

# Humility that Gains the Victory

This past Wednesday evening after service, I was talking with Charlotte Speer. She happened to mention that her understanding was that pride was a source of anxiety. I found that to be true. Biblically, pride is defined as an arrogant, self-exalting heart attitude that puts self before God and others, acting as the root of all sin. It can be extreme self-sufficiency. It takes the glory that belongs to God alone and keeps it for ourselves. Basically pride is self-worship.

The next morning in the 8:00 prayer meeting in the Y/YA building, I was thinking about pride within my own heart. I began asking Father God to deal with it in me, wherever it's found & whatever it's masquerading as. Soon I felt a calming peace come over me, a gentle Presence that let me know that my prayer had been heard and was being answered. We took Communion, as we do at the end of every prayer meeting in the morning.

Then it happened, that in the breaking of the bread, as my wife was praying over it, I knew by revelation that every provision of grace was mine because I was in the Christ's Body as all Christ-followers are, and that position contained everything that pertains to life and godliness. I understand at a deeper level than ever before that my Source was my Father because I was in His son through Christ Jesus, and that takes care of anxiety, lack, and a sense of insecurity in general. I beheld the path to intimacy with the Lord, not by what I do, but by who I am in Jesus!

That **revelation of acceptance** is for everyone who has a covenant with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **not by works**.

For works alone will generate pride, give rise to a false sense of security and rob a person of the joy of the Lord. In **Phil. 3** the Apostle Paul encouraged and also warned the followers of Christ. **Vv. 1-11 TPT** *"My beloved ones, don't ever limit your joy or*

*fail to rejoice in the wonderful experience of knowing our Lord Jesus!*

*“I don’t mind repeating what I’ve already written you because it protects you – 2. Beware of those religious hypocrites (lit. “dogs”) who teach that you should be circumcised to please God. 3. For we have already experienced “heart-circumcision,” and we worship God in the power & freedom of the Holy Spirit, not in laws and religious duties. We are those who boast in what Jesus Christ has done, and not in what we can accomplish in our own strength.*

*“4. It’s true that I once relied on all that I had become. I had a reason to boast & impress people with my accomplishments – more than others – for my pedigree was impeccable.*

### **Paul’s Example**

*“5. I was born a true Hebrew of the heritage of Israel as the son of a Jewish man from the tribe of Benjamin. I was circumcised eight days after my birth and was raised in the strict tradition of Orthodox Judaism, living a separated and devout life as a Pharisee.” This meant that Paul could trace his family lineage all the way back to Abraham (without Ancestry.com!) & he did not adopt Greek customs. Pride would be found in being a Benjamite, for they were honored as the tribe most loyal to the house of David. As a “separated one,” Paul religiously followed all the laws of Judaism, which were very many!*

*“V. 6 TPT And concerning the righteousness of the Torah (“the written law”), no one surpassed me; I was without peer. Furthermore, as a fiery defender of the truth, I persecuted the Messianic believers with religious zeal.*

*“7. Yet all of the accomplishments that I once took credit for, I’ve now forsaken them and I regard it all as nothing compared to the delight of experiencing Jesus Christ as my Lord! 8. To truly know Him meant letting go of everything from my past and throwing all my boasting on the garbage heap. It’s all like a pile of*

*manure to me now, so that I may be enriched in the reality of knowing Jesus Christ and embrace Him as Lord in all of His greatness. I prophetically saw people walking down a hall, past pictures of hurts & accomplishments, taking them down 1 by 1.*

*“9. My passion is to be consumed with Him and not cling to my own “righteousness” based in keeping the written Law. My only “righteousness” will be His, based on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ – the very righteousness that comes from God. 10.*

*And I continually long to know the wonders of Jesus and to experience the overflowing power of His resurrection working in me. I will be one with Him in His sufferings and become like Him in His death. 11. Only then will I be able to experience complete oneness with Him in His resurrection from the realm of death.”*

**SFLB** note on **vv. 7-8**: “What Paul had considered assets became liabilities. He laid aside human achievements in order to receive the free grace of God.” **V. 8** “Paul’s **knowledge of Christ** involves not merely an intellectual apprehension, but an experiential knowledge resulting from his personal communion with Christ.

In contrast to the life he now has, his former manner of life is **rubbish**, scraps fit only to be thrown to the dogs.”

**SFLB** note on **v. 10**: “Knowing Christ not only means experiencing the power of the risen Lord, but also sharing His sufferings.”

