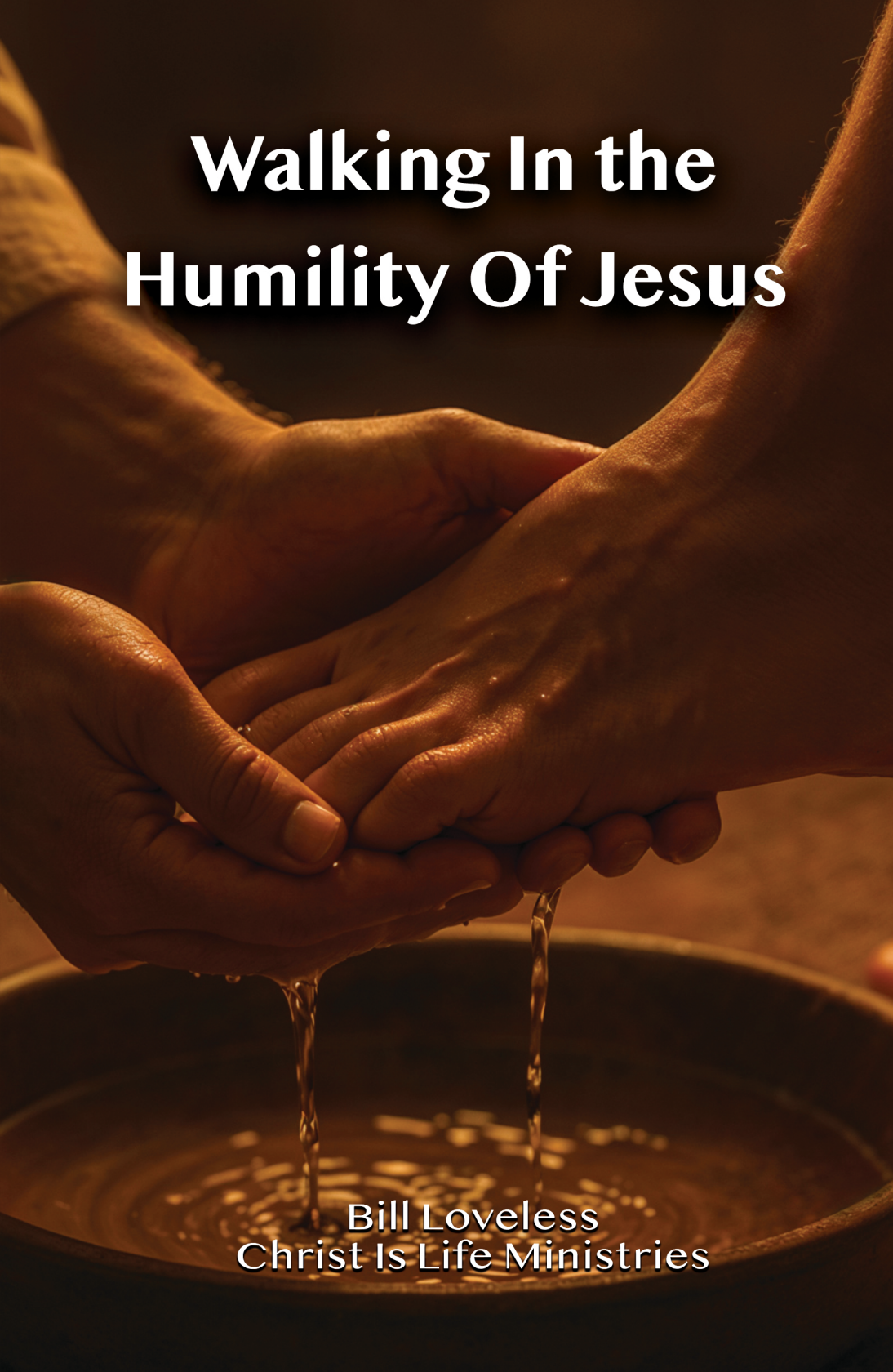


Walking In the Humility Of Jesus



**Bill Loveless
Christ Is Life Ministries**

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Bill Loveless

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Website: www.christislifeministries.com

Email: cilm@christislifeministries.com

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INTRODUCTION

“But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.” Matthew 23:11, 12

I want to begin by saying I am writing this booklet because I’m a proud man pursuing the humility of Jesus by the grace of God. I don’t write as an authority on humility; I write as one who is on a journey to experience deeper humility. This new journey began in the late spring of 2024 when I was reading a devotional that someone sent me as a gift. I must admit I am not much of a devotional reader but I thought since this was a gift, I would spend some time reading it.

The devotional is titled *I Hear His Whispers* and it is written from the viewpoint that God is talking to you. As I was reading, I came across the title of a devotional called *Humility Paves The Way*. I had no idea what was about to happen. The first key quote I came across was this one:

“Your calling is a high calling, my child, for a divine trust has been given to you. All things are yours in life and eternity. Blessings you will never be able to number have been deposited into you. Humility will open the way to discover all that I am and all that I have for you.”

I thought this was well said and read on until I got to this part.

“Your calling is to never judge what I am doing (or not doing) but you are to humbly join me in what I am doing and be one with Me. Let these words pierce you today, for humility will open the way to my presence.”

This sentence hit me like a baseball bat because it should have started with *“Bill.”* I say that because here is the back story leading up to my first reading this quote.

I attend a church where I was invited to come and teach through my curriculum on Wednesday nights. We ended up joining this church where I had expectations, because of my experience, that I would eventually play a larger role in the entire discipleship program. Over time I realized that was not going to happen. I began to get frustrated. Having been in ministry for over 23 years, I knew what kind of discipleship was needed for people to know, understand, and live from THE Life we have in Christ. There were two things I did not realize in the midst of my frustration: my self-righteousness and my judging of God.

After several months the Lord put that devotional in my hand and led me to that sentence which immediately exposed my pride. Until that moment, I knew I was right about where the church should go but was frustrated because God was not doing His part in getting it there. This was the beginning of a new season of life and ministry where God was going to start exposing my pride and have me focus on engaging Him to set me free.

My analogy over these past months is that my pride is like an onion in that there are many layers. God began to reveal and then started peeling away the layers of pride. Little did I know how many layers there were and still are. It is because of this experience that the Lord is working on me and the result is, I am writing to you. Many books have been written on this topic so this will not be an exhaustive study.

My hope is that through this study, the Holy Spirit will give you new insight or take you deeper in your understanding of pride versus humility, reveal any pride you may not be aware of and seek the Spirit to be set free that pride so that you can walk in greater humility.

I would like to start a quote with from John Stott:

“At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.”

Mahaney, C.J. Humility: True Greatness (p. 26). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

No truer words were said about pride being our greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend because one hardens our hearts towards God and the other brings us into a deeper dependence on and intimacy with God. That being said, let's start by looking at some key truths about pride and the cost of pride to us and those around us.

Note: As you go through this booklet, you may be tempted to think to yourself, “This does not apply to me.” I understand because I would be tempted to do the same thing. That is why I would ask that you seek the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if what you are reading is true of you on some level. As we will learn, our pride can be hidden and deceptive.

CHAPTER ONE

Pride Described

I would like to begin this section with a quote by C.S. Lewis:

*“According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is **the complete anti-God state of mind**. It is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began.” C.S. Lewis - Mere Christianity*

In this chapter we will look at the beginning of pride and some characteristics of pride.

Where Did It All Begin?

*“And He was saying, ‘That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed...deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, **pride** and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.’” Mark 7:20-23*

Pride is what caused Satan and man to fall. Think about it. Satan (known as Lucifer), before he fell, held a high position among the angels. He had exquisite beauty and great wisdom and was given a position of great power and influence according to Ezekiel 28:12-15.

*“...You (Satan) were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God...You were anointed as a guardian cherub...You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created **till wickedness (pride) was found in you....**” Ezekiel 28:12-15*

When he and several other angels chose pride, his fall triggered a sequence of events that led to the fall of man when he successfully tempted Adam and Eve with these words, “You too can become like God.” (Geneses 3:5) It was pride that resulted in the fall and as a result, we inherited Adam’s pride as part of our Adamic DNA. As we know, pride is the source of all sin. We all struggle with it and will struggle with it for the rest of our lives.

Pride Described

In this section, I would like for you to engage the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if any of these descriptions apply to you.

Pride has only one objective: self-glorification. The motive and ultimate purpose of pride is to rob God of His glory and seek it for ourselves. Pride competes with God for supremacy and it deprives God of what only He deserves.

Because of our pride, we are all self-promoters. Why? Because we are all looking for favor, identity, value, worth, love, and acceptance from others. We simply want others to know that “I matter.” We try to fill this void because we either don’t know we have the fullness of Christ in us or we don’t believe what God thinks of us is enough. The result: We need man’s approval, especially when others may be rejecting us or disliking who we are or what we are doing.

Pride is aspiring to be like God instead of total dependence on God. We in essence are competing with God instead of living in total submission and surrender to Him.

Pride is the perpetual wolf at our door. It wants in to be noticed, appreciated, valued, and ultimately exalted.

Pride is the source from which all sin is produced. Therefore, our flesh hates to admit pride.

Pride is competitive. We compare our pride with someone else's pride.

"Pride is the complete anti-God state of mind." C.S. Lewis

I believe we can sum up pride like this:

***Pride seeks to be SELF-SUFFICIENT in order to build
SELF-CONFIDENCE with the end result being
SELF-GLORIFICATION.***

Meditate: on the statement above in light of yourself and ask the Spirit, "In what ways am I being self-sufficient, self-confident and glorifying myself?"

