

## Humility (Accessing All Grace) – Part 2

### 5-Day Devotional: Walking in Humility, Accessing God's Grace

#### Day 1: Grace - The Divine Empowerment

**Reading:** James 4:6-7; 2 Corinthians 12:9

**Devotional:** Grace is not merely unmerited favor—it is the favorable impartation of divine ability. When God extends grace, He empowers you with the Holy Spirit's strength to overcome evil tendencies and live victoriously. Just as oxygen sustains your physical body, grace is essential for your spiritual life. God's grace flows continuously, not because you've earned it, but because it reflects His compassionate nature. Today, recognize that grace isn't God being nice despite your failures; it's God equipping you with supernatural ability to become who He created you to be. His grace is sufficient for every weakness, every challenge, every temptation. Humility opens the floodgates—pride blocks the flow. Where are you resisting His empowerment today?

**Reflection Question:** In what area of your life do you need divine ability rather than just divine approval?

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#### Day 2: The Battle Begins in Your Mind

**Reading:** Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

**Devotional:** Spiritual warfare always begins in the mind with thoughts. The enemy programs your thinking just as computers are programmed for specific functions. Thoughts affect emotions, emotions affect words, and words affect actions. Every sin, every stronghold, every defeat started as a thought that went unchallenged. This is why transformation requires renewing your mind—being transformed rather than conformed to worldly patterns. When prideful, lustful, or anxious thoughts arise, you have a choice: entertain them or take them captive to Christ's obedience. You are not a victim of your thoughts; you are a gatekeeper. The Holy Spirit has given you self-control as fruit of your new nature. Today, stand guard over your mind and declare God's truth over the enemy's lies.

**Reflection Question:** What thought patterns have you been allowing that need to be brought under Christ's authority?

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#### Day 3: Running Toward God, Not Away

**Reading:** James 4:8-10; Psalm 51:1-12

**Devotional:** When you sin, your flesh tells you to hide from God. But God says, "Draw near to Me and I will draw near to you." He doesn't command you to stay away because you're unclean—He invites you to come so He can cleanse you. Repentance is not God browbeating you; it's His love calling you back to freedom. The father didn't empower the prodigal son's sinful lifestyle, but He never stopped being the father. When the son returned in humility, grace flowed abundantly. Your heavenly Father isn't waiting to condemn you—He's waiting to lift you up. Conviction is not condemnation; it's the loving correction of a Father who sees your potential. Don't let shame keep you from the throne room. Run to Him today with dirty hands, and let His Word wash you clean.

**Reflection Question:** What sin or failure have you been hiding from God instead of bringing to Him for cleansing?

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#### Day 4: Pride's Boundaries and Grace's Flow

**Reading:** James 4:13-17; Proverbs 3:5-6

**Devotional:** Pride is living out of bounds—overstepping the boundaries of who God is, who you are in relation to Him, and who He says you are in Christ. Like a football player running out of bounds, you cannot score while operating in pride. God will not empower carnality, self-exaltation, or independence from Him. He resists these things because they lead to destruction. But when you humble yourself—acknowledging Him in all your ways, seeking His will for your work, your relationships, your plans—you step back into bounds where grace flows freely. This doesn't mean you can't make plans or work hard; it means you invite God into every decision. "If the Lord wills" isn't religious language—it's humble dependence that unlocks divine empowerment for everything you do.

**Reflection Question:** What areas of your life have you been planning and pursuing without consulting God?

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#### Day 5: The Fruit of Humility

**Reading:** Philippians 2:3-11; 1 Peter 5:5-7

**Devotional:** Humility doesn't mean thinking less of yourself—it means thinking of yourself less. Jesus, though equal with God, humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross. Because of this humility, God highly exalted Him. The same principle applies to you: humble yourself in God's sight, and He will lift you up. Humility refuses to judge others harshly while excusing

self. It forgives as Christ forgave. It serves without seeking recognition. It admits when wrong and quickly repents. Most importantly, humility recognizes that every good thing in your life flows from God's grace, not your ability. As you walk in humility this week, watch how God pours out more and more grace—power to overcome, wisdom to navigate challenges, and favor to accomplish His purposes through your surrendered life.

**Reflection Question:** How can you practically demonstrate humility in your relationships and responsibilities this week?

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**Weekly Challenge:** Each morning this week, before checking your phone or starting your day, pray: "Lord, I humble myself before You today. Show me where pride is operating in my life, and empower me with Your grace to walk in humility. I acknowledge that apart from You, I can do nothing. I purpose to let Your grace flow through me today."

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## **Humility (Accessing All Grace) – Part 2**

### **Scripture References from the Sermon**

#### **Explicitly Referenced Scriptures:**

1. James 4:1-17 - The entire chapter was read and forms the foundation of the sermon
2. James 4:6 - "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" (emphasized multiple times)
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation"
4. Galatians 5 - Referenced regarding the conflict between flesh and Spirit (specific verses not cited)
5. John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world..." (quoted at the altar call)

#### **Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:**

6. Romans 12:2 - "Be not conformed but be transformed" (mentioned in discussion of mind renewal)
7. Hebrews 12:6 - The Lord corrects those He loves (referenced in discussion of correction)
8. Galatians 5:22-23 - Fruit of the Spirit, including self-control
9. Luke 15:11-32 - The Prodigal Son (discussed as illustration of pride and grace)

