

## Humility That Gains the Victory Part-3

This morning I address this message not only to the congregation, but also to the graduates in particular. As we go through stages of life, it's important to keep the main thing the main thing. A foundation has been laid in our lives by the Word of God, and we must always remember our roots, as **Eph. 3:17-19 TPT** says, *"Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of His love will become the very source and root of your life."*

*"18-19. Then you will be empowered to discover what every holy one experiences – the great magnitude (or "excellence") of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions. How deeply intimate and far-reaching is His love! How enduring & inclusive it is! Endless love beyond measurement that transcends our understanding – this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to over-flowing with the fullness of God!"*

Please remember that it takes humility to love, for God's love is not received when in a state of pride, but when we humble ourselves and believe. Pride is the staunch enemy of humility, but it is humility that gains the victory through submission to God's Spirit of grace.

**Gal. 5** emphasizes both "A Life of Freedom" & "The Holy Spirit, Our Victory." In **v. 16-18 TPT** the Apostle Paul tells the backslidden Galatians who have gone back under the Law, *"Let me emphasize this: As you yield to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, you will abandon the cravings of your self-life (or "the natural realm"). 17. When your self-life craves the things that offend the Holy Spirit, you hinder Him from living free within you! And the Holy Spirit's intense cravings hinder your self-life from dominating you! So then, the two incompatible and conflicting forces within you are your self-life of the flesh and the new creation life of the Spirit. 18. But when you yield to the life of*

*the Spirit (actually “Spirit-Wind”), you will no longer be living under the law, but soaring above it!”*

When I was a boy growing up in Western PA, there was a very large empty lot across the railroad tracks by Route 88. It was destined to become a mobile home park, but my older brother, Tom, saw it as a place to take his younger brothers and fly a kite on a beautiful windy Spring day in PA. That kite rose higher and higher until it soared high above us, requiring us to keep buying more string at a nearby mom & pop store. As long as we kept feeding it string, it rose ever higher, but we had to have it in our control for it to soar on the wings of the wind! Oh what a thrill! But then the wind died down, and no matter what we tried to do, that kite was subject to the greater force of gravity now, and down it slowly came. **The Holy Spirit enables us to soar above the gravity of the flesh.** His “Wind” is always blowing, so to speak. But He must be yielded to by trusting Him through God’s Word. God’s Word is Jesus and what He said to us and did for us & others while on earth. **He’s now supplying us all we need for a life of godliness through the power of Holy Spirit from Heaven!** Next week we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Let’s prepare by faith for a fresh outpouring!

In **Philippians 2** Paul the Apostle shares about the perfect unity we have with one another through our relationship with Christ Jesus, *the Anointed One*. **Vv. 1-5 TPT** “*Look at how much encouragement **you’ve found** in your relationship with the Anointed One! **You are filled to overflowing with His comforting love.** You have experienced a deepening friendship with the Holy Spirit & have felt His tender affection & mercy. **2.** So I’m asking you, my friends, that you **be joined together** in perfect unity – with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. **Walk together** (or “be like-minded”) with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy.” **3. Be free from pride-filled opinions,** for they will only harm your cherished unity. **Don’t***

*allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves. 4. Abandon every display of selfish-ness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others in-stead of your own interests.*

**“5. And consider the example that Jesus, the anointed One, has set before us. Let this mindset become your motivation.”** Consider Jesus’ life as an example of how we 2 are to live in love, freedom & fullness of Holy Spirit! **“Consider”** means to think about carefully, especially with regard to taking some action.

**SFLB note on vv. 5-11:** “Paul uses the example of Christ to enforce an appeal for unselfishness. As Christ willingly laid aside His heavenly glory to come to earth and die, we should be willing to look beyond our own interest for the sake of others. Although his purpose is to strengthen his exhortation rather than to establish doctrine, Paul here presents one of the greatest statements in the NT concerning the Person & work of Jesus Christ.” Jesus is to be our everything – **Lord & Savior!**

### **The Humbled and Exalted Christ, Our Example**

Have you ever ridden on a big old fast roller coaster? They always have one very slow high climb that leads to a very fast thrilling drop! We’ve been climbing. Now here we go!