Examples of Pride

Here are some examples of pride from R.T. Kendall who describes pride this way:

"Pride describes those who resent criticism, who are insecure, who cannot laugh at themselves, whose need of praise is constant, who see themselves as overly important, who fancy themselves as being very special to God (and think God bends the rules for them), who tend to blame others for their problems, who hate taking the blame, who cannot bear not getting the credit for the good they did, and who have an insatiable need to prove themselves."

Kendall, R.T. The Power of Humility: Living like Jesus (p. 8). Charisma House.

Exercise: Another way to describe pride is take each of the following words and add the word "self": glorify, give acclaim to, revere, worship, idolize, dignify, laud, applaud, boost, distinguish, honor, build up, elevate, promote, extol, sugarcoat, praise, commend, tout, flatter, deify.

CHAPTER TWO

Key Truths About Pride

There are many truths I could share about pride in this section, but these are a few the Spirit put on my heart.

Pride Is A Direct Result Of NOT Knowing, Believing, or Living From The Truth

*“Then You will know the truth and **the truth** will set you free.” John 8:32*

When I quote this verse, I sometimes ask this question: “What are the results if we don’t know, believe, and live from the truth?” The answer: bondage. Concerning our pride, truth equals freedom from pride while staying spiritually ignorant keeps us in bondage to pride.

The GRIP of pride on our lives is DIRECTLY proportional to what we KNOW, BELIEVE, and LIVE FROM concerning God’s truth.

This is why we must seriously heed the words of Hebrews 6:1.

*“...let us **press on** to maturity....”*

There is no time to get into our spiritual La-Z-Boy and settle. We must press on in learning, applying, and walking in the truth to continue being set free from our pride. It is a non-stop battle that insists we continue seeking the power of the Spirit to conquer our pride. Otherwise, we will be just another casualty in the battle.

Question: When you look at your Christian walk, would you say you are seeking the truth or just settling? Conqueror or casualty?

Pride and Living THE Christian Life

How does pride specifically apply to living from Christ as your Source (i.e., living THE Christian Life)? Here are some examples:

- Trying to get your needs met apart from Christ
- Choosing to live life independent of Christ
- Trying to make God's promises an experiential reality in your life through your own efforts (i.e., setting yourself free, changing your behavior, trying to be healed of your woundedness)
- Making life's choices and decisions apart from God
- Trying to manage your flesh (i.e., defend it, clean it up, justify it, cope with it)

There are several other points we could add to this list, but when we live life with any of these points in mind, our pride is governing our lives.

Pride Is The CANCER Of The Soul

Either you have experienced or know someone who has experienced a diagnosis of Stage 4 cancer. Many of those who had the diagnosis had no symptoms to indicate they were even having a problem. As a result, they never felt the progression of cancer. Can you imagine going to the doctor tomorrow for your annual checkup and discovering you have Stage 4 cancer and yet you have had no symptoms?

For the Christian, pride is the cancer of the soul (the soul is made up of our mind, will, and emotions) that can be so subtle we are not even aware of our pride or its effects on us or those around us. "Soulical" cancer, like physical cancer, eventually produces death. The ultimate death for Christians is to "be in and stay in" bondage to self.

Concerning my struggle with the church, my self-righteousness was the cancer growing in my soul. It started out as Stage 1 but eventually grew to Stage 4 because it was killing

my joy, peace, and rest in Christ. It was like death by a thousand cuts because I wasn't feeling the effects of it in my life for over a year. However, when the Lord exposed it, it felt like a Stage 4 diagnosis.

This is why we must be intentional in our battle against our pride. There is only one cure for this spiritual cancer and that is spiritual transformation. Why? Because our pride will be with us until we die. Unless we seek the Spirit to transform us to walk in Christ's humility, we will never experience any degree of freedom from pride.

Pride Is Like An ICEBERG

Another analogy is likening our pride to an iceberg. We know that typically only 10% of an iceberg is exposed while the rest is submerged. In like manner, we all have pride that we are conscious and aware of. We are familiar with it because it takes us back to familiar sin patterns. Like an iceberg, there is pride which is hidden or so subtle we are not aware of it.

The conscious pride is easy to spot, but the most dangerous form is that which is hidden. We might be tempted to use the excuse that if it is hidden, how can we be aware of it? The truth is that the Holy Spirit is constantly pointing out our conscious and hidden pride. However, if we are not sensitive to the Spirit and seeking Him to expose our hidden pride, it will stay hidden. The problem is that like in the cancer analogy, it is slowly killing us whether we are aware of it or not.

Looking back at the pride of self-righteousness I was experiencing towards my church, I was not aware of it for a long time. That did not change the fact that it was doing ongoing damage to my soul. I know the Holy Spirit was trying to get my attention, but the noise in my soul created by my self-righteous pride, prevented me from hearing the Spirit.

Pride Is DECEPTIVE

Not only can pride be hidden, but it can also be deceptive, especially if you are convinced you are right in what you are thinking or doing. I know because in addition to my self-righteousness being hidden, I was being deceived. I knew I had the right idea and motives for where I believed the church should go. God's plan is for all of us to live from Him as our Source for Life. Right?

However, I deceived myself thinking I would be able to persuade the people involved that I had the best plan. I would think to myself, "After all, I have been in ministry 23 years. I should know a thing or two about what discipleship should look like in a church." Those words now sound to me like fingernails down a chalkboard.

Pride Renders Faith In God IMPOSSIBLE

Just think about that statement for a minute. Pride and faith in God cannot co-exist. However, pride and faith in self can. This is why pride trusts self and distrusts God. Think about how many times you have made wrong choices based on your pride. What if you had brought those situations or decisions to the Lord seeking His wisdom and His discernment? Could the wrong choices have been avoided? Not to mention the consequences of those wrong choices? (I am not trying to condemn you with these questions. My desire is for us to be honest with ourselves about how pride has negatively impacted some of our decisions.)

The three questions above certainly applied to me and my church situation because the moment I became "responsible" for the spiritual direction of my church, my faith was no longer in God but in me. Because I had so much experience in discipleship, I knew the Lord would join me (Did you catch that? God would join ME.) in setting the direction of the church. Little did I know at the time ...that was not going to happen.

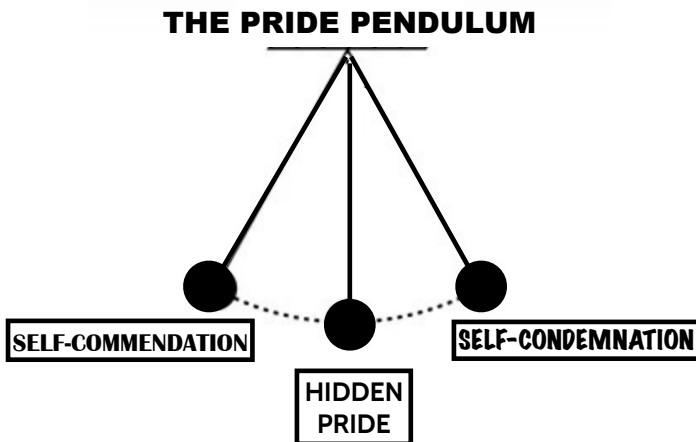
Pride Is The DEFENDER Of The Flesh

Have you ever wondered why it is so hard to share our prideful thoughts or fleshly behaviors with others? Because pride defends, justifies, and promotes itself and our resultant fleshly behaviors. Pride is like a defense attorney defending itself in order that we can justify holding onto or hiding it. This defense of our flesh can be unconscious in that we are not even aware we are defending it.

This was true of my issue with the church because I believed I was right in my assessment of where the church was going. Over and over in my mind, I kept defending and justifying my position. Truth be known, I couldn't stop thinking about it and defending it.

The Pride Pendulum

Think of pride as a pendulum. At one extreme we can feel self-commendation and the other extreme self-condemnation. Self-commendation occurs when we feel good about ourselves or what we have accomplished. Self-condemnation is the result when we fail. These are easy to spot. However, in between lies our hidden pride that can only be seen when the Holy Spirit exposes it.



CHAPTER THREE

Three Types of Pride

Introduction

Ultimately, since all flesh and fleshly behaviors result from pride, pride can only lead us to living from the flesh. In light of that, let's look at some key places that pride leads concerning God, others and ourselves.

Pride Concerning God

It might be hard to believe we have pride specifically towards God, but take a moment and think about how it makes you feel:

1. When God does not meet your expectations. For example:

- Not answering your prayers the way you desire.
- Not hearing from God when you need an answer.
- Not giving you the decision that you want to hear.
- Going silent with you.

2. What about when:

- God allows suffering in your life or the lives of your loved ones.
- God allows someone to die suddenly or his/her death was premature.
- You can't figure out what God is doing.
- God is not doing what you would like for Him to do.

If any of these are true of you, what thoughts or feelings come to mind? Frustration, anger, rejection, unimportant, unloved, perplexed, etc. Any thoughts or feelings like these come from our pride. Why? Because we want God to meet our expectations by answering our prayers in line with our desires, by keeping us

secure, by preventing us from suffering, and by producing the abundant life as we define it.

Remember at the beginning of this study where I quoted a devotional that started with the words “don’t judge Me”? Concerning my church situation, I had no idea I was judging God until I read that sentence. In that moment I realized I was judging God because He was not implementing my plans for the church.

Think on these questions: Is it possible that in some way you might be judging God because He is not meeting your expectations, answering your prayers, or is allowing you to suffer?

Pride Concerning Others

In addition to what I said earlier about being self-promoters, we have two primary negative fleshly ways to promote ourselves. One is to judge others and the other is to compare ourselves with others. Since pride must elevate itself, then we must judge the people around us that we are constantly measuring. Judging others and comparing ourselves with others has two objectives: To minimize others and/or to elevate ourselves.

