

Humility (Accessing All Grace) – Part 8 – The Path of Humility to Honor

5-Day Devotional:

Day 1: The Ear That Hears

Reading: Proverbs 15:31-33

Devotional: The ear that hears correction positions itself among the wise. Today, consider how you respond when life brings rebuke—whether through Scripture, godly counsel, or circumstances. Your flesh resists correction, insisting "I'm right" or deflecting blame. But humility asks, "Show me where I'm wrong, Lord." When you remain teachable, grace flows and wisdom operates. God loves you enough to intervene with correction so you don't walk into destruction through pride. The question isn't whether correction will come, but whether you'll position yourself to receive it. Embrace humility today, knowing that correction isn't rejection—it's divine protection guiding you toward your promised land.

Day 2: Possessing Your Heart

Reading: Proverbs 15:32; Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: "He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding." The Hebrew word for understanding means "to possess the heart." You actually possess your own heart through instruction and rebuke. Many cry, "Make the pain go away, but don't tell me to change." This is self-harm disguised as self-protection. Transformation requires humility to receive both instruction and correction. Are you repeatedly asking for prayer while refusing to make changes? That's like hitting your thumb with a hammer, asking for healing, then hitting it again. Stop the harmful pattern. Embrace the change God is calling you to make. When you heed correction, you don't just get relief—you get understanding and truly possess your heart.

Day 3: Before Honor Comes Humility

Reading: James 4:6-10; 1 Peter 5:5-7

Devotional: God's end game is to honor you. His goal is your exaltation. But the pathway is clear: humility before honor. When you humble yourself, God reciprocates with grace—His divine ability in your situation. Self-honor is pride; God-honor is humility. He's not opposed to you being exalted; He just wants to be the one who does it. "Humble yourselves under the

mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." Your flesh hates that phrase "due time," but when you get your flesh sufficiently in line with God's timing, exaltation comes quickly. Character is established in time, making room for gifting. Don't rush the process. Trust that promotion is coming because you're choosing humility today.

Day 4: Grace Through the Door of Humility

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Hebrews 12:5-11

Devotional: Grace is the favorable impartation of divine ability—God's super on your natural, creating supernatural results. But grace only has full access through your participation in humility. God tests and humbles us because His desire is to do us good and exalt us. He disciplines those He loves, not to harm but to prepare you for promotion. Daily disciplines matter. Skipping weeks of Bible reading is like skipping weeks of meals—you'll feel spiritually lethargic. Every morning, mine into the Word. There are veins of gold beneath the surface. The Lord longs to share His revelation with the hungry. Feed yourself daily, and watch faith ignite within you. Humility says, "I need this bread daily," and grace responds with strength for the journey.

Day 5: Stepping Into Your Promised Land

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9; Ephesians 2:4-10

Devotional: God desires that you live in your promised land—the fullness of His maturity and blessing. You cannot manage natural possessions correctly without spiritual maturity. Promotion requires adjustments, and those adjustments require humility. God has a call on your life, a specific design and purpose. Let Him into your imagination with a whiteboard. Dream with Him. He wants to show you what He can do. You're not this physical body; you're a spirit created for kingdom purposes. A year from now, people will see the transformation and ask, "Who are you?" You'll declare, "I'm the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus." Generations are being changed through your obedience. Embrace humility, make the changes, and watch God take you further than you ever imagined possible.

Humility (Accessing All Grace) Part 8 - Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Proverbs 15:31** - "The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise"

2. **Proverbs 15:32** - "He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding"
3. **Proverbs 15:33** - "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom and before honor is humility"
4. **James 4:6** - God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble
5. **James 4:10** - "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up"
6. **Romans 12:2** - "Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed"
7. **Hebrews 12** - The Lord disciplines/chastens those He loves (referenced but not quoted directly)
8. **Deuteronomy 8** - God tests and humbles us (referenced as source for Hebrews 12 concept)
9. **Proverbs 29:23** - "A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor"
- 10.1 **Peter 5:6** - "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time"
11. **Luke 14:11** - "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted"
12. **Luke 18:14** - "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted"

Alluded to or Paraphrased:

13. **Ephesians 2:6** - Seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
- 14.2 **Corinthians 5:21** - The righteousness of God in Christ Jesus
- 15.1 **John 4:4** - "Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world"
16. **John 10:10** - "I came to give you life and life more abundantly"
17. **John 4:10, 7:37-38** - Living water references
18. **John 6:35** - "I am the bread of life"
19. **Hebrews 6:12** - Through faith and patience inherit the promises
20. **Hebrews 13:5** - "He will never leave you nor forsake you"

Suggested Verses Aligned with Main Themes:

21. **Proverbs 11:2** - "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom"
 22. **Proverbs 16:18** - "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall"
 23. **Proverbs 22:4** - "Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life"
 24. **Philippians 2:3-8** - Christ's example of humility
 25. **1 Corinthians 15:10** - "By the grace of God I am what I am"
 26. **2 Corinthians 12:9** - "My grace is sufficient for you"
 27. **Proverbs 12:1** - "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid"
 28. **Proverbs 13:18** - "Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored"
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Humility (Accessing All Grace) Part 8 – Small Group and Personal Study Guide

Text: Proverbs 15:31-33

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when someone's correction or instruction helped you avoid a mistake or grow in an area of your life. How did you initially respond to that correction?

