

Humility

The **Key** to



1. Amazing **Relationships**
2. **Raising** the **Level** of Leadership
Around You
3. Brilliant **Decisions** &
4. Emotional **Safety**

Style of writing!

I love bullet points!

Don't talk me to death.

Give me your bottom line first and then make your explanation brief.
That is why:

- My table of contents gives the main subjects!
- The Intro. briefly answers each question in the booklet.
- The chapters are brief studies, filling in each point.

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1. The **BASICS**

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This
Section
is easy
to Skim

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This
Section is
very Life
Changing

(Expanded study in chap. 2 – pg. 5-14)

The BASICS

What is MOST IMPORTANT to God?

Is it Faith, Love, Discipleship, Wisdom, or Humility?

I was a **brand-new Christian** in July 1977. Over the **next 5 years** I graduated from Bible College and was in full time ministry. Yet, I was **still confused** about what was Most Important to God!

Faith Movement!

The “Faith” movement was blowing up the Body of Christ. Everywhere people were saying that the only thing that counts is “Faith”.

I saw a lot of scripture for that concept. However, those who were in the “Faith” movement seemed so much more concerned about their PERSONAL Blessings, than what I saw in Scripture.

Discipleship Movement!

The “Discipleship” movement was also blowing up the Body of Christ. Everywhere people were saying that the only thing that counts is being “Discipled”.

I saw a lot of scripture for that concept. However, those who were in the “Discipleship” movement seemed so much more CONTROLLING, than what I saw in Scripture.

My Personal Research

I set out to read every verse in the Bible and to **read** the Bible **straight through 5 times in 5 years**. I had a **desperate desire** to know God’s Heart.

Over those 5 years, I **discovered two** things that have **carried** me for **many decades** since then. I discovered that:

1. The Bible Clearly says that “Humility” is the most important trait to God.
2. Humility is the doorway to every other Godly Trait.

What is MOST IMPORTANT to God?

Is it Faith, Love, Discipleship, Wisdom, or Humility?

I found over 200 verses on “Humility”.

*Is. 66:2 Declares the Lord, “This is the **one I esteem**, he who is **humble** and **contrite** in **spirit** and **trembles** at my **word**.”*

*Mt. 18:4 Therefore, whoever **humbles** himself like this child is the **greatest** in the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Notice how Jesus REPEATED this statement just a few days later in Mt. 23.

*Mt. 23:11, 12 The **greatest** among you will be your **servant**.
For whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever
humbles himself will be **exalted**.*

How Jesus described himself!

*Mt. 11:29 For I am gentle and **humble** in heart.*

*1 Pt. 5:5 & Ja. 4:6 God opposes the proud
but gives **grace** to the **humble**.*

I wrote out all these verses in a document.

However, what I **learned** in **chapter 2 “The Blessings”** clarified everything for me about understanding God’s Heart.

Definition of Humility

“Good” Definitions of Humility.

- 360-degree empathy!
- Critical Thinking!
- The ability to see an issue from ALL perspectives!
- Humility is the **OPPOSITE** of being **Blind**!

ALL of us have a tendency toward being **BLIND**!

We see issues from our **own emotional** perspective. We have an inbred, selfish determination to want our perspective to be **RIGHT**!

This is the **Root** of **Every Argument** & **Every Tension** in our Lives

The BEST Definition of Humility

**Aggressively Asking Jesus How
His Perspective is DIFFERENT
from My Perspective in Specific Situations**

All of us will stand before Jesus one day. On that day every motive and deception will be revealed. Any area where we **see differently** from Jesus is **deception**.

With Humility we are asking Jesus to let us **See TODAY** as we **WILL CLEARLY SEE** on that day when we stand before Jesus.

Here is one of the **most important verses** in all the Bible.

*Prov. 1:23 If you had **Responded** to my **REBUKE**,
I would have **Poured Out** my **Heart** to you and
Made My Thoughts Known to You*

Please hear the passionate emotion in Proverbs 1:23. God has such a deep desire to **“Pour Out”** His Heart to us.

The **Price Tag** is us **Wanting** to **Hear** where we are **Wrong**!

How is Humility the Doorway to:

- **Faith,**
- to God's **Love,**
- God's **Truth,**
- God's **Wisdom,**
- God's **Power,**
- God's **Mercy, &**
- God's **Victory?**

Every Attitude of God is a GIFT from God!

