

Humility (Accessing All Grace) – Part 9 – The Path of Humility to God's Promised Land

Day 1: The Foundation of Grace

Reading: James 4:6-10

Devotional: God's grace is not a passive gift but an active empowerment available to those who humble themselves. When we resist the pull of pride and acknowledge our complete dependence on God, we position ourselves to receive His divine ability. Pride closes the door to grace, while humility swings it wide open. Today, examine your heart honestly. Are there areas where you're insisting on your own way rather than submitting to God's wisdom? Remember, God doesn't resist you—He resists your pride because He loves you too much to let it destroy you. The pathway to experiencing more of God's power in your marriage, family, work, and ministry begins with one simple posture: humility. When you lower yourself, God raises you up.

Day 2: Embracing Correction

Reading: Proverbs 15:31-33

Devotional: Spiritual maturity requires personal responsibility and a teachable heart. Our culture cries out for freedom from pain but resists the instruction that brings true liberation. God loves you enough to correct you, not to condemn you, but to keep you from walking into destruction. When correction comes—whether through His Word, circumstances, or godly counsel—will you be humble enough to receive it? The question isn't whether correction will come, but whether you'll embrace it. Those who remain teachable access greater wisdom and grace. Don't pray for comfort; pray for growth. Don't ask God to remove the tests; ask Him to develop your faith through them. Correction is evidence of God's love and His commitment to your maturity.

Day 3: Tested for Your Good

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-5

Devotional: God led Israel through the wilderness for forty years to humble and test them—not to harm them, but to do them good in the end. The same is true for you. Every test reveals what's truly in your heart and whether you'll keep God's commandments when circumstances

are difficult. Hunger teaches you to trust God. Wilderness seasons develop spiritual maturity. God allows temporary discomfort to prepare you for permanent blessing. When you learn to trust Him in lean times, you'll honor Him in abundant times. The promised land—both spiritual maturity and material blessing—cannot be possessed in pride. God is developing in you the character necessary to handle the blessing He wants to give you. Embrace the process, knowing His purpose is always good.

Day 4: Obedience Opens the Door

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:6-10

Devotional: Living, multiplication, and possession are tied to obedience. You cannot access God's power through disobedience and yielding to the flesh. God will not empower your pride simply because Jesus made you righteous; His grace flows when you walk obedience to His Word. Obedience isn't about earning salvation—it's about accessing empowerment. When someone mistreats you and you choose forgiveness over retaliation, you open the door to grace. When you feel like staying in bed but get up to worship, you activate faith and receive divine ability. You can choose to do the right thing regardless of how you feel. Every act of obedience, no matter how small, positions you to experience God's goodness and brings you closer to possessing everything He has promised you.

Day 5: Remember in Abundance

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Devotional: Material possessions are not the problem, the problem is when we forget God in the midst of His goodness and blessings. When you've eaten and are full, when your possessions multiply, when you've built your beautiful house, beware that your heart doesn't become lifted up. The God you trusted in lean times deserves even greater honor in blessed times. Never say in your heart, "My power and my hand have gained me this wealth." Remember: it is God who gives you the power to get wealth. He brings you into the promised land not so you can forget Him, but so His covenant can be established through your life. Abundance is an opportunity to be a greater blessing, not to become self-sufficient. Keep obeying His commandments in fullness as you did in hunger. Let humility mark both your scarcity and your plenty, and you will remain in His favor forever.

