

# **Developing a Spirit of Humility ptI**

Sermon Title: **Developing a Spirit of Humility ptI**  
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We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us at AirJesus.com. Stay tuned to today's message. We're just excited and happy that you tuned in to be with us today.

I would like to read a little humor as I normally do when I find something humorous that comes across my path during the week about a priest who was preparing a man for his death and he whispered firmly into the man's ear. The priest whispered in his ear. He said, "Denounce the Devil. Let him know how little you think of his evil". The dying man said nothing. The priest repeated his order, still the dying man said nothing. The priest asked, "Why do you refuse to denounce the Devil and his evil?" The dying man said, "Until I know where I'm heading, I don't think I ought to aggravate anybody".

Open your Bibles if you will up to the Book of James chapter 4 and we're also going to look at 1Peter together in unison, ready read. But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. In verse 10, Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. And also look at 1Peter chapter 5, which is right next door, 1Peter 5:5-6, let's read those together,(5) Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

And so I just want to use as a subject, "Developing a Spirit of Humility". God wants to exalt us at the right time but he wants to make sure that he can trust us. He wants to make sure we won't get a big head. We won't get puffed up – that we can handle the elevation – that we can handle the promotion. And so, God says, you don't worry about going high. You go low and I'll take you high. And so, I like that, he tells us to go low and he'll take us high and so, it's not our responsibility to try to jockey for position and maneuver and scheme and try to do all of these things to manipulate our way to the top. God says, you just walk in humility. You just submit to me, you do what I tell you to do. Keep your head close to the ground and I'll take you places that you never dreamed of.

I'll take you places and give you your heart's desired – things that you never thought were possible. And so God, he's looking and searching for us to just be humble before him. He gave that instruction over and over as you saw in these scriptures. Here's another Scripture, Philippians, you don't have to turn there but I'm going to read it from the Amplified – Philippians 2:5 "Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility].

Let Jesus be your example in humility. Let the same mind that was in him, let it be in you. Jesus didn't come here trying to be the Son of God, he came here as a servant. He came born in the manger. He came and he made himself of no reputation. He walked among the lowest. He made himself a commoner. He became the Son of God; he became the Son of Man that the sons of men might become the sons of God. Oh he who is high came low.

He who was high came low so we who are low could be taken high. Praise God, I just love that. And so, we live in a society where we are all trying to be somebody. We all want to be powerful. We all want a big title. Everybody loves a big title. Nobody likes a little title. Everybody likes a big title. I came across interesting.

Let me read – these are common jobs that have been given some big titles. Listen to these, here's a title of a paper boy, Media Distribution Officer. Here's a title of a school lunch server, Education Sender/ Nourishment Consultant. Here's a title of a gas attendant, Petroleum Transfer Engineer. Here's a title of a title of a tow booth collector, Coin Facilitation Engineer. Here's a title of a dish washer, Gastronomical Hygiene Technician. Here's a title of a waiter, Field Nourishment Consultant.

And so we all like big titles, we like big positions, we like power, we like prestige but that is really not God's way. God says, I'd rather take somebody simple, somebody simple and I rather make them into something great with my glory, with my power and they will recognize him. And so God, when God chooses, the Bible says, God chooses the base things of the world to confound the wise. Because if a person is already all of that, there's not really that much glory they can give to God. But when God can take a life that didn't have much – that wasn't considered to be anything and when he can touch that life with his anointing with his spirit, with his power, with his glory and turn that life into something that's magnificent and beautiful, all the glory goes to God.

And so, I want you to know that if you feel insignificant. If you feel worthless, if you feel like a nobody, oh you're in the right place. You are among the right group of people, you are a perfect candidate for God to rest upon you and allow his glory to shine through your life. He loves those who walk in humility. He loves those who walk in humility. God absolutely loves that.