Judging others and comparing ourselves with others are deeply ingrained in our fleshly pride because we can draw subjective conclusions about ourselves, regardless if our judgments are correct or not. Here is another critical drawback to judging or comparing.

By JUDGING or COMPARING, we can build a FALSE SELF in which we create illusions that JUSTIFY and BUILD UP our value and worth.

To make this personal, put yourself in these three scenarios. A homosexual couple holding hands comes and sits in front of you

at church. Your college aged daughter comes home wearing nose rings, tongue studs or has tattoos that she has never worn before. A smelly homeless person sat next to you in church. What was your first reaction? Judging or unconditional love?

I must confess for years when I was sitting in airports, I was tempted to make judgements about people concerning what they were wearing, their behavior, etc. Why did I do this when I knew nothing about them? For one reason: to elevate myself.

There is a fine line between evaluating and judging. The key: What conclusions are we coming to? If they are spiritual conclusions such as love, compassion, or empathy and we are not provoking judgment, then we are evaluating. Otherwise, we are judging.

Most people use two totally different sets of criteria for judging themselves versus others. We tend to judge others according to their actions. However, we judge ourselves by our intentions. Even if we do the wrong thing but believe our motives were good, we let ourselves off the hook.

As we learned about the pride pendulum, judging and making comparisons can result in either self-condemnation or self-commendation.

Personal Spiritual Pride

“God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.” Luke 18:11

“James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, *came up to Jesus, saying, ‘Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.’ And He said to them, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ They said to Him, ‘Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory.’” Mark 10:35-37

Whether it is the Pharisee in Luke 18:11 or James and John in Mark 10, self-righteous pride is one of the most deceptive forms of pride because we can use whatever biblical truths or standards we choose to portray or justify ourselves as godly men and women. We can be tempted to justify our actions and behavior based on what we were taught and the interpretations we have of God's truth. We can also use our biblical interpretations as a way of elevating ourselves over Christians and non-Christians alike. Why? Because we all have a Pharisee living inside of us as part of our Adamic hangover.

For example, there are those who believe in predestination. They believe God chose certain people before the foundation of the world who would be saved. They pull scriptures out of context to prove their point. However, they fail to look at the character of God Who did not create anyone to go to hell. That totally contradicts His character and the free will choice He gives to man. The problem I see with people who take that position is that they are tempted to see themselves in their self-righteous pride as a cut above or more worthy than unbelievers. (Please don't take that as a judgement. I share it because this is what I have observed.) This is a case for overt self-righteousness.

However, concerning my church, mine was subtle and in my flesh, justifiable, because in my case, all I wanted was for everyone I came in contact with to understand, believe, and walk in Christ as Life. Even though my intentions were spiritual, my self-righteous expectation was that God was on board with my plans and He would surely carry them out. When He didn't, I became frustrated and even angry at times. The problem is that I thought I was justified in my frustration (i.e., righteous anger) only to discover several months later that it was self-righteousness. Once I had God's eyes to see it, I was repulsed by all my self-righteous thoughts and actions.

This should lead us to ask ourselves: What are some ways we can be self-righteous without even knowing it? After all, self-righteousness wears many disguises. The scary thing about it is that we sometimes are the last ones to recognize it in ourselves.

We may think because of the standards we set for our Christian walk (and are meeting those standards), we are okay with God.

Don't you think we all set bars of expectations for what our walk with Christ should look like? As long as those bars line up with God's truth, then they are justified. When we don't live up to our bars or expectations, then we can choose to condemn ourselves. However, if we feel we are meeting our godly expectations, there is a subtle temptation to elevate our walk above others. This can be such a default behavior that we don't even know we are doing it.

Note: We can experience false pride by overtly giving God the credit for some work He accomplished through us while deceiving ourselves by secretly taking credit.

Let me end with this final point. Even when our self-righteousness is cloaked in words of gratitude or manifested in actions that, on the surface, appear to be done out of a desire for God's glory, self-righteousness is still self-justification.

Why Do We Keep Choosing To Live From Our Pride?

There are many reasons we choose to live from our pride but here are a few that stand out to me.

1. We believe we can make life work APART from God.

This is the primary reason we keep choosing to live from our pride. This belief started at the Fall when man said, "I can be like God," meaning "I no longer need God to make my life fulfilling, secure, meaningful, etc. I can get my spiritual and emotional needs met apart from Him." We know this is doomed to failure. If we take a close look at our life choices, how many of those are we making independent of God? Every bad choice should be a reminder that life will not and cannot work apart from God when His design is for us to live dependent on Him. We see this in this simple phrase from John 15.

“... apart from Me you can do NOTHING.”

John 15:5b

2. We want to be in CONTROL.

The flip side of the first point is that we want to be in control. This is the answer to why we want to live life independent of God. There is not a human who ever lived who did not want to be in control. It is part of our Adamic hangover. We want to control ourselves, others, and our circumstances. The question is: What do you hope to attain by being in control? Happiness? Security? Peace? Fulfillment? Success? We falsely believe that if we can get and stay in control, we can experience apart from God all of these things and more that He has promised us. The problem is that all our efforts to be in control eventually always end badly.

Note: Control is an illusion and yet it is the ultimate objective of our flesh.

3. We are BLINDED and DECEIVED.

This describes what happened in my relationship with my church. I was deceived because I thought my expectations were spiritually motivated and I couldn't understand why the church couldn't see it and why God wouldn't intervene. All good motives...but not God's plan. Therefore, I was judging God because He would not cooperate with me. I was blinded because I had no idea I was trying to manipulate people to do what I thought was right. Pride is so subtle and can even look spiritual but, in the end, it is still pride.

4. It is what comes NATURALLY.

Do you ever have to work at being prideful? Doesn't it come as naturally as breathing? I believe so. We all have a PhD in being prideful. However, our tendency, like breathing, is to not notice our subtle or hidden pride.

Satan's Strategy Concerning Our Pride

From the moment Satan fell because of pride until he is thrown into the lake of fire, he has one objective with Christians concerning our pride:

To keep us FOCUSED on and LIVING from OURSELVES.

It is a simple strategy because the enemy knows that self-focus/pride is our default. Therefore, he continues to remind us to:

- Try harder
- Keep trying to figure life out
- Justify our fleshly rights and behavior
- Depend on self to navigate life

If he can keep you focused on yourself, then you will have no need for God and he wins. As the great deceiver, he will continue to deceive us into believing we can solve our own problems and try to make life work apart from God. He primarily does by inserting first person thoughts into our minds to keep us focused on ourselves. He certainly did that with me and the church situation.

I fell for his deception because the thought that came into my mind over and over again concerning my church was, "Bill you are right and justified to think this way." Since this thought lined up with my fleshly rights, I was deceived into believing I was justified in my thinking. In addition, he kept feeding me this thought and I kept taking ownership of it. When I did, I felt like I was OCD because I would roll that thought over and over in my mind. This went on for several months.

Engaging God: Meditate on this section and as you do ask the Holy Spirit to expose where Satan maybe tempting you to doubt God, to keep trying to figure life out apart from God, to justify your fleshly rights and behavior or ways you depend on self to navigate life.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Cost Of Pride

How Does God Feel About Your Pride?

*“God **opposes** the proud....” James 4:6*

This verse may sound like strong language, but we must understand how much God hates any and all forms of pride. Here is what John Calvin had to say about how God feels about our pride:

“God cannot bear with seeing His glory appropriated by man in even the smallest degree. It is intolerable to Him.”

Mahaney, C.J. Humility: True Greatness (p. 29). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Let’s make this more personal:

God wants to take you to the PLACE where your pride is INTOLERABLE to YOU.

Why? Because eternally more than we can understand, He knows the devastating impact of pride on our hearts, our spiritual destiny and the negative impact it has towards those around us. How might it change your Christian walk if you saw your pride as intolerable (i.e. so bad or extreme that you can’t bear it or tolerate it.)?

The word “oppose” in James 4:6 is a military term that means “battle against.” The key truth to remember about this verse is:

***God is NOT battling against you.
He is ONLY battling against your PRIDE.***

To say it another way, since in your new identity you are humble and righteous, God is not battling against your true identity. He is battling against the pride in your soul. This is crucial to understand because God loves you but hates your pride.

In light of this verse, God sets Himself, as in battle, exposing our pride, and destroying it as a country would destroy its enemies. “Opposes” is a present progressive tense meaning that God’s battle against your pride is “active and ongoing.” When we take these two comments together, we see God is non-stop battling against our pride by first exposing it and then destroying it. In the process, He is persuading us that our pride is so bad or extreme that we are revolted by it.

Engaging God: Seek the Holy Spirit to more deeply persuade you how intolerable your pride is to God.

How Does God Battle Against Our Pride?

Before we look at the answer to this question, we need to understand a key truth.

***God’s MOTIVATION for battling against
our pride is His LOVE towards us.***

God not only hates pride but He can’t bear to watch us suffer the consequences of it. His love for us is so great that He will do whatever it takes to battle against it. A. W. Tozer puts it this way”

*“Nothing God ever did, or ever does or ever will do,
is separate from the love of God.”*

Please keep this idea of God's motivation being love as we talk about a few ways in which God opposes our pride.

1. By DISCIPLINING us – Even though our flesh hates to be disciplined like story of the prodigal son, God has no choice but from time to time to discipline us. Especially when we resist His work in our lives to free us from our pride. Even though His discipline can be painful, it is necessary for us to see our pride, repent of it and return to Him. Remember that God disciplines us out of love and concern for our spiritual well-being.