Humility (Accessing All Grace) Part 9 - Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **James 4** (primary chapter)
2. **James 4:6** - "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"
3. **Romans 6** - Enslaving our flesh/bringing flesh into subjection
4. **Proverbs 15:31-33** - Instruction and correction
5. **Deuteronomy 8** (entire chapter emphasized)
6. **Deuteronomy 8:1** - Obedience leading to life and multiplication
7. **Deuteronomy 8:2** - God leading through wilderness to humble and test
8. **Deuteronomy 8:3** - Man shall not live by bread alone
9. **Deuteronomy 8:1-20** - (Read in full near the end)
10. **Proverbs 3:1-2** - "My son, do not forget my law...length of days and long life"
11. **Philippians 4:19** - "My God shall supply all my need according to his riches in glory"
12. **John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world..." (used in altar call)

Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:

13. **James 1:22** - "Be doers of the word, not hearers only"
14. **Romans 2:28-29** - Spiritual circumcision of the heart
15. **Matthew 5:44 / Luke 6:27-28** - Forgive those who persecute you
16. **Deuteronomy 28:1-14** - Blessings (blessed coming in, going out, in city, in field)
17. **Numbers 13-14** - Story of the spies, Joshua and Caleb's faith
18. **Luke 12:16-21** - Parable of the rich fool building bigger barns
19. **Hebrews 12:5-11** - God's chastening/discipline (thematically referenced)

Suggested Verses Aligned with Main Themes:

20. **1 Peter 5:5-6** - "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time"
21. **Proverbs 16:18** - "Pride goes before destruction"
22. **Proverbs 11:2** - "When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom"

23. **1 Corinthians 9:27** - "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection"

24. **Galatians 5:16-17** - Walking in the Spirit vs. the flesh

Humility (Accessing All Grace) Part 9 – Small Group and Personal Study Guide

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when correction or discipline led to something good in your life. How did you feel during the process versus afterward?

Key Scripture References

- James 4:6-7
 - Deuteronomy 8:1-20
 - Proverbs 15:31-33
 - Proverbs 3:1-2
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Main Takeaways

1. Humility Opens the Door to Grace

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Grace is the favorable impartation of divine ability—God's empowerment for life.

2. The Promised Land Requires Spiritual Maturity

The promised land for believers is both spiritual maturity and material blessing. We cannot possess God's best while walking in pride.

3. God Tests Us to Bless Us

The Lord humbles and tests us not to harm us, but to reveal what is in our hearts and to prepare us for greater blessing.

4. Obedience Flows from Humility

Living, multiplying, and possessing God's promises are tied to obedience, which only functions when we walk in humility.

Discussion Questions

Understanding Humility

1. How is humility different from low self-esteem or weakness?
2. The sermon stated, "Pride says I can do it all on my own. Humility understands who God is, who I am in relationship to God, and who I am in relationship to others." Which of these three relationships is hardest for you to keep in proper perspective?

Correction & Growth

3. Read Proverbs 15:31-33. Why do you think our natural response is to resist correction rather than welcome it?
4. The pastor said, "The cry of many is make the pain go away, but don't tell me to change." Have you ever caught yourself in this mindset? What was the situation?
5. How can we cultivate a heart that says, "Show me where I'm wrong, Lord" instead of deflecting blame?

Testing & The Wilderness

6. Deuteronomy 8:2 says God led Israel through the wilderness "to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart." What has a "wilderness season" revealed about your heart?
7. The sermon emphasized that God allows hunger to teach us to trust Him. What are some "hungers" or needs in your life right now? How can you respond in faith rather than trying to solve everything yourself?

Prosperity & Remembrance

8. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-18. Why is it sometimes harder to stay close to God in times of abundance than in times of need?
9. What practical steps can we take to ensure we "remember the Lord our God" when we are blessed and full?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Embrace Correction

- Ask God to show you one area where you need correction
- Ask a trusted friend or spouse, "Is there an area where I have a blind spot?"
- Receive their feedback with humility, without defending yourself

Option 2: Practice Gratitude in Abundance

- Make a list of 10 blessings in your life right now
- For each one, thank God specifically and acknowledge that He is the source
- Share your gratitude with someone else to encourage them

Option 3: Obey in One Difficult Area

- Identify one area where you know what God's Word says but you've been resistant to obey
- Take one concrete step of obedience this week, even if you don't feel like it
- Journal about how God's grace showed up when you obeyed

Personal Reflection Questions

(Take 5 minutes of silence for individual reflection)

