



*From the Pastor*

### What Does Humility Look Like?

I would like to be humble. I know that God wants me to be humble. We all know that there are benefits to humility. Consider this promise of God when it comes to being humble. It is so important that the bible repeats that promise.

*Although he is scornful to arrogant scoffers, yet he shows favor to the humble. (Proverbs 3:34)\**

*But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)*

*And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5b)*

But what does humility look like? Is humility self-abasing? I was listening to another pastor who was struggling with this question and it wasn't easy for him to answer it.

I was sitting with a couple of men who sounded very proud to me. While listening to them talk I was getting very upset. I was bothered because I was seeing myself in these men. Did you notice the number of "I's" so far in this paragraph? So how do I live humbly? What does humility look like?

There are two passages that I think give good practical suggestions on how to be humble. They will hopefully encourage you.

The first passage is found in 1 Peter:

*<sup>6</sup> And God will exalt you in due time, if you humble yourselves under his mighty hand<sup>7</sup> by casting all your cares on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)*

God is telling us in verse seven that we need to humble ourselves, "by casting all your cares on him." Humility in action is being honest with God about the things that you are dealing with. And not only telling Him about your struggles, but also trusting Him that He can handle these things. For me this means that being humble is realizing that I am not God in my life. I can't do everything and I shouldn't do anything without asking for His guidance in everything. I guess I would put it this way; humility and prayer go together.

Another passage that gives me a practical suggestion on how to be humble is found in 2 Corinthians:

*<sup>7</sup> ... Therefore, so that I would not become arrogant, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to trouble<sup>8</sup> me – so that I would not become arrogant.<sup>8</sup> I asked*

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\* All verses will be from the *New English Translation*.

*the Lord three times about this, that it would depart from me.<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." So then, I will boast most gladly about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may reside in me.<sup>10</sup> Therefore I am content with weaknesses, with insults, with troubles, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7b-10)*

God is telling us in this passage that if we have weaknesses in our lives, they are there to keep us humble. Paul, who wrote 2 Corinthians, admitted that he was struggling with a *thorn in the flesh*. We have no idea what that "thorn" was. We can assume that it was a physical problem for Paul. It bothered Paul to have this problem.

Paul wanted God to "fix" this problem by removing it. God said "No! I've given you all you need to deal with this problem. And not only that but you'll learn how powerful I am because I can work through you in spite of your weakness."

There are weaknesses in my life that I wish God would change. I've talked to Him about some of them. But God hasn't done anything about them. What God tells me in this passage is that He can work through me. My weaknesses will not stop Him. Humility is admitting that I am weak. Humility brings me to the realization that my weakness is not bigger than my God. God wants me to be satisfied with the person He created.

So what does humility look like? Humility is a life of prayer that leans on God. Humility is also a life that realizes that I am not God, I'm limited; but God can work with my limitations.

If your desire is to be humble let me suggest that you get comfortable with God. Lean into Him and allow Him to work with you.

In Him and for His glory,  
Pastor Art