

Humility

God is overwhelming us with Grace. That's His nature. It's God nature to act in grace, which brings us to our subject, humility.

We have looked at humility for so long as something hard to understand. No one knows what a humble person is. We try to define humility and we miss it a mile. We've always thought a humble person had a sad expression, shuffled his feet, dressed poorly, never washed his hair, and fasted a lot. You feel self conscious around a person you think is humble.

Have you ever tried to pin down humility? About the time you think you have it defined, you've missed it. It's evasive. If you **think** you're humble, you're not! You can be humble, but you can't **know** it. That's **pride** to admit you're humble. The definition contradicts itself.

I heard about a pastor who nominated a man in the congregation as the most humble man in the whole church. He then had a big "Humble" button made for him. He brought him up before the entire congregation and was about to give it to him and then decided not to. The man **wanted to wear it!**

We have always thought pride and humility couldn't go together. I'm going to teach you how to be humble and proud of it. We are going to pull out those humble buttons and put them back on.

Romans 8:32 tells us that grace does not stop at salvation. We read in Ephesians 2:8 & 9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

We were born again in God's grace. But grace continues in Roman 8:32. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **freely** give us all things?" Notice **freely**. That's still in grace. He is saying that He gave the most for you when you were born again. What can He do now? He can only give you **more**. God's the only one I know who can give **more** than the **most**. **He**

freely gives us all things.

In Proverbs 3:34 it says, "Surely he scorneth the scorners: but giveth grace unto the lowly." Let's stop and look at that for a minute. What does it say God is doing to the scorner? He is doing the same thing to that person that that person is doing to Him. But what does he do to the lowly? He gives them **grace**. Now another translation for lowly is **humble**. He scorns the scorner and giveth grace to the humble.

I like the first statement in James 4:6, it reads, "He giveth more grace." Didn't I say God's the only one who could do more than the most? Who does he giveth more grace." Wherefore he saith, (here we have a quote from Proverbs 3:34 that we have just read), God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

Alright, remember? He scorns the scorner. I'm going to change the translation here slightly and keep it in context with Proverbs 3:34, "God resists the resister." God resists the resister, but he giveth grace to the humble. Can you see that God is doing to that person what that person is doing to God? God is offering grace but somebody's resisting him. Therefore, God has to resist him.

James 4:7 & 8 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh unto you."

I Peter 5:5 says, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be **clothed with humility: . . .**"

Now does that sound like something you don't want anybody to see? He's saying here be **clothed** with humility. Apparently humility is something for you to flaunt. It's something for you to wear like clothing. It's something for people to see. Again, I Peter 5:5 says, "Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." This is also a direct quote from Proverbs 3:34. Let's read it again the same way we read it before. For God resisteth the resister and giveth grace to the humble.

I Peter 5:6-8 says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,

that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

I want you to notice something again. We have three verses of scripture that are all being quoted from Proverbs 3:34 where God resists a resister. In Proverbs it says He scorns the scorner and in I Peter 5:5 it says He resisteth the proud.

Let's look at grace a little more. In Romans 11:6 we read, "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

You say, that doesn't make a lot of sense. Well, let me explain it to you. He is simply saying that grace and works are totally contrary one to the other. They cannot mix. They are totally separate. It's either grace or it's works. It can't be partially grace and partially works otherwise grace is no more grace and works is no more works.

A poet once wrote that "east is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet." You cannot mix a little east with west or grace with works. Paul is simply saying that "grace is grace and works is works and never the twain shall meet." You cannot mix grace and works.

Paul put it this way one time, A little leaven, leavens the whole lump. (I Corinthians 5:6). It's not just a little bit of works mixed in with grace. It's either grace or works. You cannot mix them.

But, I want to show you something. Grace is given to every man. In Titus 2:11 it says, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all** men."

Can you see what is meant when he says that "God resists a resister but he giveth grace to the humble?" Can you see that in effect God is offering grace to **every** man but there are some people who resist and say, "I do not want it?" Others say, "I'll work for it."

"Grace is grace and works are works and never the twain shall meet." You have

come on God's ground, and that is totally grace. In grace, God has **abounded** toward you. (Ephesians 1:8). He's given you everything. But what you need to do is **take** it.

