

Humility (Accessing All Grace) – Part 4

5-Day Devotional: Walking in Humility and Grace

Day 1: The Power of Unity in Humility

Reading: Genesis 11:1-9; Philippians 2:1-11

Devotional: The Tower of Babel reveals a profound truth: when people unite in purpose, nothing is impossible for them—even in rebellion. How much more powerful when believers unite in humility under God's direction? God doesn't need more power; He needs our cooperation. When your thinking aligns with God's thinking, your faith aligns with His purposes, and grace flows freely. Consider your church, your family, your marriage. Are you on the same page with God and one another? Unity begins with individual humility—laying down personal agendas to embrace God's purposes. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where pride has disrupted unity in your relationships. Remember: humility isn't weakness; it's the posture that releases supernatural power into your life and community.

Day 2: Renewing Your Mind for Transformation

Reading: Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Devotional: Your spirit was completely renewed the moment you accepted Christ—old things passed away, all things became new. But your mind still needs daily renewal. When you read God's Word, you're not performing religious duty; you're undergoing transformation. Every scripture paints an image in your mind of who you are in Christ. The same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you. Don't settle for seeing yourself through past failures or current limitations. As you feed on Scripture, your thinking shifts from earthly impossibilities to heavenly realities. You begin seeing mountains as movable, sickness as healable, and provision as abundant. Today, don't just read the Bible—let it reshape your self-image. You're not the caterpillar anymore; you're becoming the butterfly.

Day 3: Accessing Grace Through Humility

Reading: James 4:1-10; Proverbs 3:34

Devotional: "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." This isn't a threat; it's an invitation to abundance. Pride kinks the hose of grace, reducing God's flow in your life to a drip. Humility keeps everything flowing freely. When you step out in your own ideas without seeking God's direction, you'll feel resistance everywhere. But when you humble yourself and

ask, "Lord, is this You or me?" you position yourself for supernatural favor. God isn't withholding from you because of imperfect performance—Jesus performed perfectly for you. The question is: will you acknowledge your need for Him? Humility recognizes you're poor in self but rich in God. Today, bring every plan, desire, and decision before the Lord. Say, "I humble myself to You. What do I need to do here?" Then watch grace flood your situation.

Day 4: Surrendering Your Ishmaels for God's Isaacs

Reading: Genesis 16:1-16; 21:1-21; Galatians 4:21-31

Devotional: Abraham and Sarah tried to fulfill God's promise through their own effort, producing Ishmael. But God's plan was Isaac—the child of promise who would bring laughter. How many Ishmaels have you created by stepping out ahead of God? Projects, relationships, or pursuits born from impatience rather than divine direction? Here's the good news: when Abraham repented and released Ishmael, he was able to move forward with God's plan, Isaac. God can turn your sorrow into laughter if you'll reject what you manufactured and embrace what He's ordained. **This requires brutal honesty in your prayer closet: "Lord, what am I doing that I came up with versus what You told me to do?"** Letting go of your Ishmael may be painful, but the joy of walking in God's perfect will far exceeds any temporary loss. Today, surrender your self-made plans and ask God to reveal His Isaac for your life.

Day 5: Poor in Self, Rich in God

Reading: John 5:19-30; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Devotional: Jesus, the Son of God, repeatedly said He could do nothing of Himself. He never took credit for a single miracle. This wasn't false humility—it was the demonstration of how to live powerfully with God. Jesus emptied Himself to show you that dependence on the Father releases unlimited grace. Paul discovered this same secret: "When I am weak, then I am strong." Humility recognizes the lack you possess in soul and flesh while simultaneously recognizing the great wealth you have in Christ. This is living level—not too much you, not too little you. You can't fix everything on your own, but with God, you have more than enough. Today, as you face challenges, acknowledge right in that moment: "Lord, I humble myself to You. I need Your grace." Plug into the power source. Let Him solve what you cannot. This is where miracles happen.

Closing Reflection: As you practice humbling yourself daily, you'll discover that the grace you've been seeking has been available all along. God has plans, purposes, and provision

beyond what you can imagine. Your part is simple: stay humble, stay connected, and watch His grace transform everything.

