

Humility (Accessing All Grace) – Part 1

5-Day Devotional: Walking in Humility and Grace

Day 1: The Light of God's Word

Reading: Psalm 119:105, 130; 2 Peter 1:3-4

Devotional: Just as turning on multiple lights illuminates a dark room, increasing your intake of God's Word brings greater revelation to your life. The entrance of His Word gives light—if you need more light, turn on another scripture. This week, challenge yourself to move beyond a quick devotional. Push your reading time from fifteen minutes to thirty, then to an hour, and add prayer time afterward. Within one week, you'll notice a transformation. God's Word doesn't just inform you; it imparts His divine nature to you. Through His exceeding great and precious promises, you become a partaker of the divine nature itself. This is how grace begins to flow—through consistent, hungry engagement with Scripture that renews your mind and transforms your life.

What can you remove from your schedule to allow for more time with the Lord in your day? Make a list of things that are unnecessary and begin to replace that time with Scripture reading and prayer.

Day 2: Pride's Deadly Trap

Reading: Isaiah 14:12-17; James 4:6; Proverbs 3:34

Devotional: Satan's downfall began with five declarations of "I will"—the essence of pride is self-will opposing God's will. He said, "I will ascend," but God brought him to the lowest depths. Pride declares without God's empowerment what it will accomplish, yet receives the complete opposite. This same spirit infects humanity today, causing us to worship self over our Creator. Here's the sobering truth: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. As believers, we can actually experience God's resistance when pride operates in our lives. Have you ever felt like you weren't breaking through in an area God promised? It could be pride blocking the flow of grace. Pride leaves the back door of your life wide open to the enemy.

Humility, however, sets you completely out of the devil's reach and positions you for abundant grace.

Reflecting on Satan's five 'I will' statements in Isaiah 14, where do you see similar patterns of self-will operating in your own heart that need to be surrendered?

Day 3: Grace—Divine Empowerment

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Titus 2:11-12

Devotional: Grace is far more than unmerited favor—it is the divine influence upon your heart that finds expression in your life. **It's the favorable impartation of divine ability.** You didn't save yourself; grace saved you. You can't sustain yourself; grace sustains you. Grace is empowerment—the power of the Holy Spirit to meet every evil tendency fully. You need grace like you need oxygen, food, and water. Without sufficient grace, you'll never walk in the fullness of maturity available in Christ or see your ministry calling fully manifest. But here's the glorious truth: God wants to give you more and more grace continually. There is no situation that sufficient grace cannot conquer. When grace saturates your life like a sponge full of water, it pours out on everyone you encounter. The question is: are you humble enough to receive it?

How does recognizing that you 'need grace like you need oxygen' shift your perspective on self-sufficiency versus dependence on God's daily empowerment?

Day 4: The Battlefield of the Mind

Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8

Devotional: Your spiritual battle isn't primarily physical—it's mental. The enemy presents thoughts that attach to feelings, which attach to your physical body, which produce words, which create actions. All spiritual warfare operates initially through thoughts. This is how both the enemy gains access and how God transforms you. Salvation began when you heard the Word, it entered your mind, affected your heart, and you confessed with your mouth. The

same process applies to every spiritual battle. Thoughts unspoken die unborn. If you believe the power of life and death is in your tongue, guard what you say by guarding what you think. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Not every thought that comes to you originates from you. Maintain your mind with God's Word, and you'll win the battle against pride and every other stronghold.

Spiritual warfare operates through thoughts, feelings, words, and then actions—at which stage do you most often fail to take authority, and why?

Day 5: Humility—The Open Door to Grace

Reading: James 4:6-10; Matthew 20:26-28; 1 Peter 5:5-7

Devotional: Jesus demonstrated ultimate humility during the Christmas season and throughout His life: "I did not come to be served, but to serve." Humility is not weakness; it's the realistic recognition of your need for God's grace. It's the open door to greater grace in your life. As you humble yourself before the Lord, He gives more and more grace—power to overcome every challenge. No one on earth is exempt from dealing with pride; if you woke up this morning, you have flesh and potential for pride. But here's your hope: as you allow God's Word to transform your thinking and make necessary changes, you'll walk in greater levels of grace. One person fully surrendered to God can put a thousand to flight and two can put 10,000 to flight. Are you willing to humble yourself and step into the fullness of God's grace? Your humility today determines your grace tomorrow.

Considering that Jesus came 'not to be served, but to serve, what specific acts of humble service can you embrace this week that challenge your natural tendency toward self-promotion?

