

THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY

Pride can be very subtle and is always looking for opportunities to gain entrance into our lives

Pride can manifest itself in the lives of people in many ways.

Some of these ways include:

- Being defensive (A prideful person does not like to admit that they have faults and weaknesses)
- Refusing to forgive others
- Being unteachable
- Finding it hard to say that they are wrong when better ideas are put forward
- Expressing prejudice by putting down others that are different to them
- Having an attitude of superiority
- Pulling down others to make them feel better, and
- Having an inability to say that "I am sorry" to those that they have hurt

Lucifer was motivated by pride in his rebellion against God in heaven with the result that he was cast out of heaven. We see this in Isaiah 14:12-15

The Fall of Lucifer

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,
O ^[a]Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
¹³ For you have said in your heart:
‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’
¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the ^[b]lowest depths of the Pit.

The Devil will tempt people to be prideful by encouraging them to believe that they are responsible for the successes in their lives and will try and get people to live their lives without God’s involvement

Jesus is our example of humility

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,” **(Philippians 2:5-10)**

WHY humility is so important:

- 1) Because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble
(God opposes the proud because pride is sinful and a hindrance to seeking Him)

In the book of James we read,

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.” **(James 4:6)**

- 2) Because pride always precedes a fall

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”
(Proverbs 16:18)

We see the consequences of pride in the life of King Nebuchadnezzar when God stripped from him his kingdom for 7 years due to pride, before He then restored back to King Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom.

During those 7 years Nebuchadnezzar was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

We see a full account of this phase of King Nebuchadnezzar's life in Chapter four of the book of Daniel:

3) Because it is a prerequisite to promotion in God's Kingdom

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“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.”

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,” (1 Peter 5:5-6)

4) Because it helps us to be teachable so that we can avoid many unnecessary mistakes in life and reach our full potential in Christ (Humble people are teachable)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” (**Proverbs 9:9**)

And

5) Because humility is a trait that helps us to shine for Jesus

Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:16**)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (**1 Timothy 4:12**)

So quickly how can we develop humility in our own lives

- 1) We need to consistently make time to spend quality time with the Lord

King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

- 2) We need to continually renew our mind with the Word of God

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

The LORD said to Joshua,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

- 3) We need to have the right friends in our life

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (Proverbs 12:26)

- 4) We need to always give all the glory to God when we experience successes in life and achieve major things

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (**1 Corinthians 10:31**)

- 5) We need to be always quick to repent of prideful thoughts

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (**1 John 1:9**)

- 6) We need to always have a desire and commitment to remaining humble in the way that we live our life

Again, this is why the Apostle Peter wrote,

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,” (**1 Peter 5:6**)

- 7) The importance of having a lifestyle of prayer where we continually involve God in all of our plans (Being God dependent)

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) And

- 8) The importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit and learning to walk in the Spirit in in

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (**Ephesians 3:14-19**)

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (**Galatians 5:16**)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

So, in conclusion:

The degree to which God uses us will be greatly determined by the degree to which we walk in humility

Moses that great leader of Israel who was raised up to leadership after 40 years in the wilderness, was referred to in the Bible as being the humblest man on earth

We see this in the book of Numbers:

“(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)” (**Numbers 12:3**)

When we look at the lives of two of the greatest evangelists that helped to see so many people come to Christ, Billy Graham and Reinherd Bonnke, a key trait in both of their lives was great humility

God's Kingdom is an upside-down Kingdom.

The more we humble ourselves the more God can raise us up to do great things for His glory

I will finish with one final Scripture

In the book of James we read,

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (**James 4:10**)