

Living Graciously Through Humility

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C. Elijah Bronner: If you focused on acknowledging the gifts that other people have and help you to stay in a place of humility.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part three of the series titled, "Living Graciously Through Humility" by C. Elijah Bronner. This message is number 7795. That's 7795. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing)

Female: And now for 7795, Living Graciously Through Humility: Part 3.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television, those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Thank you for tuning in and joining us today, always a wonderful, wonderful, delight and joy to have you to join us.

What I would like to share just a little humor. A middle-aged woman had a heart attack on the operating table and she asked God if this was it. He said, "No. You have 40 more years to live." So, upon recovering, she stayed in the hospital and had a major facelift tam and tuck. She had liposuction and an extreme makeover. Well, two months later, as she was living the hospital, she got hit by a car and died. She got to heaven and say, "God, I though you said I had 40 more years?" God said, "Girl, I didn't recognized you."

What we've been sharing in the series entitled "Living Graciously through Humility." Living graciously through humility. This is part three and we'll wrap it up today. Final part, living graciously through humility.

What we've been looking at scripture over in the book of James Chapter 4 Verse 6 and 10. And there it reads, "But He giveth more grace wherefore he sets God resists the proud but giveth grace unto the unborn. Unborn yourselves in the side of the Lord and He shall lift you up."

And then also, we were reading a text over in First Peter, Chapter 5 Verse 5 and 6 and says, "Likewise, ye younger submit

yourselves unto the elder. Ye all of you be subject one to another and be clawed with humility for God resists the proud and giveth grace to the unborn. Unborn yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time.”

And so we've been talking about Living Graciously Through Humility. God gives more grace and more grace to the unborn. And we define humility as simply pushing yourself down, you know, letting out all of the air, not trying to put on any air, and not try to impress anyone and so just being yourself, being who God made you realizing who you are and who God is and giving Him glory for the difference. And so, humility is simply a total absence of arrogance, some pride and heartiness and self-exaltation and so on.

Now we said there are four primary things that produce humility. Prayer was the number. Prayer produces humility because in prayer, we generally begin our prayers in honor to God, you know, prayer begins with exaltation. Humility always exalts God and always glorifies God and always gives God the glory. So, humility exalts God. Everybody say that with me. “Humility always exalts God.” Humility always exalts God.

And so, in prayer is our humility where we come just to let the Lord know that we honor Him, to tell him how great He is and how we are a recipient of his grace. We realize how insignificant we are. In of ourselves and yet how valuable we are because of Him.

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Because of His love that's invested in us and the fact that He gave Himself for us and He has received us unto Himself. So, humility always exalts God. So, prayer produces humility when you begin to think about how great God is.

I brought a little video, AB, if you have the video you can roll. This is a young lady and she really expresses it so powerfully how great God is and I thought it would be just a great example of how we exalt the greatness of God and how it produces humility in our lives when we realize how great God is in our lives.

(Video Playing)

Female:

When you feel like you can't handle the task at hand and you ask yourself, "Girl, who's your daddy?" Because I remember when Jerry said that to me and I -- I got a good look at and I felt secure. I felt taken care of not because of me, but because of who I belong to. And what if when you got a good look at your God remembering who He is and that you belong to Him?

Listen, I think until the Lord stops me from taking platforms, administering the women, I will say this until the day that I die. Reminding myself as I do when I am quietly alone and I look myself in the mirror and say, "Girl, who's your daddy?" You know what I tell myself? I tell myself, "He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is the keeper of creation and the creator of all. He is the architect of the universe and the manger of all time. He always was, always is, always will be unmoved, unchanged, undefeated and never undone. He was bruised but brought healing. He was pierced but eases pain. He was prosecuted but brought freedom. He was dead and brings life. He has risen to bring power and He reigns to bring peace."

The world can't understand him. Armies can't defeat Him. Schools can't explain Him and leaders, they can't ignore Him. Herit couldn't kill Him. Nero couldn't crush Him. The New Age cannot replace Him and Oprah cannot explain Him away. She can't, she can't do it.

