we humble ourselves before God and recognize who we are in Him, quietness and peace surround us. As this booklet shows, humility with brokenness releases the eternal treasure within our hearts. God's light shines through to defeat confusion and to lead us in triumph.

Chapter One
STUDY TO BE QUIET

“But the earthen vessel wherein it is sodden shall be broken” (Leviticus 6:28a).

“And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass” (Leviticus 26:19).

When we listen carefully to the messages that God gives us, the Holy Spirit will teach us amazing principles about God and about life. God is speaking to *you*, and only you.

In Leviticus, we read that a vessel must be broken. Each of us is a vessel made for God, and we must be broken. Furthermore, any heart that exalts itself is proud, and we are told that God will break this pride of power. Apart from identification with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, we are nothing. Some people take pride in their attempts to “be in control,” and they exalt themselves above the Lord in situations. God, however, delights in our submission as He

controls the details of life.

Romans 12:16 says, "...Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own [opinions]." It is crucial that we live in this truth.

Weaned from Reactions

"LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.

"Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child" (Psalm 131:1-2).

This passage reveals truth that calls unto the deep recesses of our souls. A soul that is as a weaned child is a soul that is weaned from being confused, disturbed, envious, or jealous. It is a soul that has matured beyond being nursed with milk. It receives the meat of the Word of God and puts itself in the place where it can be nourished continually.

The Word of God in our soul becomes a standard against high things. High things are demonic projections transferred in the cosmic atmosphere of the world's system, which is controlled by Satan. He tries to transfer these projections to a man's soul so that demons ultimately

control him.

Studying Pays Off

“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you” (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

Studying to be quiet means more than just learning to make less noise. We are learning to become still before the Lord by refusing to react to circumstances. We must not mind high things, which can result in fretting mentally or verbally for days on end. We may be tempted to demonstrate anger over some silly detail of life because of pride, but God desires instead that we would “condescend to men of low estate.”

We must keep ourselves in the “low estate” of being in Christ, filled with the presence of God, broken and honoring and esteeming God’s presence as more than our necessary food (Job 23:12).

“But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another” (Galatians 6:4).

Galatians 6:4 is a beautiful verse because it speaks of staying occupied with Christ and not seeking the approval of men. We do not need

human encouragement or approval, because our hearts are so satisfied with Christ in our obedience to Him and His purpose.

Chapter Two

ESTEEM THE THINGS OF OTHERS

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

A man burst into my office and spent nearly an hour in a rage. In his anger, he kept verbally attacking people in the church, making many strong accusations. As I waited to hear from God for wisdom, this is what I got: “Be silent. Do not interrupt or react. He is just taking things out on you because he trusts your life.”

After his outburst, I simply said, “I love you and thank you for these moments.”

That happened months ago. Today, that man is one of my dearest friends. I made no defense and no reaction. He did it because he had a deep need to be loved unconditionally. Now, he is en-

rolled in Bible college, and he is doing great.

God tells us, in Philippians 2:4, to look not on our own things but on the things of another. Your wife may cry out in the midst of going through something. Her reaction is sudden and difficult. Though you may want to correct her and let her know that she is wrong, she needs the love of God more than ever at that moment. Being ready to give her the love of God is the whole purpose of brokenness.

The Treasure Is What Matters

The treasure God has put into our earthen vessel is the excellence of power that is of God and not of us. Above ourselves, we need to esteem another's freedom to be who he is in Christ. We look not on our own things, but on the things of another.

This is the mind that was in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, the excellency of His power derives all of its strength from heaven. These are the words of Paul, who, writing from prison, could say, "My legs and feet are in stocks and chains. Yet, my soul is not in prison: It is resting in heavenly places."

In Acts 16:25, Paul left prison after singing at midnight, even after having his back whipped

by the Romans. He was delivered from his bonds supernaturally, and he left with many converts. The point is that Paul would not whine, but he chose to shine. His life was in bloom, not in gloom. He expressed total joy, not deep depression. Even though he was a prisoner, his soul was liberated.

Operate with the Mind of Christ

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the

Father" (Philippians 2:5-11).

The way to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith is to see whether we are behaving ourselves on the inside. Are we quiet and do we humble ourselves with the provision of God? When people live in the natural mind and express it (perhaps, through anger), we can practice humility that quiets our souls in the spirit of grace. We can reveal a sweet countenance, without reacting to them in the anger and accusations they express toward us.