2. By FRUSTRATING our prideful attempts at living life – one of our biggest pride struggles is that we try to navigate through the issues of life without God. Our pride continuously motivates us to try to solve life's problems, make life-changing decisions, and cope with our fleshly behaviors. Out of love, God will frustrate your attempts to live life apart from Him. I sure felt He was frustrating me concerning the direction I wanted the church to go.

3. Through our FAILURES. God is trying to persuade us that He is God and we are not. – When Jesus says, "apart from Me you can do nothing." Our flesh responds with, "Yes, I can. Watch this!" When depending on your flesh, and make a wrong decision or fail at something, in that moment, God is revealing to you why He is God and you are not. This is why God created us as dependent beings.

4. By drawing us to His WORD – because if the truth will set us free from our pride then we must continue to read, meditate on and receive revelation of God's word.

5. By continually DRAWING US to Himself – This way of battling our pride may seem a little strange. But doesn't it make sense the closer we draw to Him, that we will live from Him and our desire and willingness to battle against our pride will grow?

Meditate on this truth: God not only hates pride but He can't bear to watch us suffer the consequences of it. What does this tell you about the love of God towards you?

The Consequences of Pride

We all understand there are eventual consequences to our pride. Let's look at a few.

- Pride keeps us self-absorbed with the result we don't grow spiritually.
- Pride can result in ongoing misery of the soul through prideful choices about our life, our marriage, our parenting, our job, etc.
- Pride keeps us in and deepens the grip of our sin strongholds over us.
- Pride keeps us in the "It's all about me" mindset which leads to unmet needs, fleshly rights and behaviors.
- Pride keeps us in bondage to our fleshly behaviors and rights to control, judge, compare and manipulate.

R.T. Kendall lists some specific costs of pride in the following statement.

"The cost of pride is evident in such things as these; time lost, energy wasted, money misused, losing friends, forfeiting wisdom, opportunities blown away, embarrassment, how one deals with their enemy, wanting to upstage a rival, overestimating one's own gift, not living within the limits of one's particular calling or anointing, not listening to advice or seeking a second opinion, not listening to God, not confessing sin, and refusing to admit to mistakes."

Kendall, R.T. The Power of Humility: Living like Jesus (p. 33). Charisma House. Kindle Edition.

Those are just some of many examples of pride, but there is one overarching cost to pride concerning God and that is hardening our hearts towards Him. We are either drawing

closer to God or we are hardening our hearts towards Him. There is no middle ground. As a result, we need to understand this key truth.

***The HARDER our hearts become towards God
because of our pride the HARDER it will be
to ever gain FREEDOM from it.***

Before we end this section, let's look at the cost of pride for two biblical characters.

The Cost of Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

We have the perfect example of Proverbs 16:18 in the story of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 and 5. Nebuchadnezzar was blessed by God with a vast and prosperous kingdom as we see when Daniel says in Daniel 4:22:

"It is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth."

Unfortunately, the more prosperous and powerful he became, the prouder and more arrogant he became. Then he had a dream he could not interpret so he invited Daniel to interpret it for him. Once Daniel heard the dream, he was horrified because he knew the interpretation of the dream would result in Nebuchadnezzar's downfall. Here is the interpretation of the dream in Daniel 4:25:

"You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."

God was the one who prospered Nebuchadnezzar but instead of honoring God, he took credit for all God had done resulting in his downfall.

The Cost of Job's Pride

Considering all that Job went through, we find it hard to believe that by chapter 38 of Job he would not have been totally broken of his pride. Any lesser person certainly would have. However, even after all the calamity that has come upon him, he is still not broken. We know this because for the next four chapters God is now speaking directly to Job. Look at what the Lord is saying to Job starting in Job 38.

"Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind: 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.'"
Job 38:1-4

I don't know about you but I don't want God speaking to me like this. Here is one more verse God speaks to Job in chapter 40.

"Then the LORD said to Job, 'Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are God's critic, but do you have the answers?'" Job 40:1-2

As I reread those chapters again, I felt a holy fear going down the back of my neck because it is obvious God is not happy with Job's lack of humility. The good news is that Job finally comes to brokenness in chapter 42 when he says these words:

*"I have heard You... **but now my eyes see You** Therefore I retract, And **I repent** in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6*

My interpretation of this verse is: “Okay, I get it now. You are God and I am not. I didn’t see it before but now I have Your eyes to see my pride and I repent.”

I am not saying Job was a little slow, but I would hope that none of us would need four chapters telling us who God is and who we are not. However, God so loved Job that He could not let him continue with his prideful behavior. Therefore, He was not going to stop until Job came to brokenness. However, look at what God did as a result.

“The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.” Job 42:10.

Conclusion

I hope this chapter has been helpful in understanding how God feels about your pride. Part of the sanctification process is to see our pride as intolerable as He does. May the Spirit give us the same eyes Job did about our pride and become as revolted as God is about it.

CHAPTER FIVE

Key Truths About Humility

Introduction

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with **humility of mind** regard one another as more important than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3*

Now that we have looked at some key truths regarding pride, I want to focus on humility for the rest of this study because for the next three chapters we will be looking at key foundational truths about humility, what it looks like to walk in the humility of Christ and the overflow of living from humility.

Two Key Foundational Truths About Humility

Humility Is Who Christ Is In You

*“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been **made complete**,”*
Colossians 2:9-10

Remember that one of the characteristics of Christ in us is humility. Being “made complete” in this verse includes containing all the humility of Christ. Therefore, as we grow to become like Christ, humility will grow and overflow.

Note: If you don’t know what it means to grow to become like Christ, I would encourage you to go to our website www.christislifeministries.com and look for our curriculum called *Growing To Become Like Christ* on the Discipleship tab.

Humility Is Part Of Our TRUE IDENTITY

*“and have put on the **new self (new identity)** who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.” Colossians 3:10*

Also, remember that we have a new self/new identity which means that in our new identity in Christ we are humble. Therefore, knowing that humility is who Christ is in you and it is who you are in your true identity Paul says this Colossians 3:12:

*“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, **humility**, gentleness and patience.”*

The good news is that we don't have to try and produce humility. Rather, Paul is exhorting us to walk in and live from the humility we have in Christ. (i.e. put on) What are the consequences if we don't?

We will look at what that practically means to put on (walk in) humility in the next chapter.

Note: If you don't know what it means to have a new identity in Christ, I would encourage you to go to our website www.christislifeministries.com and look for our curriculum called *Experiencing Your True Identity* on the Discipleship tab.

Thought: If you know these two key truths do you have any excuse for not drawing from and walking in Christ's humility?

Remember that humility is NOT something we try to ATTAIN. Rather, we DRAW from and GROW into by faith the humility we ALREADY have in Jesus.

What Humility IS and Is NOT

Is NOT

One author shared what humility is **not** this way:

“Humility is not disliking who you are or demeaning yourself in front of others. It is not a deliberate exhibition of self-humbling in order to get others to applaud your achievements, nor is it a wringing of hands or a constant declaration that you are a very humble person! Humility is not generated by human effort or manufactured by emotions. It can't be acquired through a training program, sermon, curriculum, or acquired by watching a YouTube video.”

The key point being that Christ-like humility is not man-produced. We can exhibit human humility but the difference between human and Christ-like humility is that pride can rob us of our human humility.

What IS Christ-Like Humility?

I define Christ-like humility this way.

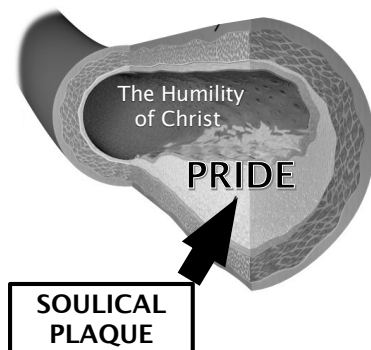
Humility is the Christ-like characteristic that is totally DEPENDENT on God, SELFLESS towards others, and SEEKS to give God the glory for ALL that He accomplishes in and through us.

We will break this definition down as we go through this section. Before we do, I want to give you another much simpler definition of humility.

Humility is the ABSENCE of pride.

As darkness is the absent of light, so too if we were devoid of all pride as Christians, we would be walking and living totally from the humility of Christ. Why? Because humility is who Christ is in us and it is who we are in Christ. If all the pride were removed from us (which unfortunately will not happen until we get to heaven) all that would remain is humility. This is why we seek the Spirit to cut away or remove our pride in order to walk in greater humility. Here is an illustration to make my point.

Spiritual Artery of Humility



Like a human artery that is full of blood, imagine that you have a spiritual artery full of the humility of Christ because that is who Christ is in you. Like a human artery can have plaque, our spiritual artery has soulical plaque called pride. We know that if human plaque continues to build up it can result in a stroke or heart attack.

The same is true of pride. If our pride grows unchecked it continues to restrict the flow of Christ's humility in and through us. However, as we seek the Spirit to grow to walk in Christ's humility, He will be removing the soulical plaque of pride that will allow more of Christ's humility to flow through us.

Now that we have defined humility, I want us to spend some time on a very key verse concerning pride versus humility.

1 Peter 5:6

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” 1 Peter 5:6

I feel we need to spend some time on this verse because it shows what results from God when we walk in humility. I want to focus on two phrases in this verse: “humble yourselves” and “He may exalt you.”

“Humble YOURSELVES”

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...” 1 Peter 5:6a

Peter gives us the command to humble ourselves before God. Like all commands in the Bible, we cannot keep or produce them in and of ourselves. This is not a call to produce humility through self-effort. If you have tried that, how is it working for you? It can't work because we cannot possibly produce Christ's humility.