You remind yourself that He is liked, He is loved, He is longevity and He is the Lord. He has goodness and kindness and faithfulness and He is God. He is holding in righteous and power and pure. His ways are right. He is worth eternal. His will unchanging and His mind is on us. He is our savior, our guide, our peace, our joy, our comfort, our Lord and He rules our lives.

I serve Him because His blond is love, His yolk is easy, he's burden His life and His goal for us is abundant life. I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise. The power of the powerful. The ancient of days. The ruler of rulers. The leader of all leaders. His goal is a relationship with me, He will never leave you, never forsake you, never mislead you, never forget you, never overlook you and never cancel your appointment in His appointment book, never.

When you fall, He'll lift you up. When you fail, He'll forgive you. When you're weak, He's strong. When you're lost, He is your

away. When you're afraid, He is your courage. When you stumble, He will steady you. When you're hurt, He's going to heal you. When you're broken, He will amend you. When you're blind, He will lead you. When you're hungry, He will feed you. When you face trials, He's with you. When I face prosecution, He shields me. When I face problems, He will comfort me. When I face loss, He will provide for me. And when we face death, He will carry us all home to meet Him. He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time and in every way. He is your God and that, sisters, is who you belong to.

C. Elijah Bronner: Praise God, Amen, Amen. Humility always exalts God because when you get a picture of how great God is, you realize how insignificant you are and that you owe everything to Him. He is everything to us. And then we set that gratitude produces humility. Gratitude produces humility. Humility is quick to thank God for what it receives. Humility knows that everything that we have is because of God's generosity, anything that we have. The bible says that, "God opens His hand and He satisfies the desire of every living creature." And so when you think about that, gratitude produces humility because everything we have is a result of the generosity of God.

And number three, we said that services produces humility. First Peter, our Text 55 tells us to be clawed with humility. Some translations or commentaries actually say to apron yourselves as the garb of a servant. Apron yourself as the garb of a servant. Apron means you are getting ready to serve. So, apron yourselves, you're getting ready to serve. So, if you want to walk in humility, always find yourself serving, always find yourself serving. Humility always serves. Say that with me, "Humility always serves." Humility always serves. Humility always serve. Henrietta means, she said, "The man who keeps busy helping the man below him won't have time to envy the man above him." And William Ward said "Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. But it is discovered in goodness, humility, service and character". That's where greatness is found, in goodness, humility, service and character.

And then we said in number four, that brokenness produces humility. So, sometimes we simply are allowed to fall flat on our faces to humble us, to bring us back down to earth and to let us know that we're human and we're not all of that. And so brokenness produces humility. Brokenness produces humility.

You know what it takes humility to even admit mistakes? It takes humility to say that, "I was wrong." You don't find many people in today's society willing to admit, you know, that they are wrong or they made a mistake. They all try to cover it up, they all lie, or they will give excuses, or they will blame other people. But as humility, when you say, "I was wrong," it takes humility to admit fought. It takes humility to ask for forgiveness.

Maybe about a week ago, I was watching the hall of fame and some of the inductees into the hall of fame. And, you know, these were all great NBA players over the last generation, people like Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen and Shaquille O'Neal and Allen Iverson. And so, the last one I watched was Dennis Rodman. He was really different than all the others because all of the others had something to accolades and, you know, they had such esteem. But Dennis Rodman has always been sort of the odd ball of the NBA. He's always been a very weird character.

And when he gave his acceptance, speech for his induction into the NBA Hall of Fame, he was broken. And I had never seen him like that. And so, it was such an interesting time to see him broken. But he was literally in tears. And as he stood there, he said, "I want to apologize to all of the coaches that put up with me, all the teams that put up with all of my buffoonery and all of my antics and all the grief that I've caused you." And he said, "I want to thank you for putting up with me and supporting me in spite of me." He went on, he then pointed out his mother in the audience and he said, "I want to say to my mother," he said, "I have not been a son to you." He said, "For the last 10 years, we have barely even talked." He said, "I want to apologize for not being a son to you and I want to make it right if I'm able."

