

Fresh Surrender - Week 2

Humility and Happiness

2 Cor. 12:7 To keep me from becoming conceited (exalted above measure. KJV) because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. NIV

- We have already seen that the **key** is knowing the humility of Christ and implementing that humility in our own lives.
- Instead of getting all bent out of shape, stop and ask God for the **message**.
- Humility is an awareness that God's way is **best**.
- God's answer was that the trial came to be a **blessing** to Paul.
- Our weakness and humiliation, due to sin or our faithlessness, brings about grace and the Lord's **strength** to overcome.
- Instead of just **enduring** trials, gritting our teeth and accepting what we so dislike, Paul teaches us to "**glory** in it."

Every Christian virtually passes through two **stages** in pursuit of humility:

1. We **fear** and flee and run away from all God desires to do to bring humility in our lives. Instead of seeking humility at any **cost**, we run and hide or transfer blame to others.
2. We need a new **revelation** of the Lord Jesus, giving us an opportunity.

Ok, what does that really mean to us?

- The **presence** of God can reveal our own selfishness and sin and nothing but the Spirit of God can expel **self**.
- Paul's thorn in the flesh, the testing of his faith, led to the **experience** of the presence and power of God.
- The grace for humility is **greater** and nearer than what we think.

How is God exalted in all this? How will God conquer our own **pride?**

1. Doing what God **says** is our responsibility.

? Is it our job to cast out our own pride? Or is that God's work as I **follow**, until there is no pride left.

? Is **holiness** our work or is that the work God is going to accomplish as I learn to follow and obey?

? So what does humility require?

We must take every **opportunity** to respond with humility before God and man-- especially when life is hard.

- Our faith is in the **grace** of God. It gives us assurance that all the grace we need is already here, and more is coming to handle the trials of life.

2. In all we do, we must **trust** that God will do His part. We set our hearts on the **source** of all blessings.

The Law of Human Nature

- Actions produce habits, habits breed disposition, disposition forms the will, and a rightly formed will is called **character**.
- Andrew Murray says: "The lower, the emptier a man lies before God, the speedier and the fuller will be the inflow of the divine glory."
- We must learn to come to Christ and **pray**.

Four things about this carnal state God must overcome:

1. The carnal state is a condition of **lingering** infancy.
2. The carnal state has an absence of **love** and God's Spirit.
3. The carnal state is a person who is a **repeat** offender.
4. The carnal state causes man to become **unfit** to receive spiritual truth.

Final thoughts:

- We must recognize there is a **spiritual** life to be lived here on earth.
- Going from the **self**-life to the God-directed life is just **one step** away.
- Humble surrender leads to grace and God's **mercy**.