

**SERMON: PRIDE HINDERS REVIVAL  
10-23-22**

**OPENER:**

The first two years of life are all about the struggle of learning to walk and talk. These are the basics at this age. Learning to talk is rather cute and harmless. Learning to walk, on the other hand, can be a bit treacherous. Despite the danger, as parents you encourage them to do it because you know you have to teach certain things first. There are basics to functioning in life and some things come before others. We walk, then we run; we learn the alphabet, then we read; etc.

**IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL  
BASIC THAT WE MUST LEARN.  
IT IS HUMBLENESS.**

**IT IS A PREREQUISITE FOR RELATING TO GOD.  
IT IS THE FIRST QUALITY THAT ALL OUR OTHER GROWTH IN CHRIST FLOWS  
FROM.**

- > Can we receive salvation without humility? No.
- > Can we grow in character, becoming more like Christ, without being humble? No.
- > Can we grow in our love for others without it? No.
- > Can we be reconciled to others and walk in unity without humility? No.
- > Can we worship without coming before God in humbleness? No.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

Humility is like one of those required classes in college. You know, the ones you don't want to take because they're not as fun, as easy, or relevant to your major. But, If you flunk this kind of class, you have to take it again.

**SECOND OPENER:**

***2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT) If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.***

In this scripture God gives commands and promises blessings when those commands are obeyed. The very first condition for God's response in forgiveness, the healing of His people, and revival..... is humility.

**BEING HUMBLE IS NOT AN OPTION.  
IT IS THE FIRST THING THAT MUST HAPPEN  
BEFORE COMING TO GOD.**

**IT IS A COMMAND.**

**PRIDE HINDERS YOUR ABILITY TO RELATE TO GOD.  
PRIDE WILL PUT A STANDSTILL IN YOUR GROWTH IN GOD.  
PRIDE HINDERS REVIVAL.**

So, we can humble ourselves. We can willingly position ourselves before God without pride. Or, we can do it the hard way—experience pain in our lives as a result of our pride.

**IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN BE HUMBLE OR BE HUMBLED.**

**IT MAY BE TRUE THAT YOU CANNOT BE HUMBLE BEFORE GOD, UNTIL YOU  
HAVE BEEN HUMBLED BY GOD.**

**1. OUR PERSPECTIVE LEADS US TO HUMBLE OURSELVES**

*Isaiah 6:1-8 (NLT) It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. <sup>2</sup> Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> They were calling out to each other,*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies!  
The whole earth is filled with his glory!”*

*<sup>4</sup> Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then I said, “It’s all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.”*

*<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”*

*<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?”*

*I said, “Here I am. Send me*

**(Explain scripture)**

Isaiah says, “I saw the Lord” (verse 1).

**AS ISAIAH SEES THE MAJESTY OF GOD, HE SEES  
HIMSELF IN A NEW LIGHT.  
HE GAINS A NEW PERSPECTIVE ABOUT HIMSELF.**

*“I don’t deserve to be in God’s presence. I am unworthy.”*

**WHEN WE HAVE AN ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF WHO GOD IS - WE WILL  
THEN HAVE AN ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF WHO WE ARE.**

**THE RESULT IS HUMILITY.**

Isaiah cries, "I am a man of unclean lips." Scripture frequently uses the symbol of the lips—the tongue or the mouth—as revealing what is in the heart. Scripture says, "*Out of our mouth our heart speaks*"

When Isaiah "*saw the Lord*" he says, "*It's all over! I am doomed!*" In some versions Isaiah cries out "*I am undone!*"

"*Undone*" = Hebrew = to cease to be; to be silent; to stop all activity

**TO SEE THE LORD IS TO BE UNDONE.**

**TO SEE THE LORD IS TO REALIZE WE ARE  
NOTHING BEFORE HIM.**

**TO CEASE OUR STRIVING FOR SUCCESS, PROMOTION AND SELF  
FULFILLMENT - TO BE SILENT AND STOP OUR BOASTING OF OUR  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OUR OPINIONS - AND STOP ALL ACTIVITY FOR SELF  
PROMOTION.**

**WE SAY, "I CEASE, I'M SILENT, I STOP!"**

**OUR PERSPECTIVE SHOULD BE THERE - NOT HERE.  
OUR EYES SHOULD NOT BE FILLED WITH WHAT WE HAVE, WHAT WE HAVE  
ACCOMPLISHED, WHAT WE KNOW, OR WHAT WE DESERVE.**

**OUR EYES SHOULD BE ON THE LORD AND HIS OVERWHELMING MAJESTY AND  
HOLINESS.**

**OUR PERSPECTIVE IS ALL ABOUT OUR VIEW.  
WHEN WE SEE OURSELVES IN THE LIGHT OF THE GREATNESS OF GOD, WE  
THEN REALIZE HOW FAR WE HAVE FALLEN FROM HIS GLORIOUS IMAGE.**

- > Are your eyes on God or are your eyes on yourself?
- > Have you seen the glory of the Lord?