Therefore, “humbling yourself” means “trusting in God's ability and power to transform us to where we walk in Christ's humility.” As we know (but not necessarily like), this is a process like the rest of our transformation. However, as we continue to seek the Spirit to transform us, we will be walking in greater and greater humility.

The results: We give God absolute control because it is not about self anymore. We begin to really love our enemies and selflessly reach out to those in need. We lean more on Him for everything and give Him the glory for all the good (and bad) things in our lives. Therefore, our part is not to try and humble ourselves. Rather, it is to make a free will choice to seek God to transform our hearts to live from His humility. We will talk more about the process of transformation in the next chapter.

When You Resist Seeking Humility, God WILL Humble You

*“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and **He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**” Daniel 4:37*

This truth can be a scary proposition because of what God can do. Therefore, we must remember this one key truth.

***God's LOVE for you is the MOTIVATION
for humbling you.***

When the Lord sees what our pride is doing to our hearts and to those around us, out of His love for us, He can't let us continue being prideful.

As with me, He let my self-righteousness go on for several months until He could not let me go on any further and cause any more damage to me or my relationships. Therefore, out of His love for me, He humbled me by putting a devotional in my hand and calling me out for judging Him. I must admit that was painful because I had no idea I was judging Him. However, until He exposed my pride, I didn't realize the misery in my soul was more painful than the exposure of my pride.

What is interesting is that during this process, He was not punishing me. He, in His grace, allowed me to continue until He said enough is enough. I am not saying the Holy Spirit was not trying to get my attention that whole time. He certainly was. The problem was the noise of my flesh was too loud to even hear His voice. However, when God wants to get through the noise, He will and He did.

I am still in process of being set free from my pride, but I am so thankful God did not wait any longer in allowing me to continue to live from the death of my pride.

Divine Thorns and Humility

I just wanted to mention in passing, sometimes God gives us “seasonal” or “permanent” thorns. By seasonal, I mean there may be a thorn for a season of time that will end at some point. Whereas, permanent thorns, like Paul’s, will be with us for the rest of our lives. They may be physical, relational, or circumstantial thorns.

With this in mind, let’s begin with Paul’s thorn related in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 from The Message Bible.

*“Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn’t get a big head, I was given the **gift of a thorn to keep me in constant touch with my limitations.***

*Satan’s angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. **No danger then of walking around high and mighty!** At first, I didn’t think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me, ‘My grace is enough; it’s all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.’*

*Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the thorn and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And **so, the weaker I get, the stronger I become.**”*

I want to look at a few phrases in these verses to point out the divine importance of “divine” thorns, whether they are seasonal or permanent, in light of my permanent thorn. Let’s start with the phrase “the gift of a thorn to keep me in constant touch with my limitations.” I struggle with a condition called Chronic

Fatigue Syndrome. It negatively impacts my energy levels, thought processes, and memory. This condition has been going on for over 45 years. I have asked God more than three times to remove it and I have had many people pray for me to be delivered from it.

However, as I began my new journey of understanding Christ as Life, the Lord revealed to me the fatigue was “necessary.” When I first heard this from Him, I was thinking that this does not sound like a loving, healing God to me. So I asked Him what He meant by “necessary.” He told me it was necessary to keep me humble, dependent, and able to identify with others who carry around divine thorns. Early on, I was not happy about it, but I soon began to realize that this thorn was necessary because of my Type A “get it done” mindset. As Paul said, it kept me from “walking around high and mighty.” The Lord used it to restrain my tendencies in ministry to build something that was not of Him.

As I embraced my weakness, the stronger Christ became in me. I now thank God for my thorn because I shudder to think where I might be today if God had not given it to me. I no longer ask Him to remove it because I realize how necessary it is for Him to work through me in ministry.

Therefore, whether seasonal or permanent, embrace your “divine” thorns because they truly are necessary to carry out what God wants to accomplish in and through you to set you free from your pride.

“That He May EXALT You”

“that He may exalt you in due time.” 1 Peter 5:6b

One meaning of the word “exalt” is “to receive a high place of privilege and honor.” It can also mean “to raise in rank, power, or character, or to praise highly or glorify.” In the Bible, “exalt” can also mean “to elevate the position, authority, and worth of something or someone above all else.”

Let's look at two more verses that talk about being exalted.

*"I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but **he who humbles himself will be exalted.**" Luke 18:14*

*"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and **he who humbles himself will be exalted.**" Luke 14:11*

The word "exalt" in these verses means "to lift up." This phrase promises that God will elevate us to new spiritual heights if we walk in humility before Him. We will find ourselves in a new sphere of spirituality through humility. In James 4:6 he explains lifting up man this way.

*"And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, 'God opposes the proud but **gives grace to the humble.**'"*

James 4:6

When we look at the word "exalt" through this verse, what a beautiful picture of the grace of God – God lifting up the one that has not earned it nor deserves it. In light of these two meanings for the word "exalt," let's look at five examples of what it looks like for God to give grace to the humble and to raise us up to new heights of spirituality.

1. God gives us greater spiritual TRANSFORMATION. God gives us grace through producing deeper spiritual transformation which will in turn lead to greater humility.

2. God reveals more of His CHARACTER and HEART. Another way God can lift us to new spiritual heights is to reveal more of Himself. God's character is like a diamond. It has many facets. As we walk in greater humility, God will take us deeper in our understanding and appreciation of His ways and most importantly His heart.

3. We become more TRUSTWORTHY to God. As we walk in deeper humility, we become more trustworthy to God. By “trustworthy,” I mean “He can trust us with greater works knowing that we won’t steal His glory.”

4. God gives us His HEART for others. God will increase our love, mercy, and compassion for others because that is His heart for us. We will see others’ needs through His eyes and seek them out to help, encourage, or comfort.

5. God gives us greater FAVOR. Giving grace can include giving us greater favor. Favor can include such things as opportunities, connections, relationships, and experiences that can only be attributed to the hand of God. He can also show us favor through greater wisdom and discernment when facing the issues of life.

6. We experience a deeper INTIMACY with God. Ultimately, “lifting us up” means “that we can experience a deeper intimacy with Him.” We will take a deeper look at this example in a later chapter.

CHAPTER SIX

How To Walk In The Humility Of Christ

Introduction

*“...this is what God requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and **to walk humbly with your God.**” Micah 6:8*

In this chapter, we are going to explore some key truths about what it looks like practically to walk in Christ’s humility. At the end of each truth, I will have an Engaging God section for you to see practical prayers for each topic. Before we start, I want to share this quote from C.J. Mahaney.

“I’m convinced from Scripture that pride is our greatest enemy and humility is our greatest friend, and out of that certainty and conviction I must consider how I can daily, through Christ, diligently, and deliberately weaken my greatest enemy and strengthen my greatest friend—all motivated by grace in the shadow of the cross.”

Mahaney, C.J.. Humility: True Greatness (pp. 49-50). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

I pray this is your desire as well. If you are currently living an abiding life in Christ, God is already in the process of replacing your pride with His humility. However, in this chapter we are going to look at how to be pro-active when it comes to dealing with pride and walking in humility.

The key truth to remember about spiritual transformation is that it is a process because pride has such a grip on our lives. Going back to our onion analogy from Chapter One, we need to understand that some layers are thicker than others. The good news is that God does not peel more than one layer at a time. With this in mind, let’s look at some key truths that I hope will be helpful to engage God in setting you free from your pride.

Key Truths To Walk In Christ's Humility

The FOUNDATIONAL Key To Experience Transformation

Not knowing what you know or do not know about how to experience transformation, let me start with this foundational truth. We see this truth in John 15:5.

***"I am the vine (Source), you are the branches; he who abides (depends on) in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit for **apart from Me you can do nothing**."** John 15:5*

This verse is THE key to spiritual transformation for three reasons:

- As the Vine, Christ is the **Source** to produce spiritual freedom.
- As the branches, we are to **abide** in Christ which means we are to **live from, draw from, and depend on Christ** as our Source to produce the freedom.
- You **cannot** set yourself free **apart from Christ** as we see in the last part of this verse.

If you look up the word "nothing" in the original Greek language, you will see it means "nothing." In the context of our study, "nothing" means that apart from depending on and drawing from Christ's Life and power in you, you will never experience any of His promises to be healed, to be transformed, and to be set free.

Therefore, you can try in your own strength and will power to set yourself free from your pride, but when it comes to true spiritual transformation and freedom, it will never happen apart from total dependence on the power of God to accomplish these things.

That is why the Christian life is a dependent life because God, as your Source, lives in you to produce the humility of Jesus in you and to progressively set you free from your pride.

Be DETERMINED For God To Set You Free

“But prove yourselves doers of the word (put into practice), and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” James 1:22

The process of spiritual transformation takes work. By work, I don't mean work that means you, using your limited will power, self-discipline, and determination to accomplish what only God can accomplish. The “work” in the transformation process is to depend on God to produce it.

In James 1:22, “doer” of the word means to “put into practice.” There is no truer statement when it comes to experiencing humility. A “doer” concerning our pride is one who actively and intentionally pursues the Holy Spirit to be set free. In like manner, in Jeremiah 29:13, the word “seek” is a present progressive tense which means “seek and continue to seek.” Seeking is a non-stop pursuit of Christ because He is your Source for experiencing humility.

“For I determined (Spirit-produced) to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” 1 Corinthians 2:2

In 1 Corinthians 2:2, Paul was determined that nothing was going to get in the way of his knowing Christ. I am convinced that we have to be just as determined to engage God to transform us and set us free from our pride. I added the words “Spirit-produced” to the verse because this was not a man-made, self-produced determination manufactured by Paul. This determination was produced in him by the Holy Spirit. This is the same determination we need to have as we seek freedom from our pride.