Faith is a Gift from God. (*Eph. 2:8*)

Love is a Gift from God. (*I John 4:7*)

Truth is a Gift from God. (*John 16:13*)

Wisdom is a Gift from God. (*James 1:5*)

Power is a Gift from God (*Acts 1:8*)

Mercy is a Gift from God (*La. 3:22-23*)

Victory is a Gift from God (*I Cor. 15:57*)

Humility exposes a Need!

If I am **CONVINCED** that **My Perspective**
does **NOT NEED** to **CHANGE**

I DON'T NEED God!

The instant, I see the Great Gap between God's Perspective and My Perspective, I find myself calling out to our Great God.

Help Me Jesus!

Now, His Mercy and His Gifts can flow into my heart.

This is why Humility is the Doorway to every other Good Thing in Christ.

Chap. 2

The BLESSINGS**SURPRISE!!!****Seeking Counsel Helps you to Avoid Critical People!**

I made a **HUGE MISTAKE** the first **20+** years that I pastored. I was so **determined** to always stay humble that I **surrounded** myself with **Critical** People.

Personally, I am a Passionate **Encourager**. I love **Believing** the **BEST** about people. I also love **supporting new ideas**.

Yet, the people that surrounded me seemed to enjoy pointing out every flaw in me or in my ideas before we even tested the idea. I found myself corrected, rebuked and shut down continually.

Eventually, I realized that **True Humility** is best seen by those who **SEEK Counsel**.

1. When someone constantly seeks counsel, then they **DON'T NEED Critical People** in their lives because they **SEEK Counsel BEFORE** making any final decisions.
2. In addition, in the “**Expectations**” booklet, I explain how I learned to “**EXPECT**” the **same attitudes** of those around me that I expected of myself.

Between these two life-changing truths, I began to surround myself with cheerful healthy encouragers who believe the best about me and others.

My **life** is now ten thousand times **easier** and **sweeter** than before. I am even **more eager** to **seek counsel** from my team because they are so enjoyable to be around.

Please take special notice of the verses below that say that seeking counsel is supposed to be a very **PLEASANT** Experience. I put a star on those verses.



When we are **EAGER** to hear how the Lord's perspective may be **Different** than ours **AND** we **surround ourselves** with **Encouraging, Positive** People, it is **PURE JOY** to seek counsel.

Prov. 11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls,
but **victory** is won through **many advisers**.

Prov. 12:15 The way of fools seems right to them,
but the **wise listen to advice**.

Prov. 12:25 Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a **kind word cheers** it up.

★ Prov. 15:23 A person has **joy** in an **apt answer**, and how **delightful** is a timely word!

Prov. 18:15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge;
the **ears** of the **wise seek** it out.

Prov. 19:20 Listen to **counsel** and **receive instruction**, that
you may be **wise** in your latter days.

Prov. 20:18 Plans are established by **seeking advice**;
so if you wage war, **obtain guidance**.

Prov. 24:6 For by **wise counsel** you will wage your own war, and
in a **multitude** of **counselors** there is **safety**.

★ Prov. 24:26 An honest answer is like a **kiss** on the **lips**.

★ Prov. 25:11 Timely **advice is lovely**,
like **golden apples** in a **silver basket**.

★ Prov. 27:9 Perfume and **incense** bring joy to the heart,
and the **pleasantness** of a friend
springs from their **heartfelt advice**.

★ Is. 50:4 The Sovereign Lord has given me his **words** of
wisdom, so that I know how to **comfort** the **weary**.

★ Eccl. 12:10 The Teacher sought to find **delightful sayings** and write words of **truth** accurately.

★ I Cor. 13:4 **Love is Kind!**

★ II Cor. 6:4,6 Rather, as servants of God we **commend ourselves** in every way:... in purity, **understanding, patience** and **kindness**; in the Holy Spirit and in **sincere love**; ☆

Surprise AGAIN!!! HOW to Ask for Advice

*Prov. 18:2 **Fools** find **No Pleasure** in **Understanding**
but **DELIGHT** in airing their **Own Opinion***

The sad truth is that **ALL** of us can **tend** to be **Fools** who give **OPINIONS Without** first **Listening Well**.

As I teach in the “Expectations” booklet it is
OUR JOB
to set the Expectations **BEFORE** Asking Advice.

There are **TWO** powerful Expectations that **ensure** that **JESUS** **leads** the discussion and **Not Opinionated** People.

1. First, please tell me what you **LIKE** about this idea or situation?
2. Second, please give me **OPTIONS** in your suggestions.

*Ja. 1:19 My Dear Brothers Take Note of This **Everyone** should
be **Quick** to **Listen**, Slow to Speak and Slow to become Angry*

*Prov. 18:13 Whoever **Answers BEFORE Listening** is both
Foolish and **Shameful***

What do you **LIKE** about this Idea or Situation?