We let them say anything that they want to say, while we ask God to show us a way to meet the real need of their hearts.

When that man came to me in a rage, I just embraced him at the end. He began to weep even though I had not said a word.

Two days later, I spoke with his wife and discovered the reasons behind his anger. For twenty-five years, he had hated himself because of sin. Then, he came into my office and transferred all that hatred onto me.

This man once had an affair and hid it from his wife. He committed adultery and grew angry whenever that sin was dealt with from the pulpit through the Word of God. He began to hate our church because of the depth of his un-

resolved guilt.

After the visit to my office, he went to his car and wept. He was finally free.

I could have defended myself and put up my self-defense mechanism, but what would that have gained?

Chapter Three

COVERED IN THE OVERFLOW OF GRACE

In Ezekiel 47, the prophet wrote of water flowing down from the east side of the altar, which represents resurrection. It flowed to the south, referring to the world. The water reached his ankles. Then it moved up to his knees, his hips, and his neck. Finally, the prophet was completely in the water. Floating in the water, he let the current carry him.

This symbolizes living in understanding, prayer, and doctrine. It overflowed through his life and then out from him came rivers of living water, speaking of the Holy Spirit.

In the midst of this current, the prophet found fish. These are the souls of men brought into his life because of the current of God's power, the guidance of God's Spirit, the wisdom of God's knowledge, the power of God's essence, the gentleness of God's meekness, and the quiet-

ness of God's conviction. In other words, he allowed the current of God's Word to take control of his life, thus he bore much fruit.

When Ezekiel humbled himself before the Lord, everything about him became quiet, reflecting the confidence and calm assurance that comes from being hid in the cleft of the Rock—Jesus Christ.

The Light Shines Forth for Victory

“And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

“And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled” (Judges 7:20-21).

The members of Gideon's army smashed the earthen vessels, and the light shined out in the midst of the darkness and in the midst of the battle. The men stood still and watched the enemy defeat itself. That is what happens when we let God release the treasure within us.

Satan would not give honor to God. He became familiar with the sanctuary of heaven. Therefore, the Lord gave His disciples power

over the forces of the devil, in Luke 10:19-20:

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”

As Christians, we ought always to give God glory, honor, and majesty. We ought to reverence His presence—the strength and beauty of His sanctuary: “Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary” (Psalm 96:6).

Reviving Our Spirits

Every morning, we must purpose to pray and ask God to reveal the treasure within us. God gives wisdom through humility. He will give us sensitivity through love. He will establish power through our weakness. He supplies grace when we are in tears, and He offers forgiveness for our sins.

The Lord, whom we serve, inhabits eternity. He alone has no beginning or ending. He dwells in a high and holy place. Moreover, He dwells in men and women who have contrite hearts.

God allows their hearts to be broken and crushed so He can inhabit them completely. Humility is revealed by brokenness, and it is released in people so the treasure of heaven comes through them and goes out to those in need.

God continually revives the spirit of the humble. His royal love toward us gives us all that we need, moment by moment, through the measuring line of grace.

CONCLUSION

Every believer has indescribable potential to develop a capacity that reveals the character of God to this world. He is faithful to keep us moment by moment. We are surrounded by His walls of fire—doctrine—that guard us (Zechariah 2:5).

The walls of fire represent the positional truth that we belong to God, and we are His forever. Satan can never break through those walls to get to us. Even when we sin, Jesus stands up and rebukes the devil's accusations against us. He did that for the high priest in Zechariah 3. Everything we do is a family affair, and only God can deal with His family. No accusation and no condemnation can come against us—only the loving process of warning and discipline that God Himself controls.

Brokenness and humility before the Lord will release an amazing fragrance of His grace wherever we are. Consider what happened when

Mary poured out an alabaster box filled with expensive ointment—worth one-year’s salary—upon the Savior. Those puffed up with pride in themselves criticized her actions, but Jesus declared that her demonstration of love would be remembered forever—and so it is.

When we are broken and spilled out for the Lord, our lives become great testimonies to Him. Our souls are then quieted and quickened to exalt the One who inhabits eternity—and Who also inhabits us.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the things You allow in our lives to break us. When the noise of the enemy tries to disrupt the atmosphere, quicken us to know Your peace in the midst of the storm. Give us understanding to know Your purpose. You allowed it, therefore You will complete the work You have begun in us, and the fruit of it will flow out of us, into the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.