Engaging God: “Jesus, I am trusting you to BE my spiritual determination to be set free from my pride.”

Begin Taking Steps Of Faith To ACTIVELY Engage God To Set You Free

"You will seek me and find me when you (actively and continuously) seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

You play a vital role in the process of God setting you free from your pride. "With all of your heart" means you have to "actively seek God by faith." The key word is actively. We cannot afford to be apathetic when it comes to our pride because of the damage it does and is doing to our souls. I added "continuously" because seeking God is not only steps of faith but an ongoing attitude of faith. Therefore, begin taking steps of faith because with each step comes greater freedom.

Engaging God: "Lord, I am seeking You by faith to begin the process of setting me free from my pride. I pray that with each step You will persuade me that I am being set free."

Acknowledge Your NEED For God's Transformation

"You, Lord, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands" Psalm 16:5

I believe the Christian life is a "need driven" life. Without seeing our need for God, we will continue living in self-sufficiency. Without acknowledging our need for God to set us free from our pride, we will never take the first step towards walking in humility. Think about this: Acknowledging your need for God is in and of itself an act of humility.

Engaging God: "Lord, I am coming to you acknowledging my need for you to transform me to be set free from my pride."

Keep Seeking The Holy Spirit To EXPOSE Your Pride

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”

Psalm 139:23, 24

We might look at David’s prayer as a bit dangerous because we are giving God permission to expose our pride. Going back to the analogy of the iceberg, we all have hidden pride that we are not aware of. However, without giving God this permission, our hidden pride will stay hidden and there will be no freedom.

The good news is that God doesn’t unmask all our pride at once because He knows we could not handle it. Rather, God in His grace, using the onion analogy, peels off just one layer of pride at a time. I know this to be true because as the Lord was exposing my hidden pride (and still is) about the church situation, He lovingly and graciously only peeled one layer at a time.

Engaging God: “Lord, search my heart and expose any area of my pride I am not aware of.”

Ask The Spirit To Show You The DEATH Of Your Pride

“For the mind set on the **flesh is death** but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

Not only do we need to ask the Spirit to expose our pride but also to reveal to us the “death” it is causing in and through us. The meaning of “death” I am referring to is defined in the Bible as “the misery of the soul.” This death is manifest through your fleshly behaviors associated with your pride. This is crucial because if we don’t see our pride and the misery of it, we will continue to live from it.

As I shared before, once the Spirit exposed my pride, I began to realize the misery it was causing me and those around me.

Engaging God: “Lord, reveal to me the death my pride is causing in me and to those around me.”

Seek The Spirit To RENEW Your Mind and Set You Free

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind....**” Romans 12:2*

Other than inherent, fleshly behaviors, our false beliefs about God, others, and living the Christian life also drive our pride. Therefore, part of the transformation process is seeking the Holy Spirit to supernaturally renew our minds to the truth, some key truths being:

- We don’t need to try to be humble. Rather, we are to draw on and live from the humility of Jesus in us.
- We are humble in Christ as part of our true identity.
- Pride/self-sufficiency will never produce anything but misery of the soul.
- We can’t set ourselves free apart from the power of the Holy Spirit setting us free.

These are just some examples of why we need to continually seek the Spirit to renew our minds to God’s truth.

Engaging God: “I am seeking You Holy Spirit to renew my mind to the truth and set me free from my false belief of _____ and the prideful behavior associated with this false belief.”

If You Are Unwilling, Seek The Spirit To Make You WILLING

*“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for **I am not practicing what I would like to do (spiritual will), but I am doing the very thing I hate (fleshly will).**” Romans 7:15*

What if we are like Paul in this verse? We are willing but we are still doing the things that we hate (i.e. living from our pride).

This verse reveals that we all have two different wills: spiritual and fleshly.

The **Spiritual Will** is willingness to walk by faith and depend on God to set us free from our pride.

The **Fleshly Will** is unwillingness to walk by faith and choosing to live from and not let go of our pride.

When Paul says, “I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate,” he is essentially saying his fleshly will is stronger than his spiritual will. Why?

Let me use this analogy to illustrate. If you have a guy with weak muscles arm wrestling a body builder, who is going to win? The body builder of course. Early on in your Christian walk, your spiritual will is more like the weak-muscled guy while your fleshly will is like the body builder. Why? Because up until you start walking by faith, all you have exercised were your fleshly muscles. Your spiritual muscle was small and weak.

However, as you increasingly walk by (exercise your) faith, your spiritual muscle (spiritual will) strengthens and you more consistently, through Christ’s power, overcome your fleshly will. As you do, you will become more willing to seek the Spirit to set you free from your pride.

Engaging God: “Lord, I want You to, but I can’t seem to let go of this area of pride. I am asking you to strengthen my spiritual will in order that I will give it up to You and be set free.”

Cultivate Holy Habits As Part Of The Process

In addition to actively taking steps of faith, there are some holy habits we can grow into that will help combat our pride. Let’s look at a few of them.

1. Keep Reminding Yourself Of The Truth

“Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.”

2 Peter 1:12

In his book *Spiritual Depression*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones asked,

“Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?”

One question I often ask those I minister to is, “Do you think about what you think about?” Most often the response is “no.” If we are not thinking about what we are thinking about, then how do we filter the false thoughts from the truth? Therefore, I would encourage you to no longer be a victim of your prideful thoughts. Rather, be on the offensive, declare war on your pride, and be pro-active in speaking truth to yourself. This is a vital part of renewing your mind to God’s truth. Here are some examples:

“Lord, I just acted out of pride. I repent of that and I am asking you to remind me that in my true identity I am humble in Christ.”

“Lord, continue to remind me that I have all the humility I need in You and that freedom from my pride will come as I live from Your humility.”

“Holy Spirit, I repent of my judging that person out of pride. Renew my mind to the truth that I am an unconditional lover in Christ and I have no right to judge this person. Transform me to experience Your unconditional love for that person.”

“Continue to remind me that I can’t set myself free from my pride. Apart from Your power, I will remain in bondage.”

“Lord, my pride caused me to sin. Remind me that I don’t have to condemn myself. Rather, I only need to repent and continue taking steps of faith to seek You to set me free.”

Developing the habit of self-talk is one of the greatest weapons against prideful thoughts and behavior.

Engaging God: “Reveal to me what I am thinking about and give me the willingness to speak truth into any of my false or prideful thoughts.”

2. Cultivate A Habit Of LISTENING To The Spirit

*“And he said to them, ‘Pay attention to what you hear....’”
Mark 4:24:”*

How can we truly walk in the Spirit if we don’t seek to listen to the Holy Spirit? The truth is He is speaking to us all the time, warning us, exhorting us, and showing us the way. However, if we don’t seek to listen, we will never hear His voice.

The holy habit of listening to the Lord begins with spending time and being still in the Lord’s presence. Not saying anything, just listening. As you do this over time, you will find yourself hearing from the Spirit. For me, His voice comes through my thoughts rather than an audible voice. Without developing this habit of listening, we will miss out on what the Lord is saying about our pride and its negative effects in our lives.

As I began repenting of my self-righteous pride, I could hear the Spirit speaking. Whereas before repentance, I was so intent on being right that it drowned out the voice of the Spirit.

Engaging God: “Holy Spirit, give me the willingness to sit in your presence and listen for Your voice.”

3. Cultivate A Heart Of PRAISE and THANKSGIVING

I love Psalm 63:2-4 in the Message Bible:

*“So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in your strength and glory. In your generous love I am really living at last! **My lips brim praises like fountains. I bless you every time I take a breath; My arms wave like banners of praise to you.**”*

Praise and thanksgiving always displace pride. Why? Because you can't be truly praising God and be prideful at the same time. An ongoing heart of thanksgiving replaces over time a heart of pride. One reason is that we see and believe all that God has done and is doing in our lives to encourage, set free, and transform. Therefore, may we seek to spend more time in praising and thanking God for what He has done, is doing, and will do in our lives.

Engaging God: “Lord, continue to remind me all that I have to be thankful for. Grow my heart to give You thanks and to continually praise Your name.”

4. Spend Time FOCUSING On Jesus As KING

*“...**He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords....**”*
Revelation 17:14

Can you imagine being face to face with King Jesus in His royal robes and splendor? Would you not immediately drop to your knees and worship Him? Spend time meditating on Him as the King because something supernaturally changes in you as you do because you can't spend time meditating on Him and come away with inflated ideas of your own importance.

5. Meditate On What Jesus Did At The CROSS

“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:8

You may be familiar with the words in this old hymn:

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride*

There is nothing more humbling for me than to meditate on the horrible whipping, beating, and eventual crucifixion of Jesus. When I think of all that He went through for me to pay the price for my pride, it humbles me each and every time.

John Stott says this about meditating on the cross:

“Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to be saying to us, “I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.” Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness, until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size.”

Engaging God: “Lord, continue to remind me the ultimate price you paid on the cross to crucify all my pride.”

These are just a few truths that I trust will be helpful in your journey to freedom. Always remember that eternally more than you want to be set free, God wants to set you free. Why? Because of His love for you and because He knows the dramatic changes it will make in our lives if we cooperate with Him.

6. Be Intentional About Seeking INTIMACY With God

*“One thing I have asked of the Lord, and that I will seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, **To gaze upon the beauty [the delightful loveliness and majestic grandeur] of the Lord** And to meditate in His temple.” Psalm 27:4*

I believe the greatest antidote to pride is intimacy with God. Why? Because the more you fall in love with God, the less your focus will be on yourself. I love the word “preoccupied” when it comes to Jesus because it means “being absorbed in thought” about Him. The more we are preoccupied with Him, the less the temptation will be to put ourselves on His throne.

