

Psalms 101:5 [Hebrew Font Size: $\frac{-}{+}$ | [Toggle Font](#)] [View in: [LXX](#) | [Side-by-side](#)]

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Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

Proverbs 16:18 [Hebrew Font Size: $\frac{-}{+}$ | [Toggle Font](#)] [View in: [LXX](#) | [Side-by-side](#)]

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Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

Isaiah 65:5 [Hebrew Font Size: $\frac{-}{+}$ | [Toggle Font](#)] [View in: [LXX](#) | [Side-by-side](#)]

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"Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, For I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.

In Hebrews 3:10 God says He was angry with the Israelites because, "They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know my ways." So the reason we are going to be talking about pride and humility is so that we can know God's ways which He has shown us very clearly in His Word.

INTRO:

The reason we are talking a lot about our inner life is because that is the real you. And if you are doing well internally you will do well externally. God is interested in your heart not in how you appear before other people.

So considering the verses we just read this deal is important to God so with that Sara is going to come up and talk about pride and unmask it for what it really is, and after that I'm going to come back up and talk about humility and what that looks like.

So lets give our attention to Sara now.

Let me start off by making some general observations about humility.

Humility doesn't mean that we **don't try** to do anything for God so that we dare not think highly of ourselves or to think that we could possibly do something for God, but it starts with your motives. In other words it starts with the difference between giving a good talk because people are looking up to you and you want them to keep thinking you are profound and deep as opposed to doing it because you want to share God's truth with others in order to help them and to obey God.

It also means that as you try and do stuff for God that your confidence **doesn't rest in your experience** and how **good and qualified** you are but rather in God's promises that "I can do all things through Christ" and that God will make me adequate (2 Cor. 3:5).

HUMILITY

A personal quality in which an individual shows dependence on God and respect for other persons.

There is no humility apart from recognizing your own sinfulness before God (Is. 6:5 Isaiah's attitude "I am ruined" do we share that attitude or are we okay with our own righteousness – ya I'm doing pretty good), obedience to God (Deut. 8:2, Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would really obey his commands.), submission to God like Jesus.

If you are humble -

You won't feel you are superior to anyone, and you will recognize that you have nothing of physical or spiritual good that you haven't received from God.

If you find yourself thinking you are wise then you can know you aren't humble. Realize that you need the help and instruction of others.

Don't always talk about yourself, be more interested in the well-being of the people around you. Don't always try and get attention or to be in the spotlight.

In Philippians 2:3 it says, "Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself."

A different version says think of others as more important than yourself.

The meaning appears to be this, this bible commentary pointed out: Consider all your brethren as more worthy than yourself; and let neither grief nor envy affect your mind at seeing another *honoured* and yourself *neglected*.

To honor is to recognize the value of someone and to act accordingly.

To shame someone is to challenge that one's reputation or to disregard his or her worth.

Winston Churchill was the first man in the world at his time to take a stand against Nazis Germany and Japan and if other countries like America didn't step in they would have gotten their butts kicked. So one could easily say that he was the most courageous and good hearted world leader at the time, but listen to what he said about himself

After World War II, he commented, "I was not the lion, but it fell to me to give the lion's roar."

Humility is kind of like what I talked about in my last talk, that God intends for us to be happy and the way is in living according to **His ways**, right?

He **made us** and **knows what's best for us**. Jesus didn't tell people how to live step by step but He showed us the kinds of attitudes that bring about proper behavior. And he says in Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The Greek word used for poor here means **cowering like a beggar**.

A beggar would cower because he didn't want to be seen. He would be so ashamed of his state in life that he wouldn't want anyone to see him but he would extend his hand for any handouts. It refers to a person **totally dependent on the gifts** of others. Such people were often crippled, blind, or deaf. Because they couldn't function normally in society, they had **to plead for grace and mercy from others**. They had no personal resources.

Christ said that those who are beggars in spirit are the happy ones, because no one can attain to heaven or godliness on their own, right?

What characterizes poor people?

That they don't have very much if anything, right? Now Jesus is saying here blessed are those that realize they have nothing good in themselves. He was saying, "You can't be filled until you are empty. You can't be worthwhile until you realize you are worthless apart from Christ."

Listen to what John McArthur says, "In the church today there is little emphasis on self-emptying. I've seen many books on how to be filled with joy and other things, but I don't think I've ever seen a book on how to empty yourself of self. Too much of contemporary Christianity feeds on pride. But a person without poverty of spirit fails to understand the grace of God and cannot be a Christian since salvation is by grace through faith. Also, the graces of the Christian life can't grow without humility."

And how often on the other hand did Jesus talk about it? He talked about it all the time when he taught his disciples and when he denounced the Pharisees.

This is why Jesus said happy are the spiritual beggars:

1. Isaiah 66:2--God said, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."
2. Psalm 34:18—"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit."

3. Psalm 51:17--David said, "The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise."

4. Isaiah 57:15—"The high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in that high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I refresh the humble and give new courage to those with repentant hearts."

God identifies with people who are spiritual beggars, not with those who are self-sufficient.

And it doesn't mean that we just sit around because anything that comes from us isn't good therefore we shouldn't do it. That's missing the point, that's actually false humility because it also denies God's word. Because Jesus said that His followers would do even greater things than he did, and that we are created in Christ Jesus to do good works and that faith without works is dead.

It's just that humble people are used of God whereas proud people do stuff for God for the wrong reasons and with the wrong motives, like the Pharisees.

Without humility we will end up like the Pharisees, always learning about God but never really knowing Him.

True humility produces deep submission to God.