Then he looked at his wife and his children on the front row and he said to his wife pretty much the same thing. He said, "I haven't been a husband to you." He said, "I'm always gone, haven't been there for you." And he looked at his kids, he had two or three children, he said, "I haven't been a father to you, so I ask you to forgive me." And he said, "You know, if I'm allowed, I would love to work on correcting and making amends as best I can." But it just was so touching that I had to almost push back my tears. It was so touching because out of all the speeches, his was the only one out of a place of brokenness and humility. And he admitted that he was wrong, he admitted his faults. He admitted that, you know, I'm not that. He admitted all of his failures and it was so

touching and so heart-wrenching. And I was like, “Wow, that’s the one right there. He spoke from his heart.” So, he takes humility to admit mistakes. He takes humility to say that, “I was wrong”. Takes humility to even forgive. It takes humility to forgive. It takes humility to have an unselfish concern for the welfare of others.

Flip over to Philippians Chapter 2, Philippians Chapter 2 is the great humility chapter in the New Testament, Philippians Chapter 2 verse 3 and 4. I’m going to read it and the new living translation, in the new living translation it reads, it says, “Don’t be selfish,” Philippians Chapter 2 verse 3 and 4, “Don’t be selfish, don’t try to impress others, be humble. Thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interest, but take an interest in others too.” And here’s a powerful key that we received from these verses. It’s a powerful key to help us to walk in humility and that is to acknowledge the gifts that other people have. Say that with me. “Acknowledge the gifts that other people have.” If you focused on acknowledging the gifts that other people have, it helps you to stay in a place of humility. I read an interesting story and it reads, it says, “For many years, Sir Walter Scott was the leading literary figure in the British Empire. No one could write as well as he.” Then the works of Lord Byron begin to appear. And their greatness was immediately evident.

Soon, an anonymous critic praised his poems in a London paper. He declared that in the presence of these brilliant works of poetic genius, Scott could no longer be considered the leading poet of England. And it was later discovered that the unnamed reviewer was none other than Sir Walter Scott himself. Humility always acknowledges the gifts of other people. Humility is unselfish. Humility thinks of others as better than yourself. Humility doesn’t look out for your own interest only but it looks out for the interest of others. So humility always acknowledges the gifts that other people have. Then we said that humility helps us to be teachable. Humility helps us to be teachable. We said that no matter how good you are, you can always learn more. If you’re amble, if you walk in a place of humility, you can always learn more, you can always learn from any person.

Here’s some questions to ask yourself, just as a little test to see if you are teachable, to see if you are teachable. Number one, ask yourself, “Am I open to other people’s ideas?” “Am I open to other people’s ideas?” Number two, ask yourself, “Do I listen more than I talk?” “Do I

listen more than I talk?” Number three, “Do I ask questions?” “Do I ask questions?” Number four, “Do I admit when I am wrong?” “Do I admit when I am wrong?” Number five, “Am I open to trying a new way of doing things?” “Am I open to trying a new way of doing things?” Number six, “Do I listen for truth when criticized, or do I become offended?” “Do I listen for truth when criticized, or do I become offended?” So those are just some questions to ask yourself to see if you are a teachable person.

One of my good golf buddies, Brother Gerald(ph), he always tells me whenever he’s trying to give me a golf lesson, he always tells me that I’m unteachable, because I kind of gotten to the place where I kind of tune him up because he’s always taking lessons. And so, he’s always learning something new and every teacher you go to, they teach you a different technique. So he’s always throwing this text syllabus. He’s coming at me with so much, I just got to the place where I just tune him up. And I hit the ball the way I want to hit it. So, it always frustrates him, so he just say, “You’re just unteachable.” So you always want to remain teachable. But now that I’ve learned this lesson, I’ll be more open. Next time that he’s trying to give me a lesson, I’ll be more open.

Mother Teresa, this is where I left off last time. Mother Teresa, she gave a list of ways to cultivate humility for the sisters who were under her care. And these are some of the little points that she gave. She is probably humanity’s greatest servant as she served in Calcutta, India. But she gave these points for cultivating humility. Number one she said, “Speak as little as possible about yourself.” “Speak as little as possible about yourself.” Number two she said, “Keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others.” “Keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others.” Now, that’s actually in the Bible. First Peter 5:15 says, “Don’t be a busybody in other means matters.” “Don’t be a busybody in other means matters.”