When you always ask every person in the room to share what they **LIKE** about this idea or situation, **FAITH** is released and **Listening** is **COMPLETED**!

Negative people are very **LAZY** and **PRIDEFUL** people. They like to hear themselves talk. They also love putting others down. It makes them feel superior.

When you first go around the room and everyone expresses some positive point, **EVERYONE** sees the situation more **fully & clearly**.

What other OPTIONS do you see?

When a person only gives **ONE** Suggestion it can be very **CONTROLLING**.

When a team is required to use the word “Options” and to always seek **Multiple** Options, it keeps **JESUS** as the **center** of the conversation.

1. It also gives **Great Honor** to the person who has to apply the options.
2. It gives great **Value** and **Energy** to the **Team**
3. It **Increases Creativity**.
4. It allows for a season of **Testing** and **Experimentation** among the team.

Amazing Relationships

When you learn how to ask for advice, it opens doors of **trust, communication, wisdom** and **confidence** in every relationship.

The impact on **Marriages, Parenting, Ministry & Business** are specific and need to be studied.

Here is the Basic Format.

BEFORE you ask any person or group for advice, you share your **Three Expectations**.

1. Please let me **Finish** my **Explanation**!
2. Please first give me something **Positive** or **Encouraging**.
3. Please always give me at least **Two Good Options**.

Not Interrupting does Not include Active Listening.

In our booklet on “Active Listening” I explain that it is fine to both:

1. Ask Questions &
2. Give Compliments

when someone is sharing

Those two points of Active Listening are **NOT Interrupting**.

They simply give clarity and allow the person to continue to share.

This Solves an Age-Old Issue in Marriages

For decades, I have heard the **HORRIBLE** advice that a husband should just **LISTEN** and **NOT** offer **Advice**, when something has upset his wife. That is like asking a husband to **Stop Breathing**. His wife is hurting and everything in him wants to **HELP**. This desire to help is **from GOD**. Jesus made men as **Protectors**. To ask the husband to Just Listen is **Pure Cruelty**.

On the other hand, giving advice can also be **Cruel** and **Suffocating**.

Here is the amazingly simple and effective solution. When a wife is hurting, she can **FIRST** tell her husband that she has 3 Expectations.

I have seen thousands of situations where these expectations opened safe, warm and wonderful dialogue in a marriage.

In my own marriage, my wife and I have used this method for over 40 years. Many times, my response to my wife is that I think she is **Amazing** and I **Don't** have **Any** suggestions. My wife really enjoys those times. 😊

These same expectations apply to when a husband has some concerning issue in which he needs his wife's support and counsel.

Each time a husband or wife gives these three clear expectations **BEFORE** asking for advice you:

1. Grow your **own** Leadership!
2. Grow your **Mate's** level of **Leadership**!
3. Make **Brilliant Decisions** Together!
4. Create **Emotional Safety** in your Marriage!

“Safe” people are MADE more than FOUND.

From my experience, 5% of people are always Safe and 5% of the people are always Critical.

However, the middle 90% can be **Trained** to become **Safe** if you give clear expectations **BEFORE** asking for Advice.

Parents and Children – Raising Strong Leaders

Many times, parents are hesitant to ask for their children's advice, because their children give **foolish** or **harsh** advice.

When you seek your children's advice and **train** your children to live within these 3 expectations, you teach them to be **gracious, positive listeners** who learn how to **evaluate good options** in a **team** environment. Teaching this skill to your children will cause them to be **massively successful leaders** in their **careers** and **relationships**. Parents will be much more **eager** to **seek** their children's advice in this safe environment. By seeking their children's advice regularly, the parent/child relationship will be **extremely close** and **tender**.

In addition, these three expectations will give the **children** the safety to **seek** their **parents'** advice. Because the parents are limited to these three expectations, they will give much **better advice**.

Businesses and Ministry

These same tools are also extremely effective in both business and ministry.

I do have one addition that can increase respect and success in business and ministry. Bosses can be long-winded! Many teammates in both business and ministry are familiar with a boss who takes a LONG time to explain his perspective.

A true Servant Leader puts all their thoughts and questions into a written document long BEFORE the team meeting. By sending this written document to the team before the meeting, it accomplishes two things.

1. The boss has much greater clarity. Written communication requires much more precision than verbal babble.
2. The Team will look forward to meeting with you and have much better input.

May your **Life** be **Filled** with the
Best of God's **Wisdom** and **Favor**
as you **Walk** in the Amazing Power of **Humility**.

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