**V. 6 TPT** *“He existed in the form of God, yet He gave no thought to seizing equality with God as His supreme prize (TPT note: “Or “as something to be exploited.”).*

**SFLB note:** “The essence of Jesus Christ is the very same as that of the Father, for He is Himself God (Heb. 1:3). **NKJV “Did not consider it robbery to be equal with God”** references the fact Jesus saw His being God as something to be given away, not selfishly grasped. He willingly became a human being on our behalf, relinquishing His glory through retaining His deity.”

**V. 7** *“Instead He emptied Himself of His outward glory (NKJV **“made Himself of no reputation”**) by reducing Himself to the form of a lowly servant. He became human!”* Today people everywhere are trying to make themselves a **reputation** – “recognition by others of some characteristic or ability; public esteem.” Jesus sought only the approval of His heavenly Father. Until, on the Cross, He cried, *“It is finished, My bride (Jn. 19:30).”* And *“Father, into your hands I commit My Spirit. (Luke 23:46).”*

Try to imagine living so selflessly for others, willing to sacrifice all for the benefit of others. Yet not doing for self-gain or reward. **Sounds a bit like Christ-like motherhood & Heavenly Fatherhood combined!** And He is our example to follow, to be imitated regardless of the cost, because He is God’s will for us.

### **The Magnitude of Christ’s Love for His Bride**

**V. 8 TPT** *“He humbled Himself and became vulnerable, choosing to be revealed as a man and **was obedient**. He was a perfect example, even in His death – a criminal’s death by crucifixion!”*

**SFLB WW** **“Cross**, Gk *stauros*: Originally, this word was used to refer to an upright stake or pole; this word came to mean the cross that was used for execution. The cross was not only the most brutal form of execution the Romans could invent, it was also the most shameful (Phil. 2:8). The phrase “carrying one’s cross” was a reference to the way condemned men carried the crosspiece of the cross upon which they were to be hanged. Jesus used this term metaphorically (in **Luke 14:27** *“And whoever does not bear his **cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”*) to refer to enduring suffering even to the point of death. We are to follow the example of Jesus even to the point of sacrificing our very lives – taking up the cross He calls us to bear, just as He bore the shame and agony of the Cross for us.”

## **Christ's Humility Leads to Exaltation in Glory**

**V. 9 TPT** *"Because of that obedience, God exalted Him and multiplied His greatness! He has not been given the greatest of all names!"*

**Vv. 10-11 TPT** *"The authority of the Name of Jesus causes every knee to bow in reverence! Everything and everyone will one day submit to His name – in the heavenly realm, in the earthly realm, & in the demonic realm (or "heaven, earth, & under the earth."). 11. And every tongue will proclaim in every language: Jesus Christ is Lord YAHWEH," bringing glory and honor to God, His Father!"*

**SFLB note on vv. 10-11:** "Christ's exaltation is absolute; His lordship is universal, although it will not be universally recognized until his return (**Rev. 1:7 TPT** *"Behold! He appears within the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. And all the people of the earth will weep with sorrow because of Him. And so it is to be! Amen."*)."

**TPT note:** "Every one of us has *"pierced"* His side with the spear of our unbelief and sin."

So, with these words and thoughts in mind, let's consider our ways and how we're living.

- Is it in humility, and *through faith that works by love*?
- Are we allowing the Mind of Christ to be in us as we walk through this life, living sacrificially, lovingly toward our fellow man?
- Have we purposed to be filled with the fullness of Christ by the Holy Spirit's power & life?

If not, what hinders us? Our failure to submit and obey the Lord will surely delay and possibly deny the gaining of a heavenly life on earth.

Let's give Jesus our all – our time, our talents and our treasures,  
whatever those might be.

May the Lord be glorified as we take up our cross and come after  
Him as true disciples.