

*The Root
Of
The Problem*

Part III

2 Chronicles 7:14

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NKJV)

13 *When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people....*

14 *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.

Week One, We Observed...

Principle #1

*We Will Not See Results Until **The Right People Take Responsibility***

Principle #2

*We Will Not See Results Until **We Follow The Prescription***

Principle #3

*Expect to See Results Because **The Promise Will Be Fulfilled***

Last Week, We Observed

*Are We **IDENTIFYING** As Christians
Without Any **IMPACT**?*

How Do We See These Results?

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

14 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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

The First Step To A Turn Around **HUMILITY**

Define Humility

To Humble oneself is to “**submit under another**”
Establish the Fact that **SOMEONE IS IN CHARGE**

Humility is having **a right view of ourselves** in **relation to God and others** and **acting accordingly**.
When Authority is Established... It Affects Attitude and Actions...

Example: Police ~ Boss

The humble Christian should be **WILLING TO PUT ASIDE ALL SELFISHNESS**
and **SUBMIT IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD AND HIS WORD**.

Humility is **ADMITTING YOUR INABILITY, YOUR WEAKNESS, AND YOUR LIMITATIONS**

Keys To Humility

Humility Keeps Us From Becoming Prideful

Pride is the Supreme Enemy of Humility

*Pride will make you **THINK YOU CAN DO IT** {Assignment} **WITHOUT DIVINE ASSISTANCE***

Humility Keeps Us From Leaning On Our Own Understanding

***OBEDIENCE** begins with **HUMILITY**... We will never obey if we feel superior and the advice is coming from an inferior person*

Example: Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5:9-14 (NIV)

*9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.
10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." 11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "**I THOUGHT** that he would surely **COME OUT TO ME** and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, **better than any of the waters of Israel?** Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" **SO HE TURNED AND WENT OFF IN A RAGE.**
13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" 14 **So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.***

Keys To Humility

Humility Keeps Us Aware Of Our Unworthiness

Too often we feel **ENTITLED** to the blessings of God

Have you ever thought about **WHY GOD KEEPS BLESSING YOU** when you constantly disappoint him

A different **WHY ME QUESTION**

Psalm 8:3-5 (ESV)

- 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
4 **what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?**
5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Humility Keeps Us From Depending On Our Own Strengths

Too often we rely on our own skills, strength, and abilities, especially when the task seems easy

We often go to God, **ONLY WHEN THE OBSTACLES seem TOO GREAT**

Joshua 7:2-7 (NLT)

2 Joshua **sent some of his men** from Jericho to spy out the town of Ai, east of Bethel...3 When they returned, they told Joshua, **“There’s no need for all of us to go up there; it won’t take more than two or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since there are so few of them, don’t make all our people struggle to go up there.”** 4 So approximately 3,000 warriors were sent, **BUT THEY WERE SOUNDLY DEFEATED**. The men of Ai 5 chased the Israelites from the town gate as far as the quarries, and they killed about thirty-six who were retreating down the slope. The Israelites were paralyzed with fear at this turn of events, and **their courage melted away**. 6 Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, **and bowed face down to the ground before the Ark of the LORD until evening**. 7 Then Joshua cried out, **“OH, SOVEREIGN LORD**, why did you bring us across the Jordan River if you are going to let the Amorites kill us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side!

The Greatest Example

Jonathan Edwards said, “We must view humility as one of the most essential things that characterizes true Christianity.” Our **PERSPECTIVE** on humility can be fundamentally changed if we will meditate on **THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY IN HISTORY: JESUS CHRIST.**

Philippians 2:3-9 (NKJV)

3 Let nothing be done **through selfish ambition or conceit**, but in **LOWLINESS OF MIND** let each esteem others better than himself. 4 **Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.** 5 **LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS**, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 **BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION**, taking the **form of a bondservant**, and coming in the **likeness of men**. 8 And being found in **appearance as a man**, **HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF AND BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH**, even the death of the cross. 9 **THEREFORE** God also has **HIGHLY EXALTED HIM** and **GIVEN HIM THE NAME** which is above every name

What Can We Learn

1. Lay aside His **RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES**
2. **MADE HIMSELF SUBMIT TO GREATER AUTHORITY**
3. Did not **LOWER HIS STANDARDS** but it **TOOK ON THE APPEARANCE**
4. **OBEDIENT DESPITE THE PERCEIVED OUTCOME**
5. **KNOW** that **HUMILITY WILL BE REWARDED IN DUE TIME**