Key Scripture Passages

- **Proverbs 15:31** - "The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise."
 - **Proverbs 15:32** - "He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding."
 - **Proverbs 15:33** - "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility."
 - **James 4:6** - "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."
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Main Takeaways

1. The Access Point to Grace is Humility

Grace is the favorable impartation of divine ability—God's supernatural strength working through our natural abilities. We access more grace by walking in greater humility.

2. Being Teachable is a Mark of Humility

The humble person doesn't avoid correction; they embrace it. Positioning ourselves to receive instruction and rebuke places us among the wise.

3. Promotion Requires Preparation

God desires to promote and exalt us, but spiritual maturity must come before increased blessing. Daily disciplines and character development prepare us for the next level.

4. Honor Follows Humility

God is not opposed to honoring us—He just wants to be the one who does it. When we humble ourselves, He promises to lift us up in due time.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Humility & Grace

1. How would you define grace in your own words? Can you share an example of when you experienced God's grace (His ability) working through you?
2. The sermon stated: "You can do your work by yourself, or you can do it with God's strength." In what areas of your life are you trying to operate in your own strength rather than accessing God's grace?

Section 2: The Challenge of Being Teachable

3. Pastor Sean said, "The mark of humility isn't avoiding correction, it's embracing it." Why is receiving correction so difficult for our flesh? What are common ways we deflect or avoid correction?
4. Discuss the concept of "not my fault-itis." How does blame-shifting prevent spiritual growth? Can you identify an area where you've struggled to take responsibility?
5. Read Proverbs 15:32. The sermon explained that disdaining instruction is actually a form of self-hatred. How does refusing correction harm us? Can you think of examples?

6. The pastor mentioned that some people ask for prayer but don't want instruction or correction. Why do we want the pain to go away without making changes? How can we shift this mindset?

Section 3: Daily Disciplines & Spiritual Growth

7. The sermon emphasized daily Bible reading as spiritual food. How consistent are you with feeding yourself spiritually? What obstacles keep you from daily time in God's Word?
8. Pastor Sean shared that every morning as he reads, he finds "gold" in Scripture. What practices help you move from just reading to really mining the Word for revelation?
9. Discuss this statement: "Spiritual maturity is key to living in any level of sustained blessing." Why can't we properly manage natural possessions without spiritual maturity?

Section 4: The Path to Honor

10. Read Proverbs 15:33, James 4:10, Luke 14:11, and 1 Peter 5:6. What common theme do you see? How does God's pattern of "humble first, then honor" differ from the world's approach?
11. The sermon stated: "Character will make room for gifting." What does this mean? Why does our culture tend to exalt gifting while ignoring character?
12. How do you respond to the idea that God wants to promote and honor you? Does this make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?
13. What does "due time" (1 Peter 5:6) mean for you personally? How can we develop patience while waiting for God's promotion?

Personal Reflection Questions

(Take 5-7 minutes for individual reflection, then share as comfortable)

1. In what specific area is God currently trying to correct or instruct you? How are you responding?
2. Is there a relationship, habit, or situation that you know is hindering your spiritual growth, but you've been resistant to change?

3. What would it look like for you to "humble yourself before the Lord" again this week in a practical way?
 4. Where do you sense God wants to promote or elevate you? What character development needs to happen first?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE to focus on

Option 1: Embrace Correction

- Pray this prayer daily: "Lord, show me where I'm wrong. Open my eyes. Correct me."
- When correction comes (from Scripture, a person, or circumstances), practice saying: "That was my fault. I'm sorry. I'll work on changing that."

Option 2: Daily Spiritual Feeding

- Commit to reading God's Word every day this week, even if just for 10-15 minutes.
- Journal one "gold nugget" you discover each day.
- Share with the group next week what God revealed to you.

Option 3: Identify & Remove an Obstacle

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one thing hindering your spiritual growth (a show, relationship, habit, attitude).
- Take a concrete step to remove or change it this week.
- Find an accountability partner in the group to check in with.

Option 4: Practice Humility in Relationships

- Identify one relationship where pride has created distance or conflict.
 - Take the initiative to humble yourself—apologize, ask forgiveness, or seek reconciliation.
 - Don't add "but" to your apology—take full responsibility for your part.
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Group Prayer Focus

Pray together for eyes and that see, ears that hear, and hearts that understand.

Ephesians 1:15–23 (NKJV)

Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom - ¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Looking Ahead

Memory Verse for the Week:

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." — James 4:10

Leader Notes

- Create a safe loving environment where people feel comfortable sharing struggles with pride and areas where they need correction.
 - Be vulnerable as a leader about your own journey with humility.
 - Celebrate testimonies of growth and change.
 - Remind the group that conviction is different from condemnation—God corrects because He loves us.
 - Emphasize that promotion is coming for those who humble themselves—this should encourage, not discourage.
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Closing Thought:

"At the end of humility is honor. God is not opposed to us being exalted or honored. He just wants to be the one who does it."