Engaging God: “Lord, reveal Your immense beauty to me. Let me be preoccupied with You to the point that You never leave my thoughts.”

Final Thoughts

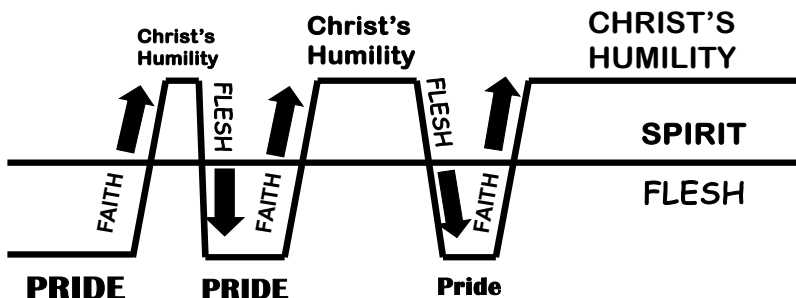
EMBRACE The Process Of Transformation

*“For we who live are **constantly being delivered over to death (to self) for Jesus’ sake**, so that **the life of Jesus (humility) also may be manifested** in our mortal flesh.” 2 Corinthians 4:11*

I haven’t found any Christian who really likes the word “process” because it denotes time and more time. We all want to be set free from our pride and we want it now. However, remember that we will be in process the rest of our lives. The good news is that as we seek the Spirit to be transformed, we will find ourselves living more from humility and less from our pride. I use the line illustration below quite often in my teaching because it is a great visual tool to illustrate the process. Let me explain.

Early on in the transformation process, pride has a strong grip on us below the line in our flesh. However, as we take steps

of faith, we will go above the line in the Spirit and walk more in Christ's humility and less in our pride. Our fleshly pride will take us below the line, but we will begin to experience Christ's humility and our desire to live from it will grow.



God Will Use ALL THINGS To Humble Us

"And we know that God causes **all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**" Romans 8:28

The key truth from this verse is two-fold. God does not cause all things. Rather, He causes all things to work together for "good." What is the meaning of "good?" Concerning this study, God will use all things to break you of your pride. Strife, struggles, heartache, etc., will all work together for good to bring us to brokenness.

Think for a moment about the struggle you are going through right now. Whether you realize it or not, God is using your struggle to draw you to Him and draw you away from yourself because the more time you log in dependence on Him, the less you will be focused on yourself.

Let's Sum Up The Process With Six R's

These six words may not resonate with you, but the Lord revealed them to me one morning as I was meditating on His process of transformation. I hope they help you.

Reveal – Seek the Holy Spirit to reveal your pride.

Recognize – Ask the Lord to give you spiritual eyes to see your pride so you can recognize it.

Recoil – See your pride as ugly as God sees it and cringe.

Repent – Repent of any pride the Spirit exposes.

Renew – Seek the Spirit to renew your mind to the truth that humility is who Christ is in you and that in your true identity, you are humble in Christ.

Restore – God’s process of transforming your soul so you can know, believe, and walk in Christ’s humility.

Conclusion

I hope this chapter has helped you to engage God to set you free from your pride. There is no greater freedom than freedom from self. It is like being let out of solitary confinement and seeing the light of day. May we continue to engage Him to move us out of the darkness of our pride and into the marvelous light of His humility.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Overflow Of Humility

Introduction

I would like to finish this booklet talking about what the overflow of living from Christ's humility looks like towards God and towards others.

The Overflow Of Humility Towards God

Here are some key results of walking in Christ's humility as it relates to God.

1. Submission To God's WILL In ALL Things

"How I love to do your will, my God! I keep your teaching in my heart." Psalm 40:8

Humility is an attitude that says, "My will is totally submitted to God, and I will live totally dependent on Him." The truth is, because of our flesh, we will never be able to "totally" live this out. However, it does not give us an excuse for not seeking God to continue destroying our pride and replacing it with His humility.

2. ALWAYS Seeking To Glorify God In ALL Things

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

"Glory" is something of a summary term the Bible uses to describe God's character and nature. God's glory, we might say, is the "shining forth" or the "public display" of God's character and nature. "Glory" also describes all the things God is full of—His wisdom, love, creativity, beauty, strength, compassion—

which is made manifest for us to see and experience and respond to. Here are some examples of giving glory to God:

- Believing and choosing to live from His truth
- Making choices that line up with His will
- Responding to trials with praise and thanksgiving
- Giving Him glory when He performs works through us
- Praising and thanking Him for all He has done and is doing to transform our lives
- Drawing into an ever deepening intimacy with Him

Since pride seeks to steal God's glory, humility seeks to give God all glory because He deserves all glory.

3. Seeing God Through The FILTER Of His Truth

*"The one who does not love does not know God, for
God is love." 1 John 4:8*

Humility sees God for who He truly is based on His word. This is crucial because any distortion of God can have personal consequences. For example, if we see God as angry, distant, or rejecting, then our tendency will be to be tempted to live life independent of God. However, if we believe He is unconditionally loving, compassionate, and trustworthy, then we have a greater desire to trust Him and live from Him. God loves it when we see Him as He sees Himself. Especially, when He is breaking us of our pride.

4. PRAISING and WORSHIPING God

*"I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness
And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High."
Psalm 7:17*

The Bible mentions praise and worship over 400 times. This bears out the eternal importance of giving glory to God through

praise and worship. Any time we praise and worship God with a humble heart, this gives God great glory.

5. THANKSGIVING Towards God

***"in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."** 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Thanksgiving is an acknowledgement of God's grace, mercy, and love. There are humble acts of thanksgiving through which we thank God for specific things. However, an attitude of Christ's humility lives with a heart of ongoing thanksgiving for all things including times of difficulty, strife, or suffering.

6. Seeking To Love God More DEEPLY

***"One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD."** PSALM 27:4*

The greatest act of love towards God is to seek an intimate relationship with Him. Have you ever thought this is also a great act of humility? It is because humility not only receives love but it gives love as well. We certainly see this from David when he says he is "beholding the beauty of the Lord." What beautiful words that reveal David's intimate relationship with God. Look at two more verses that reinforce David's deep and abiding love for God.

***"Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth."** Psalm 73:25*

***"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God."** Psalm 42:1*

Can there be any greater act of love towards God than to walk humbly before Him? God loves humility because humility says, "Not only will I serve you, I love you." Why? Because God has not

only called us to be humble servants, but He has also called us to be lovers of Him. Here is one key truth we need to understand about God's love.

***God's LOVE for you is UNCONDITIONAL, but
INTIMACY with God is CONDITIONAL***

This is why God says in Proverbs 8:17:

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me."

The first part of this verse is not referring to conditional love because we know that God loves us unconditionally. What this is referring to is a reciprocal relationship between you and God. Like any relationship, it takes two willing participants to have an intimate relationship. The Lord is saying if you want more than Me just loving you, you will need to draw near to Me to experience intimacy (James 4:8). The overflow of humility will not only mean a greater capacity to receive God's love, but it will move you into a deep, abiding, love relationship with God.

7. Experiencing A Deeper AWE Of God

As we walk in greater humility, we will live in greater awe and wonder which will lead to a greater hunger and thirst for intimacy. David is the perfect example of one who experienced this awe of God as we see in Psalm 33:8.

"Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him." Psalm 33:8

Deeper intimacy with God leads to a deeper awe of God. Doesn't it stand to reason that the closer we draw to God, the more of Himself He will reveal that will result in a greater awe of Him? God so wants to reveal more and more of Himself and will do so as we seek to love Him at deeper levels.

The Result: Becoming More TRUSTWORTHY To God

*“In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that **one be found trustworthy.**” 1 Corinthians 4:2*

When we look at the overflow of humility towards God, it makes us more trustworthy to Him. A trustworthy person to God is one who is steadfastly faithful to Him and who will continuously give Him the glory rather than stealing it. Being trustworthy frees God to trust you with greater spiritual works and to expand His influence and power through you. One of the greatest attributes of trustworthiness is humility. Humility reflects an ongoing attitude that says, “I want to be trustworthy to God.” The more we grow in Christ’s humility, the more He will trust us.

The Overflow Of Humility Towards OTHERS

It has been said that it is easier to humble yourself before God than before man. This is true because as the creation, we serve an infinite, superior being with whom it is much easier to humble ourselves. Whereas with man, we see him/her on equal footing with us which makes it much more difficult to humble ourselves. This is why Paul exhorts us in Philippians 2:3:

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with **humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.**”*

1. Deeper Life, Greater Dependence, Spiritual Maturity

*“To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the **unfathomable riches of Christ.**”
Ephesians 3:8*

The word “unfathomable” means “beyond comprehension.” Even though there is no bottom to the depth of what Christ has to offer us, as we grow through humility, God will reveal more

of Himself, His ways, His wisdom, and His character. Humility and dependence go hand in hand. So, the greater the humility, the greater the dependence. Why? Because humility grows our heart to submit our will, our expectations, and even our entire lives to Him.

As we grow to become more like Christ (Ephesians 4:15) in His humility, spiritual maturity is inevitable. Spiritual maturity will result in understanding in deeper ways God's character and His ways. It will result in dying to our unrealistic expectations about God. We will see others through the eyes of Christ and minister to them with His heart.

