



Grace Depends on Humility (Lesson 3)

The necessity of nearness to God

Nearness to God is of utmost necessity to spiritual growth, and it is also one of the things our flesh resists and the devil tries to hinder relentlessly (Jn. 15:4-5).

Draw near to God

There must be movement on our behalf to the invitation God offers us. *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you”* (Jas. 4:8). ? The psalmist drew near to God and testified, *“But it is good for me to draw near to God”* (Psm. 73:28).

Pride separates from God’s presence

Now, the greatest thing from within that hinders and Satan tries to stir every chance he gets is pride, which is the assertion that I do not need anything from anybody including God.

Solomon responds: *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”* (Pro. 16:18).

The grand invitation: “Come unto me”

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus’ humble heart our vision and victory

The solution to the insidious disease of pride is found in the yolk of Jesus: *“I am meek and lowly in heart”*. Humility is the very essence of the heart of the Son of God. It is the nature the Holy Spirit is working to reproduce in each of us as sons and daughters of God.

Paul described the heart of a true son of God, the heart of Jesus, which cries out in us, in Philippians 2:5-8. Humility enabled Jesus to do what a true Son of God does, obey the Father regardless of the cost.

No growth without grace

Humility is the gateway to grace. Without grace, there will be no growth of the spiritual forces of the heart.

Pride short circuits the work of the Spirit. In the same chapter of James that we mentioned earlier, James wrote, *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble”* (4:6).

Grace and humility collaborate to accomplish God’s work

God gives grace to tame the powers of the flesh and grow those of the spirit, but humility, a work of grace itself, must govern the heart and be exercised continually to assure that our communion with Him is strong and uninterrupted.

Humility yearns for instruction and correction

Humility gives us access to the very thing pride resists, but which is absolutely needed for growth: God’s instruction and correction. This is the divine influence that produces transformation.

Exercise your heart:

Purpose of and posture towards God’s correction, discipline and judgment

Chapter 12:1-13 of *The Letter of Hebrews* provides us God’s rationale regarding His purposes for disciplining His children and exhorts us to willingly accept them even though the seasons of correction are unpleasant at times. The writer makes it clear that being true children of God demands a humble, submissive heart that leads to obedience, because it is the only way God can make us “partakers of His holiness”, which is another term for Christ likeness.

Points of interest:

- 1) Set Jesus’ ordeal before you for encouragement in your struggles to “run the race that is before you” (vv. 1-3).
- 2) Learn to value God’s discipline and avoid discouragement (v. 5)
- 3) God disciplines all of His children equally because He loves us and desires the best for us (vv. 6-9).
- 4) God’s correction is always for our benefit, since it enables us to become more and more godly in Christ (v. 10).
- 5) God realizes that it is natural for us to feel sorrow when He corrects us, but encourages us to set our hearts and minds on the results of His correction: *“it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby”* (v. 11).
- 6) Finally, He encourages us to lift ourselves up and set our feet on the straight path that He makes known to us (vv. 13-14).

Prayer: *Help me, Father, to appreciate and receive your loving correction so I can be like Jesus in everything. I humble myself and recognize that I am powerless to do what only You can do. Amen.*