Here's one key that I found to help us to walk in humility and that key is simply – here's one thing that will guarantee you that you'll walk in humility and that is: Serve. You will notice here in one of our texts, I think it's 1Peter 5:5 where it says, be clothed – now for a long time the image there was – you know here is somebody naked and then they need to put on some clothes, they need to put a garment on. They need to dress themselves but that's really not what it's saying. We really studied that, be clothed in humility, what it's really saying is put on an apron, put on an apron.

An apron signifies, you are getting ready to serve. So it is saying, let your mindset be that you are girding yourself with an apron. Every time you go out the house, even though you may have on a sharp outfit, let your mindset be that I'm wearing an apron to see who I might serve, to see how God might use me. If we can just remind ourselves that we are simply servants of the most high God.

And so humility always seeks to serve. Say that with me, Humility always seeks to serve. Humility always has an unselfish concern for the welfare of others. Here's something that Henrietta means, she says "The man who keeps busy helping the man below him won't have time to envy the man above him". A person who keeps busy helping the person below him won't have time to envy the person above him. So if you want to walk in humility, if you want to walk in humility, be willing to serve. Have a servant's attitude; servant's heart and do what 1Peter 5:5 says clothe yourself, put on the apron. So turn to your neighbor and say, put your apron on.

We live in a society where everybody wants to be served everybody wants to be served. We love service. But the Bible teaches, no you put your apron on, put your apron on and serve. Let that be your mindset, let that be your attitude. Let that be the condition of your heart that everyday I put on an apron. I want to be clothed with humility. I want to be clothed with humility.

Here is something else that humility does for us and I'll share several truths about humility but here is something else that humility does for us. Humility helps us to be teachable. Some people just can't tell anything. They just know it all. See that's the person that's not walking in humility. A person in the purest form of humility is teachable. Ask yourself, "Am I teachable?"

Here is something I read on one of John Maxwell's books. He gave a list of ten questions that you should ask yourself to determine whether or not you are teachable, whether you are teachable:

1. Am I open to other people's ideas?
2. Do I listen more than I talk?
3. Am I open to changing my opinion based on new information?
4. Do I readily admit when I am wrong?
5. Do I observe before acting on a situation?
6. Do I ask questions? You see a 'know it all' is not going to ask any question because they think they know it all.
7. Am I willing to ask a question that will expose my ignorance? Some people if they are not familiar about a subject, they don't want to ask, you know, they don't want to appear that they are under informed.
8. Am I open to doing things in a way I haven't done before? You I got – before I give the last, I got to admit and sometimes I'm un-teachable and sometimes many of you are all un-teachable but I think about my cousin Gerald Render,

whenever I am playing golf with him, he always loves to try to teach me and I just won't listen. He loves to try to correct my golf swing and tell me how to swing and I just tune him out completely because of my own pride, I am saying, "Hey you don't need to tell me how to play golf son, I was playing golf before you entered the earth. And so, he always says, "Man, you are just so un-teachable".

Before I heard this message, I'm going to change; I'm going to change now. I didn't know, I did not know, charge that to my ignorance. I didn't know, I didn't have no idea that I wasn't walking in humility when I was being un-teachable, but I'm going to change.

9. Am I willing to ask for directions? See most men won't do that.

10. Do I act defensive when criticized or do I listen openly for the truth?

So those are just ten little questions – they are just to see if you are teachable. But that's one of the characteristics and one of the traits of walking and developing a spirit of humility – is remaining teachable, remaining open to new ideas, to new people sharing information to different things that may work better to, you know, discovering that you may not have it all. You don't know it all and so, you keep yourself open. So that's one of the characteristics we found about humility.

Let me give you a definition of humility. Humility is to lower yourself, to lower oneself. It means lowly, abasing oneself, pushing oneself down. And that's why we use the phrase when you meet somebody you really like, you say, you know, they are so down to earth. That's a person what you have recognize is – that's a person who is walking in great humility. And we use that term they are down to earth. Well that's what humility means. It means to lower oneself, means lowly, abasing oneself, pushing yourself down. It's total absence of arrogance, total absence of arrogance, pride, conceit, haughtiness, self exaltation – it's a modest estimate of one's own worth.