During the depression there were people who couldn't find jobs. I heard about many of them who would go door to door, looking for work. When someone would come and open the door, this man would say, "I want work. If you have any odd jobs around the house, I'll do anything if you'll give me just a little bit of food for the family."

Here is what would happen many times. The man of the house would say, "My family is just sitting down to eat and we have plenty of food. I don't need to have anything done around the house. Why don't you just bring your family in and eat with us?"

Now a proud man would say, "No! I don't want your **charity**. I would rather work for it!" But a humble man would say, "I didn't work for it **earn it or deserve** it, but I'll take it. Thank you." A **humble** man will walk in with his family and sit down to something that he doesn't deserve.

This is the definition of **humility**. Humility is the ability to receive what **you don't deserve**.

Some people say, "I don't think Christians should own anything. I'm going to live in that house until it falls apart." **You proud thing**. "I don't want any of this world's goods." **That is the height of pride**. A humble man will say "I didn't deserve it, but look what God gave me." And God says I'll give you **more** grace, I'll draw **nigh** to that man.

Can you see that God doesn't care what you drive as long as you give the glory to him? He says if you'll humble yourself, I'll exalt you. God wants his people to drive exalted cars, live in exalted homes, wear exalted clothes. As long as you give Him all the glory because he is the one that exalted you.

But a proud man says, "I won't take it." Thinking he's being humble, he's really being proud. He is resisting God and God has no alternative but to resist him.

When I saw this truth I asked for forgiveness. I don't know how many times, people tried to give me something and I wouldn't take it. When I saw this in the scripture I said, "God, I was resisting you." And he said, "That's right."

I want you to notice something. He said in James 4:6, "...he giveth **more** grace ..." I said that He did the most for you at salvation, but now He's going to do **more** than the most. He's going to freely give you **all** things.

Here is a beautiful cycle of truth I started comprehending. God gives and I receive. He draws nigh to me and gives me more grace. I humble myself and receive it. He draws nigher and gives even more grace. Eventually all my needs are going to be met. He's going to be giving me more than I need. I said, "God is that possible?" He said, "Yes. What does Luke 6:38 say?" It says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom..." Running over! I said, "Lord, is that possible that you really want to give me more than I need?" He said, "I want you to be exalted."

Listen, we have been sowing and sowing and sowing and it's time to reap. But pride is coming in and cutting off our harvest. God is saying, "I want you to take it, and we're saying, "No Lord, I'm going to be humble and not take it." He says, "You're being **proud** and I'm having to resist you."

A humble man keeps on receiving and giving God the glory. A humble man will eventually go far beyond having just his needs met. He will be riding on the desires of his heart.

God does not give to you because you need it, but because He loves you. He's a God of grace. I had a hard time understanding how God wanted me to receive something when I didn't **need** it. So, I asked the Lord about it. He again told me to look at Luke 6:38.

He said, "What does the first part say? Give." He said, "Who are you giving to?" And I said, "To you." He said, "Do I need it if But I'll never be so proud as to refuse to take it. I'll always humble myself and receive it from you." He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. What does he need with my ten dollars? Why does he take it? So he can give back

to me.

I began to ask God to forgive me for the times I would not receive money from people because I didn't **need** it. I was resisting God. I thought **they** were missing God, when all the time I was. Being the same as God, I should receive it whether I need it or not.

Down in my spirit I knew something else was coming. He said, "Is it not more blessed to give than it is to receive?" And I said, "That's right. That's why many people won't take something. They would rather give and get a bigger reward." And He said to me, "Let me ask you this. Who is giving to you?" I said, "Basically **you** are Lord." He said, "Isn't it more blessed for me to give than it is to receive? By not taking from me you're robbing me of a blessing!"

Listen, it's about time we quit looking at a Rolls Royce driving into town and saying, "The mafia must be here." It's about time we say, "I wonder what **spirit-filled, born again** man is driving that car?"

You see, God doesn't care if you drive a Rolls Royce on Monday and a Cadillac on Tuesday or a Mercedes on Wednesday and a Jaguar on Thursday. As long as God gets the glory, not you. That car or house can be a witness to His grace.

When somebody comes by and says, "Where did you get that house?" You can say, "God gave it to me. I didn't do a thing for it. He just gave it to me." And they'll say, "Could I know Him too?"

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