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 - Old nature removed, new nature brought in; made new creatures in Christ
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 - Three-part beings: spirit, soul, and body
3. Romans 12:1-2 - Transformation by the renewing of the mind
4. Romans 6 - Enslaving the body to righteousness
5. Romans 8:11 - The Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in you
6. Mark 11:23-24 - Speaking to the mountain to be removed
7. John 10:10 - Devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy; Jesus came to give abundant life
8. James 4:1-6 - Wars and fights come from desires; God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble
9. Psalm 23 - The Lord as shepherd, green pastures, still waters
10. Gospel of John (general reference) - Jesus saying He could do nothing of Himself

Alluded to References:

11. Genesis 11:1-9 - Tower of Babel story (people in one mind, nothing impossible for them)
12. Genesis 16-21 - Abraham, Sarah, Ishmael, and Isaac narrative
13. James 1:22 - "Be ye doers of the word"
14. Book of James (general) - Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights, no variableness or shadow of turning (James 1:17)
15. Philippians 2:7 - Jesus emptied Himself

Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

On Humility:

- 16. Proverbs 3:34 - God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble
- 17. Matthew 23:12 - Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; whoever humbles himself will be exalted
- 18. 1 Peter 5:5-6 - Clothe yourselves with humility; humble yourselves under God's mighty hand

On Unity:

- 19. **Philippians 2:2** - Be of the same mind, having the same love
- 20. **1 Corinthians 1:10** - Be perfectly joined together in the same mind

On Spiritual Growth:

- 21. Ephesians 4:22-24 - Put off the old self, be renewed in your mind, put on the new self
- 22. Colossians 3:10 - Put on the new self, being renewed in knowledge

On God's Will:

- 23. Proverbs 16:9 - Man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps
- 24. Jeremiah 29:11 - God's plans to prosper you and give you hope

Small Group and Personal Study Guide: Humility - Part 4

"Aligning Our Minds with God's Grace"

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to humble your hearts and open your minds to His Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal areas where pride may be hindering the flow of grace in your lives.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you left your phone at home. How did you feel? What did you learn about your dependency on being constantly connected?

Key Scripture

James 4:1-6 (Focus on verse 6)

"But he gives more grace. Therefore, he says, 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"

Sermon Summary

This message explored how humility opens the flow of God's grace in our lives while pride restricts it. Pastor emphasized that God doesn't need more power—we need more submission. When our thinking aligns with God's thinking, our faith can operate effectively, and grace manifests in our lives. The sermon challenged us to examine whether we're pursuing our own "Ishmaels" or waiting for God's "Isaacs."

Key Takeaways

1. God has more than enough power; we need to be more submissive

- God doesn't need to get stronger—He needs our cooperation
- Maria Woodworth Etter: "I asked for more of the Holy Ghost and He asked for more of me"

2. Unity in thinking increases the manifestation of God's power.

- When believers are on the same page, nothing is impossible (Tower of Babel principle in reverse)
- Aligned thinking → aligned faith → manifested grace

3. Pride kinks the grace hose; humility keeps it flowing

- God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble
- Pride causes prayers to go unanswered; humility opens heaven's supply

4. Understanding the three-part being

- Spirit: Born again, new nature (2 Cor. 5:17-19)
- Soul: Mind needs renewing through God's Word (Romans 12:1,2)
- Body: Needs to be controlled and enslaved to righteousness (Romans 6)

5. God is your solution, not your problem

- John 10:10: Devil = steal, kill, destroy / Jesus = life abundantly
- Don't blame God for what the enemy has done

Discussion Questions

Understanding Humility

1. **How would you define humility in your own words after hearing this message? How does it differ from what the world teaches about self-confidence?**
2. **The pastor said, "Humility is being poor in self and at the same time being rich in God." What does this mean practically in your daily life?**
3. **Read James 4:6. Why do you think God resists the proud? What does it look like when God resists someone?**

Personal Reflection

4. **Have you ever stepped out in something you thought was God's will, only to find resistance at every turn? Looking back, was it an "Ishmael" (your idea) or an "Isaac" (God's promise)? What did you learn?**
5. **The sermon mentioned that we often use spiritual principles from the motivation of the flesh rather than the spirit. Can you share an example of when you've done this? How did you recognize it?**
6. **What areas of your life might God be asking for "more of you"? Where do you sense the Holy Spirit prompting greater surrender?**