And you know, these things sound simple but they really aren't. You know it is so easy to get puffed up. I mean, you can get a new suit – you can get your hair done, nobody can tell you anything and don't let you come into a little money. Oh my goodness. Some folks, you can't tell them anything, they don't have enough money, you still can't tell. So I mean, these things are simple but we're so easily puffed up. We're so easily lifted up and we miss the spirit of humility that we are to walk in that spirit that God can use, that spirit that God can exalt and ultimately where God really wants to take you is to a place of honor.

You'll find in the scriptures repeatedly that humility precedes honor. That if you walk humbly with God, in the book of Micah 6:8, he asked a question, he said "What is it that the Lord requires?" He goes through a whole list of things that people

thought God wanted. All of the sacrifices and all of the gold and silver, you know they went through a whole lot of things that people had the idea what God really wanted. And then he summed it up. He said these are the three things that God really wants from our life and you'll find it in Micah 6:8, he said, number one, do just, in other words, do what's right, do just. And then he says, let's flip over to Micah, do justly. Number two, he will tell us something very simple, he will say love mercy. In other words, walk in love. God is love, we are to love one another.

So he says do what's right. I want you to see how simple God makes it. God simply says do what's right; make sure your personal love. Then number three, he simply says, I want you to walk humbly with God. That's all God requires. That's all God requires. That's all he requires. Do what's right, love mercy – be a person of love. Do what's right and be a person of love and walk humbly with God. Those are the three things that God requires.

As you see it here, look at Micah 6:8 “He hath showed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Ain't that a simple life, that's a simple life isn't it? Oh that's a simple life. Do what's right, abide in my love and just walk – keep your head to the ground. Stay in love do what's right, that's it. You could just remember those three things. Keep your head – turn to your neighbor and say, keep your head to the ground, do what's right, stay in love. That's it, I love that. He made it so simple. You know there are over six hundred laws you could try to keep up with, over six hundred laws in the Bible, you can try to keep up with everything, he just brought it.

He said, I tell you all what, just do what's right, be a person of love and just stay humble and walk with me – humbly walking with thy God. Doing what's right and being a person of love. Here are a few truths I wanted to give you before we close about humility. Here is the true heart and essence of humility. Number one, humility recognizes that everything that we are and all that we have comes from God. That's the true essence of humility that everything that we are and all that we have comes from God. I don't care what the position what the title – what all you have a mess, I don't care nothing about the education, all the material gain, all the prestige, all the power, I don't care anything about that. Here's the main truth you better remember everything we are, everything we have comes from God.

And God said, don't forget that. He told his people in Deuteronomy 8:17-18, he said “Hey, when I bring you all into this place of great abundance don't forget it was me that gave you the power to get the wealth. It was me that did it for you. He said don't forget when you get in your beautiful homes and you're blessed with all of this luxury, he said don't forget the Lord your God. You'll start thinking that it was your own power and by your own might, by your own intelligence, by your own hard work, by your own sweat that you did all of this stuff. He said but don't forget, it's

the Lord God almighty that has given you all of this. Don't forget everything that we are and all that we have is from God.

If you can remember that, it will take you a long way in life. So often we think that we have done things. We think it's because of what we have done that we can get pride full in that. You better realize like the Apostle Paul. He says, I am what I am by the grace of God. I am what I am by the grace of God. He said, should I boast that I'm the lead Apostle? Should I boast and the fact that I've set up all of these churches and I've shared the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ around the world? Should I boast that I've written two thirds of the New Testament? Should I boast that I'm the man everybody looks to? He said, no, all that I can say is, I don't know anything but Jesus Christ, and him crucified. He's all that I can boast in because without him I am nothing.

For those of you who are watching, I want you to go to [AirJesus.com](http://AirJesus.com). You can listen to this message, "Developing a Spirit of Humility" message number 7461, you can listen to it in its entirety. You can also email it to a friend absolutely free of charge. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!