10. Matthew 7:3-5 - Removing the plank before addressing the splinter (referenced in discussion of judging)
11. Romans 8:28 - Working together for good (implied in discussion of God's purposes)
12. 1 Timothy 4:13 - Public reading of Scripture (mentioned as pastoral duty)
13. Ephesians 4:22-24 - Putting off the old self, putting on the new (implied in new creation discussion)
14. 1 Peter 5:5 - "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" (parallel passage to James 4:6)
15. Proverbs 3:34 - Original Old Testament source for the pride/humility principle
16. Romans 8:1 - No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (referenced in discussion of conviction vs. condemnation)
17. 1 Timothy 6:12 - "Fight the good fight of faith" (quoted directly)
18. Psalm 119:130 - "The entrance of Your word gives light" (referenced)
19. James 1:22 - "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (referenced at conclusion)

**Thematically Related Verses (Not Explicitly Mentioned but Align with Sermon Themes):**

20. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction"
21. Philippians 2:3-8 - Humility of Christ
22. 1 John 1:9 - Confession and cleansing from sin
23. James 4:7-8 - Submit to God, resist the devil, draw near to God
24. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - Spiritual warfare and taking thoughts captive

The sermon heavily focuses on James 4 as its primary text while drawing supporting references from throughout Scripture to build the case for humility as the key to accessing God's grace.

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## **Humility (Accessing All Grace) – Part 2**

### **Personal and Small Group Discussion Guide**

#### **"Humility: Understanding Pride" - James 4**

## Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

**Opening Prayer:** Begin by praying and asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding concerning pride and humility. Ephesians 1:17-23 is a great prayer for this.

**Icebreaker Question:** Share about a time when you had to humble yourself in a situation. What was difficult about it? What was the outcome?

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## Review Key Points (10 minutes)

**Main Scripture:** James 4:1-17

**Central Theme:** God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Pride cuts off the flow of God's grace, while humility opens the door to greater grace.

### Key Definition:

- **Grace:** The favorable impartation of divine ability
  - **Pride:** An overestimation of self; living outside the boundaries of who God is and who we are in Christ
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## Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

### Section 1: Understanding Grace (Review from last week)

1. How does the definition of grace as "the favorable impartation of divine ability" change or expand your understanding of God's grace?
2. The pastor said, "Grace is as necessary to the believer as oxygen is to the body." What does this mean practically in your daily life?
3. Read James 4:3. How can we examine our prayers to ensure we're not asking with wrong motives?

### Section 2: The Battle in the Mind (New this week)

4. The sermon emphasized that "strongholds always begin in the mind" and "the enemy battles in thoughts first." Can you identify an area where wrong thinking has led to wrong actions in your life?

5. What practical steps can you take this week to guard your thought life? (Reference: Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 10:5) – Remember here to go back and review the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus battled with Scripture and so should you.

### **Section 3: Recognizing Pride (New this week)**

6. Review the definitions of pride from the sermon:
  - Arrogant, haughty, showing oneself above others
  - Living prodigally (like the prodigal son)
  - Overestimation of self
  - Overstepping of bounds (out of bounds)
  - Excessive self-esteem

Which of these manifestations of pride do you struggle with most? Why?

7. The pastor said, "A proud person sees what a blessing it is for everyone to be in their presence." How does this attitude show up in subtle ways in our lives?
8. What does it mean to live "out of bounds" spiritually? Can you think of examples from your own life or from Scripture?

### **Section 4: Running to God, Not Away**

9. Read James 4:8-10. Why do we tend to run away from God when we sin rather than running to Him? What does it look like practically to "draw near to God" after we've sinned?
10. The sermon stated: "When I sin, I run to God. I don't run away." What obstacles prevent you from doing this? How can the group pray for you in this area?
11. Discuss the difference between condemnation and conviction. How can we tell which one we're experiencing?

### **Section 5: Judging Others**

12. Read James 4:11-12. Why is judging others a manifestation of pride? How does unforgiveness relate to pride?
13. The pastor said, "A person who won't forgive burns the bridge they themselves have to walk across." What does this mean? Is there someone you need to forgive?

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### **Key Takeaways (5 minutes)**

**Have group members share which point resonated most with them:**

- Grace is not just favor; it's divine empowerment to live victoriously
  - Pride cuts off grace; humility opens the door to more grace
  - Spiritual warfare begins in the mind with thoughts
  - Repentance is a good word, not a bad word—it leads to restoration
  - God doesn't empower fleshly living; He empowers humble obedience
  - We must live within the boundaries of who God is and who we are in Christ
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## Practical Application (10 minutes)

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE area to focus on this week:

1. **Prayer Audit:** Review your prayer life. Are you asking God what to do before making decisions (career, finances, relationships)? Commit to seeking His will in a specific area this week.
2. **Thought Life:** Identify one recurring negative or prideful thought pattern. Write out a Scripture to combat it and speak it aloud when the thought comes.
3. **Humility Practice:** Identify one area where pride has crept in. Take a specific action to humble yourself (apologize to someone, ask for help, acknowledge God's role in your success).
4. **Repentance Routine:** When you sin this week, immediately run to God instead of away from Him. Journal about the experience and the freedom you find.

**Accountability Question:** Who will you share your chosen focus with for accountability this week?

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## Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)

### Prayer Focus Areas:

- Pray for humility to flow in each person's life
- Ask God to reveal areas of pride that need to be addressed
- Pray for grace (divine ability) to overcome specific struggles
- Pray for the courage to run to God, not away from Him, when we sin
- Pray for the ability to forgive others and not judge

**Prayer Method:** Break into pairs or triads and pray specifically for one another based on what was shared during discussion.

## **Closing Encouragement**

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

Remember: God's goal is not to beat you down but to lift you up! His correction comes from love, and His grace is continually available when we humble ourselves before Him.

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## **For Next Week**

- Be prepared to share testimonies of how God worked through your application of this week's lesson
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## **Group Leader Notes:**

- Emphasize that everyone struggles with pride—this isn't about condemnation
- Create a loving environment for honest sharing about struggles
- Celebrate testimonies of growth and humility
- Remind the group that grace empowers us to change; we're not doing this in our own strength