

Humility: Humility's Power in the Spirit

Sermon Questions for your Small Group/LifeGroup to think on...

Christian Humility: the Spirit-fueled ongoing, proper, and honest posturing of man whereby he remains, in light of God and His divine will, acutely aware of and in joyful surrender to who and what he is, both in potential and limitation, and thereby experiencing and fulfilling the reason for which he has been made, and ultimately remade in Christ, to the glory of God.

Sermon Points:

True humility will cost us everything, even our most-treasured confidence in ourselves. It empties us of all prerogative, rights, personal ambition, self-centered activity, and self-generated power. It is a surrender to the will of God, the power of God, and ultimately to the glory of God.

Jesus is ever our model and example, but He is more than that; He is also the provider of our power and supply. So often we continue to be cookie crumb collectors while racks of fresh baked cookies lay in wait for our receiving. Read Luke 4:1-15.

1. Notice a progression...
 - a. V.1 Jesus, full of the Spirit...
 - b. V.1 Jesus, led around by the Spirit...
 - c. V.3-13 Temptations sustained in the Spirit
 - d. V.14 Returns in the power of the Spirit.
2. In the temptations, Jesus, our model, demonstrates humility's surrender and obedience to God at every step.
 - a. Surrender of control... the Spirit leads
 - b. Surrender of physical need... not by bread alone
 - c. Surrender of self and the world's kingdoms... worships God alone, not His own
 - d. Surrender of will... not putting God to the test, but submitting to Him

Then after perfect humility and surrender, Jesus departs from the wilderness and embarks on three years of ministry which could easily be described as the display of the **power of God**.

1. **You couldn't "do" life perfectly on your own before salvation- that's why you recognized a need for a Savior.**
2. **But you still can't do it after salvation either.**
 - a. Salvation is not a leveling of the field, a do-over or even a restart with God in life.
 - b. Salvation was the mark of the Helper's presence in you, both to transform you from death to life and to empower you in Him to live how you never could on your own.
 - c. Therefore, experiencing the power of God in our lives is not accomplished in the flesh, but by faith.
 - i. "Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends."
— George Mueller
3. **The role of the Holy Spirit in your life is multifaceted.**
 - a. **He is the evidence of your salvation (Rom 8:16)**
 - b. **He is a down payment of the presence of God. 2 Cor 1:22**
 - c. **He is the seal of God's promise to get you there. 2 Co 1:22**
 - d. **He is the helper, teacher, guide through the Scriptures and through life (John 14:16, 14:26, John 16:13)**
 - e. **He is the counselor and prayerful interceder (Rom 11:34, 8:26)**
 - f. **He is the conduit and our connection to the Father and Son. (1 Cor 2:12, 6:17)**
 - g. **He is the source of the power of God in your life. You do not generate what only God can do. (Acts 1:8)**
4. **Unleashing His power in us is proportional to the release of our hold on this world and ourselves.**
5. **Humility releases us to participate in what God wants to do through His power, *not* what we want to accomplish for ourselves with His power.**

- a. **“The Holy Spirit is not a power that in any sense is subordinate to us, entrusted to us, or to be used by us. He is an energizing power that is over and above us, carrying forward His work from moment to moment. Our right place and our proper attitude must always be that of the deepest dependence in our own nothingness and powerlessness. Our chief concern is to let Jesus do His work within us.” Andrew Murray**
 - b. **“The very same Christ, who once lived on the earth entirely surrendered to the will of the Father, is prepared to abide and work in like manner in [your] heart and life now.” Andrew Murray.**
6. **Faith unleashes the power of God.**

Questions:

1. What stuck out to you from the weekend messages?
2. What events did God use in your life and heart to bring you to a point where you realized that the power to live life and face death couldn't come from you? I.e. How did you come to know Christ *as Savior*?
3. For those of you who are Christians, when and how did you come to understand that “living the Christian life” once saved was still impossible on your own?
4. If God forgives us, makes us alive, and indwells us, why can't we “take it from there?” Why can't salvation accurately be described as a do-over for us? What's wrong in thinking about it that way? (Gal 3:3)
5. As you look at the list of the roles the Holy Spirit plays in the life of a believer, how much would you say that you see Him serving in these capacities in your life? Which roles have meant the most to you in your life?
6. Understanding the manifestation of one is inversely related to the presence and sway of the other, how do you seek release from strong affections towards the things of this world so as to see the greater presence and power of God in your life? If you were talking with a new believer, how would you instruct them to grow in their affections for the Lord and seek His power displayed through them?
7. Maybe the most significant point in the sermon is point #5 above. How could this point help someone who is seeking to see God's work through their life? Why is the Holy Spirit's presence not a power for us to command and control? How does Andrew Murray's quote help us understand how God works through us?
8. Ultimately it seems that believing God (a gift God gives us... Rom 12:3) is the catalyst for seeing God work through us. How are you stepping out in faith in your life right now, providing opportunity for God to do His spiritual work through you and your family?
9. In what ways is God calling you to step out, change, grow, or repent? (humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, turn from wicked ways)
10. How has this sermon series challenged you? What are your take aways from the series? How will your life and faith walk change as a result of this series?