Listen to what Gideon said in Judges 6 after God told him to deliver Israel. He said, "O my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." Basically he is like God you have the wrong man. Now listen to how God replied to Him, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."

The mightiest man is the one who recognizes that of himself he is nothing. Moses had the same attitude when he thought he was incapable of the task God gave him, and of himself he was. God used Moses because he recognized his own insufficiency. David said, "Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that thou hast brought me thus far?" (2 Sam. 7:18).

God used these people in huge ways and they all had a common attitude of being nothing before God, but they still did great things because it was God who was doing the work through them. If humbling yourself before God means emptying yourself and allowing yourself to be used by God however He wants then it makes sense that you won't just sit around and be lazy (you guys remember the parable of the talents, well it was the lazy one that had hard thoughts towards God, our laziness keeps us from knowing who God really is).

Think about Paul for a minute. Before he knew God he thought that he was blameless, and fully confident in himself, but after God revealed Himself to Paul look at what he says, "we put no confidence in human effort" and he goes on to name himself the chief of sinners.

He believed this because he learned that in Christ he could do all things through the strength that God provided, and that God made him adequate to do His will, and that God's power was made perfect in his weakness.

If you rely on the Holy Spirit God will live His life through you. If we only empty ourselves out and be filled with God then He will live His life through us.

When we preoccupy ourselves with our own wants and needs we can't see the matchless worth of Christ.

When we are afraid and doubtful all the time we won't see God's power in our lives because we won't accept God's word or we forget it. We need to take our doubts and fears to God and exchange our pennies for gold and then hold on to it.

We won't grow with God unless we are humble. The two instances in scripture where Jesus was amazed at people's faith is with the Gentile women who asked God to heal her daughter and Jesus said it isn't right to take the food of the children and give it to the dogs. Jesus called her a dog, and she accepted it and said even the dogs eat the crumbs off the masters table. And Jesus said, "your faith is great."

And the other instance is with the centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant and when Jesus said he would come he said just say the word because I am unworthy for you to even come into my house. And again Jesus was marveled at his faith.

Listen to how Jesus says about Himself. And if Jesus thinks this way about himself than where does that leave us? He says:

"The Son can do nothing of Himself" (John 5: 19).

"I can of My own self do nothing; My judgment is just, because I seek not Mine own will" (John 5: 30).

"I receive not glory from men" (John 5: 41).

"I am come not to do Mine own will" (John 6:38).

"My teaching is not Mine" (John 7:16)

"I am not come of Myself" (John 7:28)

"I do nothing of Myself" (John 8:28)

"I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me" (John 8: 42).

"I seek not Mine own glory" (John 8:50)

"The words that I say, I speak not from Myself" (John 14: 10).

"The word which ye hear is not Mine" (John 14: 24).

Even Jesus acknowledged that what he said and did weren't of himself and this should be the attitude of every Christian.

Now here's where the twist in the plot comes.

Hear this: humility shown before God is fake unless it is shown to the people around you.

I like A.W. Tozer's illustration he said that it would be easy if we knew that God was outside right now at the lodge, lets say, for us to go outside and humble ourselves before him, right? I don't think anyone would have a problem with that. But the true test is when you are got off guard and with the common everyday people around you.

Here's what Andrew Murray pointed out, he starts off with quoting 1 John 4:20 which says, "He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

He goes on to say, "What a sobering thought, that our love to God will be measured by our everyday intercourse with men and the love it displays; and that our love to God will be found to be a delusion, except was its truth proved in standing the test of daily life with our fellowmen. It is even so with our humility. It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God: humility towards men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real; that humility has taken up its home in us; and become our very nature; that we actually, like Christ, have made ourselves of no reputation. When in the presence of God lowliness of heart has become, not a posture we pray to Him, but the very spirit of our life, it will manifest itself in all our bearing towards our brethren."

Can you guys see how that is true?

Let's look at what Holy Spirit told the churches through Paul, To the Romans He writes: "In honor preferring one another" (when you honor someone you set them up as more important than yourself, whether speaking highly of them or going out of your way to be kind to them); "Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to those that are lowly." "Be not wise in your own conceit." To the Corinthians: "Love," and there is no love without humility at its root, "Love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own, is not provoked." To the Galatians: "Serve one another in love... Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another" And again in Galatians, "But if instead of showing **love** among yourselves you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another (WOW! So basically if you are going around and talking bad about others you are actually destroying God's kingdom not building it). And to the Ephesians he says, "Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your **love**." And to the Ephesians he writes, ""Therefore, walk with all lowliness and meekness,

with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love"; "Giving thanks always, subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ." To the Philippians, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves. Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant." And to the Colossians, "Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, even as the Lord forgave you."

True humility is being a servant or slave of God, but also a servant of men. Jesus said that he came to serve and that as he washed his disciples feet so should we. And Paul said that he made himself the slave of all in hopes that he could possibly win some.

Who did Jesus say was the greatest person in His kingdom? He said, ""Whosoever would be first among you, shall be your servant,"

Do you guys remember how often the disciples fought over being first in God's kingdom or having seats of honor on his right and left. It happens all throughout the gospels and even at the Last Supper. And this is after they had heard Him talk about it so many times.

It just goes to show that we can't rid ourselves of pride, but only by allowing God to live His life through us we can become humble.

Everything changed when Pentecost happened. Right (that's when God gave His Holy Spirit to His followers)? When Jesus came into their lives and began to live His life in them.

That's when the disciples finally started living the lives god wanted them to live and the same will be true with us, only through God's Spirit.

That's real hope isn't it that God will do it in us and that we just need to yield and trust Him.

It reminds me of a line from an old hymn I heard, it said – nothing in my hands I bring, but to thy cross I cling.