First Thessalonians 4:11 says, “Study to be quiet and to do your own business.” “Study to be quiet and to do your own business.” So, the bible actually teaches us to mind our own business. In other words, it’s saying, “Don’t be nosy and don’t meddle, you know, for the wrong reasons. Some people, you know, they just knows it. They want to be in to what happened and who did when, you know. And they have no good intention. They just knows it. They are just prying in other people’s business so that they can gossip and so forth.

And so the bible warns against that. And so she said, "Keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others." Then she said, "Exalt small irritations with good humor." "Exalt small irritations with good humor." Learn to laugh at yourself. Don't take yourself too seriously. Learn to laugh. We all make mistakes. We're all human, to errors human. We all make mistakes, so learn to laugh at yourself.

I remember one Sunday, I was leaving church after we were locking up and I was going to my car and we were just coming out of revival. So, doing the revival, I had been parking in the school parking lot every night. But on this particular Sunday I parked right at the church in my normal spot. And so when I left church, I was in such a rush because it was cold outside. I was in such a rush to get to my car. I just run straight passed in my car to the school lot. And I got to the school lot and I said, "Where's my car?" Then I turned around and look back at the church and there my car is parked right by the door I had just come out of.

And so, I was embarrassed. And so now, I had to try to play it all. So, I just looked in the school light as though I was looking for somebody else. I said, "Did they leave already?" I was trying to play it off. But Susan was there to remind me. She was there to remind me that I was busted and so she laughed and she laughed.

So, you have to learn to laugh at yourself. You got to learn to laugh at yourself. Now, fascinate, "Don't laugh too loud because I remember you left your car running for the whole time we were at church." He actually parked out front. His car was so quite he taugth it was off. He came in, preach the service, the fellowship and went back out and his car was still running.

So, you have to learn to laugh at yourself. Try to learn to laugh at yourself. Laugh at yourself. I remember one time I was at a very prestigious dinner and I was sitting with some very prominent people. People that I really looked up to, really admired and so I was trying to really impress them. I wanted to look them for that and I was sitting there just so prim and proper and I mean, I was doing it. You know, I was using all the etiquette that I knew and very proper. And you know, so I was saying to myself, "I've been a -- really wow, this people here tonight." And then I look down and I realized that I had dropped chicken all over my shirt. I said, "Oh my goodness, I've been sitting here with

chicken all over my shirt.” I said I'm going to make a laugh and stuck the whole table.

So, you have to learn to laugh at yourself. Turn the name again and say, “Learn to laugh at yourself.” You have to laugh at yourself. Don't take yourself too serious. Learn to laugh at yourself. Then number four, she says, “Do not dwell on the faults of others.” “Do not dwell of the faults of others. Do not dwell on the faults of others.” We love to point out faults that other people have and we love to dwell on it. But she said, “Do not dwell on the faults of others.”

And then the next point that she gave is, “Don't seek retaliation from insults or injuries.” “Don't seek retaliation from insults or injuries.” And the next one she said, “Be willing to yield.” “Be willing to yield.” It requires humility to be able to submit to someone else, for a wife to submit to a husband, or to submit to an employer, or to submit to leadership, it takes humility. It's to be able to yield, or even in a friendship, you don't have to be right all the time. You don't have to dominate all the time. You don't have to have your way all the time. Learn to yield to one another. Learn to yield to one another. Be willing to give in. Be willing to let someone else win. Be willing to yield, be willing to yield. And then she said, “Do not seek recognition.” “Do not seek recognition.” Be courteous and delicate when provoked by someone. Always be courteous and delicate when provoked by someone.

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And then finally, she says, “Always choose the more difficult task.” And those were just some of her little bullet points or keys on how to walk in humility and always be humble before the Lord and to live with submitted life to the Lord. Praise God. Well, I'm out of time. Those of you who are watching us, thank you so much for tuning in today. I want you to go to brothersoftheword.com. You can listen to this entire three part series “Living Graciously through Humility,” absolutely free of charge and you can also email them to a friend. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

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