2. Loving Others

"A new commandment I give to you, that **you love one another (with unconditional love): just as I have loved you (unconditionally), you also are to love one another."**

John 13:34

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your **freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."** Galatians 5:13

Unconditional love towards others is one of the greatest acts of humility. This includes the unlovable people in our lives. When the Spirit transforms us to the point where we can love others in those "prickly" relationships, it is a sign of spiritual maturity and humility. Loving others always replaces judging others. Therefore, you will find yourself loving others more and judging others less.

I thought freedom to love would never be true in my life because I judged everyone to build myself up. However, God is replacing my judgmental attitude with a heart to love rather than judge. As we grow into greater humility, we will find ourselves loving more and judging and comparing less. As we

do, we are now living out of our new identity which says we are unconditional lovers in Christ.

3. Greater Freedom

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

I believe we must be free FROM something in order to be free TO something. Doesn't it make sense that humility frees us FROM our self-life/pride which frees us TO love, care for and minister to others? Freedom is one of the most important transformation promises because through freedom, we are no longer constrained by the limitations and the death (misery of the soul) created by our self-life.

4. Greater Spiritual Strength

“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:8

We often associate humility with weakness but that is far from the truth. When you think of Jesus, how much strength do you think it took for Jesus to humble Himself to become a man and to willingly be whipped and beaten and crucified? We can't imagine that kind of strength. However, as we grow in humility, we will experience a growing, spiritual, inner strength that will resist temptation, resist the flesh of others, and resist the arrows of Satan. This is also the same inner strength that will stand up for Jesus and God's truth with boldness rather than fear.

5. More of Christ-Control

“For the life of every living thing is in His hand....”
Job 12:10

The main reason I was so stressed about my church is that I wanted to be in control (i.e., to be God). Stress is most prominent when we are trying to be in or take control. Humility not only releases us from wanting to be in control, but it also gives us a greater desire to live under Christ's control. We find the results of this in the next two words.

6. Deeper Peace and Rest

*"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and **humble in heart**, and **you will find rest** for your souls."*

Matthew 11:29

*"**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."* John 14:27

As we give more of our life over to Christ's control, the more we will enter into His rest and peace. As we know this is a supernatural peace and rest that the stressors in our life cannot rob. I know this is true because as I gave up trying to be in control of what was going on in my church, what filled my heart was the peace and rest of Christ.

Question: Are the stressors in your life robbing you of Christ's peace and rest?

7. Draws People To Christ

*"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and **manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place**."* 2 Corinthians 2:14

I believe humility is so spiritually attractive that even unbelievers are drawn to it. As Christians, one of the greatest attractions to other Christians is humility. It is like having an internal Geiger counter that detects radiation. Similarly, our spirit detects who is living from Christ's humility, and we are

drawn to it. Therefore, as we walk in greater humility, the more spiritually attractive we will be to Christians and non-Christians alike. Doesn't that in and of itself sound attractive?

8. Become Selfless and Sacrificial

***"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;"** Philippians 2:3*

***"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."** John 15:13*

***"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this same attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus."** Philippians 2:4, 5*

One of the greatest characteristics of humility is selflessness because we are all born totally selfish. Selflessness is impossible without the Spirit moving us from being selfish to selfless. Our first priority will always be ourselves rather than the needs, interests, and welfare of others. However, as God transforms us to live more from the selflessness of Christ, the more we will seek the needs of others.

I know this personally to be true because I was totally self-absorbed for 48 years. I really didn't care about ~~for~~ anyone else unless they were "about me," so you can only imagine the depth of my selfishness. Only until I sought the Holy Spirit to set me free "from me" did I genuinely start caring for others.

Being sacrificial is even harder than selflessness because being sacrificial means not only putting someone else's needs and well-being ahead of your own—it also prioritizes another person's needs over your own. It means sacrificing something that is very valuable to you such as your time. We all have priorities for ourselves, but being sacrificial means we set aside those priorities to meet other people's needs, to encourage or

help them, or to minister to them in some way. Being sacrificial does not come naturally, but it is one of the greatest acts and attitudes of humility.

9. Being Compassionate and Empathetic

*“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion...**”*

Colossians 3:12

Two emotional components of the overflow of humility are compassion and empathy. “Compassion” in the Bible can be defined as “showing or having mercy, sympathy, or pity.” Compassion goes beyond caring in that it is feeling and acting in a way that displays the love and comfort of Jesus towards others.

Expressing Christ’s compassion is a way of comforting others while empathy says, “I feel your pain.” It is not only understanding what someone else is going through—it is experiencing what they are going through, especially when we have gone through similar experiences.

For me, because of the woundedness caused by the abuse of my father, I shut down all my emotions to protect myself from feeling anything including compassion and empathy. Without the Holy Spirit opening my heart and healing me, I would not be free to express compassion and empathy ~~these~~ to others.

10. An Attitude of Repentance and Forgiveness

*“I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that **you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance.**”*

2 Corinthians 7:9

*“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**”*

Ephesians 4:32

Forgiveness is mentioned 316 times in the New Testament alone. This is crucial because this is the number one struggle we all experience, especially if we have been wounded and rejected by others. (And who hasn't been?) Unforgiveness is one of the greatest earthly rights we hold onto because someone has personally offended us. The result? We have the right not to forgive.

That is why one of the most satisfying results of humility is a deeper desire to not only have a heart of forgiveness but a heart of repentance as well. One of the results of humility is that you will be the first to repent and the first to forgive. Repentance says "I am sorry for what I have done" while forgiveness is "forgiving the offense of another."

Question: How would it change your relationships if in humility you were the first to repent or forgive?

11. Giving Grace To Others

*"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as **good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**" 1 Peter 4:10*

Part of the meaning of being stewards of God's grace is giving grace to others. To better understand what I mean by giving grace, let me share some examples.

- **Acceptance:** Rather than rejecting someone, you choose to unconditionally accept someone who may not deserve it
- **Letting go:** Choosing to leave something unsaid, having the last word, or being right at the expense of a relationship
- **Giving someone a chance:** Giving someone the ability to make mistakes without a fleshly response

Giving grace is a sign of humility and spiritual maturity in that you are choosing Christ-like responses versus fleshly ones.

12. Greater Wisdom and Discernment

*“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in **real knowledge (wisdom) and all discernment.**”*

Philippians 1:9

As we walk in greater humility, God will grant us a greater wisdom and discernment when it comes to determining His will, making decisions, and ministering to others.

Conclusion

As we know, so much more can be written about this topic. However, I pray that through what you have read, it will give you the spiritual determination to seek God to battle against your pride so that you will continue to be set free. It is our only hope for freedom.

In conclusion, please keep in mind the key foundational truth for walking in the humility of Jesus is spiritual growth. That is why Paul exhorts us to “press on.”

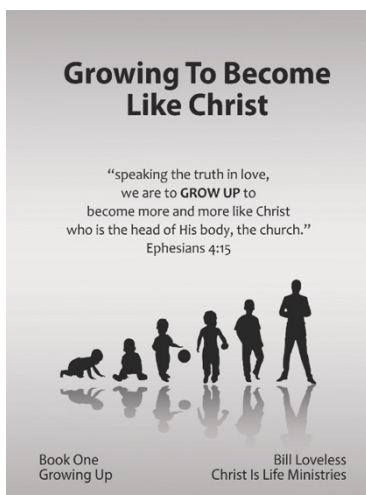
*“¹³ **No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it (spiritual maturity),** but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ **I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.**”*

Therefore, like Paul, we must press on to spiritual maturity. This is what I will be praying for you because as much as I want you to be set free from pride, God wants you to experience your freedom eternally more.

Where Do I Go From Here?

At our website listed below, we encourage you to check out our four-part discipleship series called ***Growing Up – Growing Out – Growing Deep*** designed to teach Christians how to fulfill their purpose and calling. The first book in the series is called ***Growing to Become Like Christ***.

Book One covers the following topics:



- What it means to grow up spiritually to become like Christ.
- The difference between living “A” Christian life versus living “THE” Christian life.
- What it looks like practically to grow to become like Christ.
- What are some of the hindrances to spiritual growth and how we overcome them.
- How becoming like Christ transforms every area of our lives.

CILM DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS

CILM has this series and many other studies, booklets and videos at our website listed below. To purchase ready-to-use copies from **Amazon or download for free** and do your own printing, copying and binding, please go to the **Discipleship** tab of our website. We hope you will take advantage of these materials.

Christ Is Life Ministries (CILM)

Website: www.christislifeministries.com

Email: cilm@christislifeministries.com

(2025-07-18)

Walking In The Humility of Jesus

I never thought I would be writing a book on this topic until the Lord started exposing some pride that was previously hidden. As a result of what the Lord has revealed to me, He wants me to share it with you.

Here are some key questions I hope to answer in this book:

- Why is pride the spiritual cancer of the soul?
- What are the consequences of pride towards God, others and ourselves?
- Why do we keep choosing to live from pride instead of from humility?
- What does humility look like towards God and others?
- How do we walk in the humility of Christ?

This is one of the most personal and challenging books I have written. Therefore, my prayer as you go through this book is that the Holy Spirit will expose any pride you may be experiencing with the result that you will intentionally engage the Holy Spirit to replace your pride with the humility of Christ.

“At every step of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.”
— John R.W. Stott



Bill Loveless is the founder of Christ is Life Ministries (CILM), a non-profit, non-denominational discipleship ministry. CILM's focus is teaching Christians that Christ is their only source for living the Christian life, what it looks like to be transformed into Christ-likeness, and how to be drawn into a deep relationship with Him. Bill finished his earthly journey in 2024 and is now with the Lord he loves.

For further information and to see other discipleship materials being offered, please go to our website: www.christislifeministries.com

