

A HOUSE OF HUMILITY

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 "Every house is built by someone, but God is the Designer and Builder of all things."

SERMON NOTES:

A message by Pastor Scott Tavolacci

How many of you want to grow spiritually? And that is very important to you?
 How many of you want to experience all the power and presence of God you can?
 How many of you want to go higher with God?

The subject of Humility is hard to get through in one teaching. I have never had a Pastor ask me to talk about this to the congregation before! Most don't like to talk about it, because we all seem to fail at it, and we cannot fake it. All our short coming in this area are apparent.

GOD'S WORK IN ME:

Humility the most important of spiritual virtues – spiritual characteristics.

The Prayer of Humility that started it all from Andrew Murray Book on Humility -

*"That of His great goodness He would make known to you, and take from your heart, **every kind and form and degree of Pride, whether it be from evil spirits, or your own corrupt nature; and that He would awaken in you the deepest depth and truth of that Humility, which can make you capable of His light and Holy Spirit.**"* Reject every thought, but that of waiting and praying in this matter from the bottom of your heart, with such truth and earnestness, **as people in torment wish to pray and be delivered from it** ... If you can and will give yourself up in truth and sincerity to this spirit of prayer, I will venture to affirm that, if you had twice as many evil spirits in you as Mary Magdalene had, they will all be cast out of you, and you will be forced with her to weep tears of love at the feet of the holy Jesus.

HUMILITY DESCRIBED:

- What is Humility?

1. Humility is the place of entire dependence on God. It is the highest and most important characteristic in the Spiritual Growth of Man.
2. Humility is the nothingness before God, that allows God to bring His blessedness and goodness to be all we ever need.
3. Pride or loss of humility is the root of every sin and evil. It is the sufficient explanation of every failure and defect.
4. Christ Jesus is the humility of God in Human Nature.
5. Humility is the holy secret of the knowledge and nature of God.
6. Humility is the place of nothingness in self, that makes room for God to prove His power.
7. Humility is the disposition that prepares the soul for living in faith, Pride renders faith impossible.
8. Humility is the path to death, because in death, it gives the highest proof of its perfection.

- What Humility is not...

1. It is not a self-abasement or self-degrading of saying what you're not, when you really are. Not saying what God says about you is true - is also a form of pride.
2. It is not saying you are better or worse than anyone else; both are forms of sin. We shouldn't be comparing our self's with each other.

HUMILITY AND THE LIFE OF GOD - GRACE OF GOD:

Is 57:15 - For thus says the High and Lofty One, **Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell (abide, remain) in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive (give life) the spirit of the humble, And to revive (give life) the heart of the contrite ones.**

1. **Contriteness** - It is a spiritual sense. It is a state of brokenness to human ability, that leads you to a dependence on God's ability in you.
2. **Meekness** - "Humility's first cousin" – teachable, power under control, submitted to the will of God.

3. We want the presence of God; and God to dwell with us. This is the secret – He gives life to the humble and contrite
 - i. **Abiding** – As we see in the New Testament – Jesus Abiding in Him.

John 14:2 - *“In My Father’s house are many (mansions) dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

John 15:4-5 - *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”* I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Is 66:2 - *“But on this one will I look) have high regard for): On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.*

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT HUMILITY?

Matt 23:12 - “Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted. (Jesus said this in the context of the disciples arguing about who is the greatest)

James 4:6-7, 10 - But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “GOD IS **OPPOSED TO THE PROUD (STANDS RESOLUTELY AGAINST)**, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. (Bring to the highest place of opulence and prosperity)

HUMILITY AND THE TRAINING OF PETER AND THE APOSTLES:

1. Matt 16 - Keys of the Kingdom and Authority in the Kingdom. Gates of Hell shall not Prevail Against us.
2. Matt 16 – Jesus rebukes Peter and call him the devil.
3. Matt 18 – They started arguing about who is the greatest.

Matt 18:3-4 - Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. ⁴ So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

 - i. Matt 20 – James and John, out work the disciples
 - ii. Luke 22 and John 13 - Last Supper
4. Peter’s Denial and Restoration – Was not His plans or strength that brought his calling.
5. Peter’s Latter Life – Childlike faith – as of new born babes.

2 Peter 2: 1- 3 - Therefore, putting aside all malice (Evil thoughts and purposed for others) and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

 - a. 1 Peter 5 – Regarding leadership and Humility

REVELATION – KINGDOM AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH HUMILITY:

Holy Spirits quote to me - “If my leaders want to experience the power to change the world around, they will not receive the authority of the lion until they want the meekness of the lamb.”

It is the lamb that received the power, authority, wisdom...

Rev 5:2 – 14 - I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is **worthy to open the book** and to break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. **Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;** and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, **the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10), the Root of David,** has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.” And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was **slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.**” And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.