Paul’s great prayer for the Church at Ephesus is available for us today: **Eph. 1:19-20 TPT** “*I pray that you will **continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power made available to you through faith.** Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power **20.** that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted Him (or “seated Him”) to the*

*place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm!”*

*Do we “continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power ...that was released when God raised Christ from the dead...that is made available to us through faith? This immense power that will be an advertisement [for God’s glory] as it works through us?”*

Let’s now reflect on **The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector** in **Luke 18:9-14 TPT**. Here we get a picture of what the Apostle Paul may have been like before Christ. This can apply to us as well.

### **Humility in Prayer**

*“Jesus taught this parable to those who were convinced they were morally upright and to those who trust in their own virtue yet looked down on others with disgust. 10. “Two men who went into the temple to pray. One was a proud religious leader, the other a despised tax collector. 11-12 The religious leader stood apart from the others and prayed, “How I thank you, O God, that I’m not wicked like everyone else. They’re cheaters, swindlers, and crooks – like that tax collector over there. God, you know that I never cheat or commit adultery; I fast from food twice a week and give you a tenth of all I earn.’*

**13.** *“The tax collector stood alone in a corner, away from the Holy Place, and covered his face in his hands, feeling that he was unworthy even to look up to God. **Beating** his breast (Gk. *typto* (“strike violently; also used of the scourging of Jesus”), he sobbed with brokenness and tears saying, ‘God, please, in your mercy and because of the blood sacrifice, **forgive me\***, for I am nothing but the most miserable of all sinners!’ \***TPT note:** “The Gk. text uses a word that implies he was saying to God, “Look at me as you look at the blood-sprinkled mercy seat.”*

**14.** *“Which one of them left for home that day reconciled to God? The humble tax collector, not the religious leader! For everyone who praises himself will one day be publicly humili-ated, and everyone who humbles himself will one day be publicly honored and lifted up.”*

We need to be aware when pride has made its way into our hearts. It often masquerades as false humility, which is a deceptive form of pride. The excessive devaluation of one’s self or “humblebragging” can really be self-centered acts fishing for compliments or showcasing one’s accomplishments. For instance, complaining about a messy house to a friend when it’s actually very clean in hopes that the other person will give praises is fishing for compliments. Telling others how bad your cooking is when it’s actually very good can also be fishing. The point here is that we should let others praise us, but not at the expense of having to pull it out of people by false pretenses.

Peter should know. He took our Lord to task on a few occasions, trusting in his own opinions more than the Living Truth Who stood before him. Peter learned the hard way to submit to God and resist the Devil. In **1 Pet. 5:5-7 TPT** we read these words of his **after** he wrote to the elders about their need for humble interpersonal relationships in vv. 2 & 3, *“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be **clothed with humility\***, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (**Prov. 3:34**).” **6.** *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **7.** casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”**

\*The **humility** that we’re to be “clothed” with is spoken of by Paul in **Acts 20:19**, where he says that he always lived among the Elders of Ephesus by *“serving the Lord in all humility.”* **WW:** This is the Gk. word “*tapeinophrosune*” meaning “modesty, lowliness,

humble-mindedness, a sense of moral insignificance, and a humble attitude of unselfish concern for the welfare of others. It is a total absence of arrogance, conceit, & haughtiness. The word was unknown in classical Greek. Only by abstaining from self-aggrandizement (i.e. boasting) can members of the Christian community maintain unity and harmony.”

In **2 Cor. 6:11-13**, the Apostle Paul is imploring the Corinthian believers to open up their hearts and be forthright with him as he has been with them. He then digresses, and picks up the appeal in **7:2**, saying that no one in the Corinthian church has a just accusation against him. In fact, Paul describes his travels and the great anxiety he experienced while waiting to hear news from Titus about how the Corinthians were doing (vv. 5-7). **See TPT note (b) on 7:5.**

In **v. 6** we find the word “*downcast*” in the **NKJV**, “*depressed*” in **TPT**. **WW**: This is the word “*humble*”; Gk. *tapeinos* “Literally “low to the ground.” Metaphorically, the word signifies low estate, lowly in position and power, humble.” The Apostles were not esteemed as we suppose we should be today. They had it rough indeed! Paul was distressed because of the severe letter of correction he had to write to the Corinthians regarding a sinful situation that went uncorrected in the Corinthian church.

**SFLB** note: “**Titus** brought the good news that the Corinthians had reconciled themselves to Paul and had responded to his *severe letter* with repentance and obedience, which brought him comfort (or encouragement) and joy.” Paul agonized over the fact that he had caused them sorrow, however, his letter had not hurt them, but instead helped them (vv. 8-9). This correction brought lasting effects (“*godly sorrow*”, v. 10; v. 11).

Sin needs to be repented of, and Paul was betwixt & between, doing his apostolic duty and suffering the outcome as a Papa. Paul acted humbly and because of his actions, salvation was brought about & the crisis in the Corinthian church was averted.