When the Lord asks, "*Who will go? Who will be our messenger?*"  
Isaiah says, "*I'll do whatever. Just whatever you need God. Whatever you say  
God.*"

**HERE IS OUR PROBLEM.  
FAMILIARTIY BREEDS UNGRATEFULNESS**

**WHAT WE ARE USED TO - WE TAKE FOR GRANTED.**

Our walk with God requires a constant awakening to what we have in Christ. It means remembering what He has done for us. ....The gift of salvation, the unending presence of the Holy Spirit and our destiny in heaven.

**OUT OF THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE COMES GRATEFULNESS AND OBEDIENCE**

**DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT  
REBELLION, AS MUCH AS IT IS A LACK OF  
PERSPECTIVE AND GRATITUDE.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

As parents, we want our children to obey us, not out of legalistic allegiance, but out of perspective of who we are to them, and out of gratitude for all we have done for them. The same is true of our Father in Heaven.

**2. WHAT IS GOD'S DEFINITION OF HUMBLENESS?**

The Holy Spirit tells us that Moses was the most humble man on the face of the earth (*Numbers 12:3*)

When we are introduced to Moses, he is reluctant to take on the task of leading the Israelites because of a profound sense of inadequacy. Not long after, he is confronting one of the most powerful kings in the world.

A study of the life of Moses can help to clarify God's view of humility. Moses' behavior in life's circumstances is better understood when you recognize that he put God first, the needs of others next and his own comforts and preferences last.

When the Israelite people demonstrated a despicable lack of gratitude for the sacrifices Moses constantly made on their behalf, he said nothing. When the people constantly complained about his leadership, he did not retaliate. When his own brother and sister jealously questioned his authority, he interceded for them to minimize God's punishment.

But as apparent was his humility before others, his humility before his God was even greater. When God spoke, there was no room for irreverence or compromise. Moses seemed to be without personal ego; people could run over him but his demeanor shifted immediately when they began to criticize God.

*Philippians 2:3 (NLT) Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

If we are to have the humility of Moses, we must consider others better than ourselves and look out for their interests

**GOD - OTHERS AND SELF.  
IN THAT ORDER.  
THIS IS HUMILITY.**

Let's look at a conversation Moses had with God....

Exodus 33:15-23 <sup>15</sup> Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. <sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that you look favorably on me — on me and on your people — if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."

<sup>17</sup> *The Lord replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name."*

<sup>18</sup> *Moses responded, "Then show me your glorious presence."*

Have you seen God's glory? Or have you only envisioned someone else's description of Him?

We need to cry out to God. "Show me your glory"

**3. GOD RESISTS THE PROUD**

*James 4:6 (NLT) God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

**RESIST** =. To stop or hinder; to prevent; to block.

"**resist**" is the Greek word "antitasso" - a military term that depicts the orderly arrangement of troops to successively wage combat against the non-compliant. It is a deliberate, premeditated arrangement of military might to crush an enemy.

>He will oppose your plans to promote yourself.

> He will cause your plans to be noticed, or strive for position to be hindered.

> He will personally strategically arrange events, circumstances, and people to put a wedge in your prideful attempts.

> He will cause events in your life to altar your attitude of self-righteousness.

> He will "undo" your attitude of thinking you are better than others or more holy.

> He will

**GOD NEVER USES ANYONE WITHOUT FIRST MAKING THEM AWARE OF THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES.**

*Romans 12:3 (NLT) Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.*

***Proverbs 16:18 (NLT) Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.***

**BUT WHEN WE HUMBLE OURSELVES- GOD WILL HEAR OUR PRAYERS - HE  
WILL FORGIVE OUR SINS AND  
HE WILL HEAL US.**

**CLOSING:**

**All of us are faced with moments of truth when we see what Isaiah saw, that the cause of our problems is our own sin and unholiness.**

**WHEN YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THIS WAY, THANK GOD FOR IT.  
FOR YOU MOMENT OF BEING UNDONE CAN BE YOUR MOMENT OF HEALING.**

**STORY:**

**Billy Graham's death occurred 2018. The week of his death, many articles came out about him and his ministry. Time and again, there was one trait that was expressed about him by countless people who knew him and had worked with him. It was humility.**

**Honestly, every godly person I have ever known in my life, regardless of their held positions, great achievements or considerable power were humble people.**