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. James 4:6 - "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"
2. James 4:6-10 - Extended passage on pride and humility
3. Proverbs 3:34 - Referenced as the source for James 4:6
4. Matthew 20:28 - "I did not come to be served, but to serve"
5. Isaiah 14:12-16 - Lucifer's fall and pride ("I will" statements)
6. Ephesians 2:6 - Seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
7. 2 Corinthians 10 - Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ
8. Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith"
9. 1 John 5:12 - "He that has the Son has life"
- 10.2 Peter 1:4 - Partakers of the divine nature
- 11.Ephesians 4:23 - Renewed in the spirit of your mind
- 12.1 John 2:29 - Everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him
- 13.1 John 3:9 - Whoever is born of God does not sin (practice sin)
- 14.John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world..."
- 15.Romans 3:23 - "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"
- 16.Romans 6:23 - "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life"
- 17.Romans 10:9-10 - Confession and belief unto salvation

Alluded to but Not Explicitly Cited:

- 18.Proverbs 18:21 - "Power of life and death is in the tongue"
- 19.John 10:10 - "The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy"
- 20.John 3:3-7 - "You must be born again"
- 21.Ephesians 6:16 - "Fiery darts" of the enemy
- 22.Deuteronomy 32:30 - "One can put a thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand"
- 23.Psalm 119:130 - "The entrance of Your words gives light"

Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

On Humility:

- Philippians 2:3-8 - Christ's humility
- 1 Peter 5:5-6 - "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"
- Micah 6:8 - Walk humbly with your God

On Grace:

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 - "My grace is sufficient for you"
- Hebrews 4:16 - "Come boldly to the throne of grace"
- Titus 2:11-12 - Grace teaches us to live godly lives

On Spiritual Warfare:

- Ephesians 6:12 - Wrestling not against flesh and blood
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - Casting down imaginations

On Pride:

- Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction"
- Proverbs 29:23 - "A man's pride will bring him low"

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Small Group and Personal Study Guide

Small Group Guide: Humility - Part 1

"The Entrance of His Word Gives Light"

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker:

Prayer Focus: Ask God to reveal areas of pride and open hearts to receive His grace through humility.

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when turning on a light revealed something you didn't know was there. How is this similar to reading Scripture?

Key Scripture:

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

Main Points Summary

1. Grace is Divine Empowerment - Not just favor, but the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome.
2. Pride is Satan's Chief Sin - Independence and self-will that led to his fall.
3. Humility Opens the Door to Greater Grace - Without humility, we limit God's grace in our lives.
4. The Battlefield is the Mind - Spiritual warfare begins with thoughts that become feelings, words, then actions.
5. Grace is Needed Daily - Like oxygen, food, and water for our spiritual lives.

Discussion Questions:

Understanding Grace

1. Before this sermon, how would you have defined "grace"? How does understanding grace as "divine empowerment" change your perspective?
2. Read **Ephesians 2:8-9**. How does grace both save us and sustain us daily? What does this look like practically?

Recognizing Pride

3. The pastor mentioned that Montana has an "independent spirit." How have you seen independence manifest as pride in your own life or community?

4. Review **Isaiah 14:12-15** (Satan's fall). Count how many times "I will" appears. Where do you see "I will" attitudes in your own heart?
5. The sermon stated: "There is not a person on the planet that does not deal with pride." Why is it important to acknowledge this reality? How does denying this truth actually demonstrate pride?

Humility in Action

6. What's the difference between humility and low self-esteem? How does biblical humility actually empower us?
7. The pastor said, "Thoughts unspoken die unborn." How can this principle help you battle pride at its source?
8. Discuss this statement: "All spiritual warfare operates initially through thoughts, which translate to feelings, which translate to words, which translate to actions." Share an example of when you've seen this pattern in your life.

Personal Reflection Questions:

(Take 3-5 minutes of quiet time before discussing)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current level of humility? What evidence supports your assessment?
2. In what area of your life do you most need "more grace" right now?
3. What is one specific area where the Holy Spirit is revealing pride in your life?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: The Humility Audit

Choose ONE of these daily practices for the coming week:

Option 1: The Scripture Soak

- Spend 30-60 minutes in God's Word daily (increase from your current time).
- Add 30 minutes of prayer after reading.
- Journal what God reveals about pride and humility.

Option 2: The Thought Tracker

- Keep a notepad or phone note throughout the day.
- When you recognize a prideful thought, write it down.
- Replace it with a Scripture about humility or grace.
- Share your findings with an accountability partner.

Option 3: The Humility Practice

- Each day, intentionally serve someone without recognition
- Practice saying "I was wrong" or "I need help" when appropriate
- Ask someone close to you: "Where do you see pride in my life?"

Action Steps

Individual:

- Read James Chapter 4 daily this week
- Identify one area where you've been resisting God's grace through pride
- Confess it to God and one trusted person

Group:

- Commit to praying for each other regarding pride and humility
- Share one victory or struggle with pride when you meet next week

- Consider: How can our group model humility to our church and community?

Key Quotes to Remember

- "Humility is the open door to greater grace."
- "There is no situation that sufficient grace can't conquer."
- "Pride will leave the door wide open to the devil."
- "Grace is the favorable impartation of divine ability."
- "You need grace like you need oxygen. You need grace like you need food and water."
- "Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility." - Jonathan Edwards

Closing Discussion

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this sermon and discussion?
2. How will you specifically apply what you learned this week?
3. What is one way our group can hold each other accountable in growing in humility?

Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for revelation of hidden pride in our hearts. (Ephesians 1:17-23)
- Pray for regional transformation as individuals grow in humility.
- Thank God that His grace is sufficient and available.

Group Leader Note: Create a loving environment where people can be honest about pride without shame. Remember, recognizing pride is the first step toward humility. Celebrate honesty and vulnerability in your group, but also encourage repentance. Our goal is not just to recognize the problem but to begin to walk in the newness of life that the Lord has provided for us.