Mind Renewal

7. The pastor emphasized that reading God's Word renews our mind and aligns our thinking with God's thinking. How consistent is your time in the Word? What obstacles keep you from reading regularly?
8. When you read Scripture, do you see yourself as God sees you in Christ? Or do you tend to focus on your failures and limitations? How can we shift this perspective?
9. Discuss the statement: "When your thinking is in alignment with God's thinking, your faith can be aligned with Him, and grace is able to operate." What does this look like in practice?

Unity and Community

10. How does being "on the same page" as a church body increase spiritual power? Have you experienced this in your own life or church community?
11. The pastor mentioned that scrolling has replaced the scroll. How has constant access to information affected your ability to focus on God's Word and hear His voice?
12. What would it look like for the church to be in "one mind and one purpose" like the Tower of Babel, but for God's glory instead?

Grace and Pride

13. The pastor said, "Pride kinks the grace hose." In what areas of your life might pride be restricting the flow of God's grace? Be specific and vulnerable if comfortable.
14. How do you distinguish between healthy confidence in who you are in Christ and unhealthy pride in your own abilities?
15. Read Romans 12:1-2 and Romans 6. What practical steps can you take this week to "enslave your body to righteousness" and "renew your mind"?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose 2-3 to commit to

1. Daily Humility Prayer

- Each morning this week, pray: "Lord, here's my life. What am I doing that I came up with? What am I doing that You told me to do?"

- Journal what God reveals to you

2. Go Dark for a Day

- Choose one day this week to turn off your phone (or put it away) for several hours
- Use that time to read Scripture, pray, and listen to God
- Reflect: What did you learn about your dependency on constant connection?

3. Identify Your Ishmaels and Isaacs

- Make two lists: Things you're pursuing in your own strength (Ishmaels) and things God has clearly called you to (Isaacs)
- Pray about releasing the Ishmaels and embracing God's timing for the Isaacs

4. Mind Renewal Plan

- Commit to reading one chapter from the Epistles (Romans through Jude) each day
- As you read, visualize who you are in Christ rather than focusing on words
- Use the study guides provided by the church to stay aligned with the teaching

5. Grace Check-In

- Before making decisions this week, pause and ask: "Lord, I humble myself to You. What do I need to do here? I need Your grace."
- Practice "plugging into the power" throughout your day

6. Alignment Assessment

- Evaluate your weekly schedule: What percentage of your time reflects God's priorities vs. your own? (God knows we have responsibilities that must be attended to, so look to the extra curriculars that are not necessary).
- Make one concrete change to better align with what God has called you to

Deeper Study (Optional Homework)

For those who want to go deeper, study these passages before next week:

- **James 4:1-10** - The full context of humility and grace

- **Romans 12:1-2** - Transformation through mind renewal
- **Romans 6** - Enslaving the body to righteousness
- **2 Corinthians 5:17-19** - New creation in Christ
- **Mark 11:23-24** - Faith and mountain-moving
- **John 10:10** - Abundant life vs. the enemy's agenda
- **Philippians 2:5-8** - Jesus' example of humility

Reflection Question: How did Jesus demonstrate humility during His earthly ministry? What can you learn from His example?

Memory Verse

James 4:6

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"

Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying for:

1. **Humility** - That God would reveal areas of pride and help you walk in genuine humility
 2. **Mind Renewal** - For discipline and desire to spend time in God's Word
 3. **Discernment** - To distinguish between "Ishmaels" (our ideas) and "Isaacs" (God's promises)
 4. **Unity** - That your church would be aligned in mind and purpose
 5. **Grace** - For an increased flow of God's grace in every area of life
 6. **Each Other** - Pray specifically for needs shared during discussion
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Looking Ahead

Next week, we'll continue the humility series. Make sure to:

- Download the study guide from the church app or website (available Monday afternoon)
 - Review your notes and reflections from this week
 - Come prepared to share what God has been teaching you about humility
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Final Thought

"You will find no greater place of satisfaction than being in the very center of God's will for your life."