Another Example ~ Moses Was A Man of Humility

Numbers 12:1-3 (NIV)

1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.
2 "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this. 3 (*Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.*)

Moses Was Humble, But Still Human

Exodus 2:11-12 (NIV)

11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.
12 Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, **HE KILLED THE EGYPTIAN AND HID HIM IN THE SAND.**

Exodus 4:13 (NIV)

13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please **SEND SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT.**"

Numbers 20:7-11 (NIV)

7 The LORD said to Moses, 8 "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. **Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water.** You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." 9 So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. 10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" 11 **THEN MOSES RAISED HIS ARM AND STRUCK THE ROCK TWICE WITH HIS STAFF.** Water gushed out, and the community drank.

He Murdered Someone.... He Was Full of Excuses.... He Allowed His Anger Get The Best of Him... YET Humble

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2 "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this. 3
(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)*

*With All His **Human Weaknesses**, Why Did Scripture Say He Was **A Very Humble Man...***

Moses Did Not Let Authority Go To His Head

*Author Robert Ingersoll suggests, "Most People can bear **ADVERSITY/PROBLEMS...**
But if you wish to know what a man really is, give Him **SOME POWER**"*

*Moses was given supreme authority from God, but he did not allow it to go to his HEAD...
He did not allow **POWER TO LEAD TO PRIDE***

Because of His Limitations, He Had To RELY/DEPEND on the LORD

*His HUMILITY was greater than his ABILITY
The Assignment was greater than his ABILITY*

He Didn't Allow His AUTHORITY To Keep Him From Accepting Advice

*In Exodus 18, Moses receives praise from Jethro about what God is doing in his life and God's People
Then Jethro gives him some leadership advice moving forward
*Exodus 18:24 (NIV)**

24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

Pride: The Enemy Of Humility

Pride is your greatest enemy, humility is your greatest friend

*Few people today seem to be **AWARE OF THE DANGER OF SPIRITUAL PRIDE***

*Pride has a way of **EXAGGERATING OUR ABILITIES** and **CAMOUFLAGING OUR WEAKNESSES**.*

We tend to think we're smarter than we are and more successful than we are...

*Pride is a **SILENT AND SNEAKY KILLER**. It kills your spiritual growth. It kills your relationships...
and the scary thing is **YOU MAY NEVER EVEN KNOW IT'S THERE**.*

Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

*9 To some who were **confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else**,
Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a
tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like
other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector.*

*12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance.
He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'*

*14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home **JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD**.
For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Example: Mr. Telephone Man....

The Language Of The Humble

1 Corinthians 15:9-11 (NLT)

9 *For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.* 10 *But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. **FOR I HAVE WORKED HARDER THAN ANY OF THE OTHER APOSTLES;** yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.* 11 *So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.*

John 3:28-30 (NKJV)

28 *You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.'* 29 *He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.* 30 **HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE.**

1 Timothy 1:12-16 (NIV)

12 *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that **he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*** 13 *Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.* 14 *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.* 15 *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.*** 16 *But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, **the worst of sinners,** Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.*

The Benefits Of Humility

1 Peter 5:5 (NIV)

*5 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.**"*

Proverbs 22:4 (NIV)

*4 Humility and the fear of the LORD **BRING WEALTH AND HONOR AND LIFE.***

James 4:10 (NKJV)

*10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and **HE WILL LIFT YOU UP.***

Proverbs 3:34 (ESV)

*34 Toward the scorners he is scornful, but **TO THE HUMBLE HE GIVES FAVOR.***

Psalms 25:9 (ESV)

*9 **HE LEADS THE HUMBLE IN WHAT IS RIGHT,** and **TEACHES THE HUMBLE HIS WAY.***

Psalms 138:6 (NLT)

*6 Though the LORD is great, **HE CARES FOR THE HUMBLE,** but he keeps his distance from the proud.*

There Are Some Amazing Benefits To Being Humble

In Conclusion

*The Lack Of Humility, Hinders Our Prayers
You will never come **BOLDLY FOR HELP**,
If **YOU FEEL** you can handle it **ON YOUR OWN**...*

*If my people, who are called by my name,
WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY...*

*It all begins with **HUMILITY***