1. In what area of my life am I most tempted to operate in pride rather than humility?
 2. What would change in my life if I truly believed that God wants to bless me and do me good?
 3. Am I more yielded to my flesh or my spirit? What evidence do I see?
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Prayer Focus

Pray together as a group:

- For humility to receive correction and instruction from God's Word
 - For grace to walk in obedience even when it's difficult
 - For spiritual maturity to possess all God has for us
 - For grateful hearts that remember God in times of blessing
 - For specific needs and "wilderness seasons" group members are facing
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Closing Thought

"God desires to raise me up for His kingdom purposes and for my benefit. He humbles and tests me to do me good in the end."

Memory Verse for the Week: *"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'" - James 4:6*

Before Next Week

- Read through Deuteronomy 8 daily
- Practice your chosen application
- Come prepared to share one way you saw God's grace at work when you chose humility

Humility (Accessing All Grace) Part 9 – Additional Scriptures For Deeper Personal Study

Ex 10:3	Prov 29:23	Titus 3:2
Num 12:3	Isa 29:19	1 Peter 5:5
Deut 8:2	Isa 57:15	<u>Pride</u>
Deut 8:16	Jer 13:18	Lev 26:19
2 Sam 6:22	Ezek 21:26	1 Sam 17:28
2 Sam 22:28	Dan 10:12	2 Chron 32:26
2 Chron 7:14	Amos 2:7	Job 33:17
2 Chron 33:23	Zeph 3:12 –	Job 35:12
2 Chron 36:12	Rom 12:16 opinion.	Ps 10:2
Ezra 8:21	2 Cor 12:21	Ps 36:11
Job 22:29	James 4:6	Ps 59:12
Job 40:11	James 4:10	Ps 73:6
Ps 9:12	1 Peter 5:5	Prov 8:13
Ps 10:12	1 Peter 5:6	Prov 11:2
Ps 10:17	<u>Humility</u>	Prov 13:10
Ps 18:27	Ps 45:4	Prov 14:3
Ps 25:9	Prov 15:33	Prov 16:18
Ps 34:2	Prov 18:12	Prov 21:24
Ps 69:32	Prov 22:4	Prov 29:23
Ps 147:6	Zeph 2:3	Isa 9:9
Ps 149:4	Acts 20:19	Isa 13:19
Prov 3:34	Col 2:18	Isa 16:6
Prov 6:3	Col 2:23	Isa 23:9
Prov 11:2	Col 3:12	Isa 25:11
Prov 16:19	2 Tim 2:25	Isa 28:1

Isa 28:3	Job 9:13	Prov 21:4
Jer 13:9	Job 28:8	Prov 21:24
Jer 13:17	Job 38:11	Prov 28:25
Jer 48:29	Job 40:11	Eccl 7:8
Jer 49:16	Job 40:12	Isa 2:12
Ezek 7:10	Ps 10:4	Isa 13:11
Ezek 16:49	Ps 12:3	Isa 16:6
Ezek 16:56	Ps 31:23	Jer 13:15
Ezek 30:6	Ps 40:4	Jer 43:2
Dan 4:37	Ps 86:14	Jer 48:29
Dan 5:20	Ps 94:2	Jer 50:29
Hos 5:5	Ps 101:5	Jer 50:32
Hos 7:10	Ps 119:21	Hab 2:4
Amos 6:8	Ps 119:51	Hab 2:5
Amos 8:7	Ps 119:69	Mal 3:15
Obad 3	Ps 119:78	Mal 4:1
Zeph 2:10	Ps 119:85	Luke 1:51
Zeph 3:11	Ps 119:122	Rom 1:30
Zech 9:6	Ps 123:4	1 Tim 6:4
Zech 10:11	Ps 138:6	2 Tim 3:2
Zech 11:3	Ps 140:5	James 4:6
Mark 7:22	Prov 6:17	1 Peter 5:5
1 Tim 3:6	Prov 15:25	
1 John 2:16	Prov 16:5	
<u>Proud</u>	Prov 16:19	