

## **Attitude #1 - Humility**

**Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**I admit that I am powerless over the effects of drugs, alcohol and self-centered behavior, my life is unmanageable.**

**Humility** - A freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and all we are, comes from God. The Greek philosophers at the time of Christ despised humility because it implied inadequacy, lack of dignity, and worthlessness to them. This is not the meaning of humility as defined by the Bible. Jesus is the supreme example of humility.

**Matt 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

**Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Biblical humility is not a belittling of oneself, but an exalting and praising of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 6:16 - Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.**

**Romans 12:3 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

**John 3:30 - He must increase, but I must decrease.**

A humble person focuses more on God and others than on himself. True humility produces gratitude. Since God is both our Creator and Redeemer, our existence and righteousness depend on Him. We can take no credit for the blessings of this life. Our obligations in receiving the blessings of this life are to love God, obey God and serve God.

**James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**

Humility comes from a gradual and consistent awareness that God is all I need, and He is the one that gives me life and joy. Humility says that I am no better than anyone else just because I might be better off. Humility says I do not have to know more than everyone else just because I am learning.

**Psalms 116:1-9 - I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. 3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. 5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. 6 The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. 7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. 8 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. 9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

1. Vs. 1,2 - A Mature Response. **I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.**

The writer begins this psalm by saying, "I love the Lord!!" Following that declaration, he gives the reason for doing so. He said that God, "Heard his voice and *supplications* (requests) and *inclined* (stretch out, extend) His ear unto him." When he considered that the Lord heard his voice and stretched out to him, he responded by resolving himself to love the Lord and devoting himself to Him and to His honor.

What should the knowledge of God hearing our prayers do?

- **Make us love the Lord better.** We should always love Him more, but have we ever considered loving Him better?

**Psalm 18:1 - I will love thee, Oh Lord, my strength.**

- **Makes us love prayer better.....therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live.**

The experiences we have had of God's goodness to us in answer to prayer should be great encouragements to continue praying. God answers prayer not only because He loves us but also that we might love to pray. Why should we glean from any other field when we have been treated so well in this one?

2. **Vs. 3,4 - A Timely Response.** The sorrows of death compassed (surrounded) me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

The writer said, not only did these things find him but he found them. Those of us who have been careless and rebellious have had a great deal of sorrow of our own finding. But the writer did not let his circumstances overcome his opportunity.....he said, **"THEN called I upon the name of the Lord"**.

Whether the trouble has found us, or we have found the trouble we are always encouraged by God to pray, and we should always make that our first resort before we do anything else. Many times we have tried everything else first and not until we have made things worst have we prayed. When you are hurting pray, when you are down pray, when you are discouraged pray, when you are confused pray, when you are frustrated pray, when you are offended pray. We would save ourselves much unnecessary stress and grief if before we tell anyone else about our trouble, we tell God.

3. **Vs. 5-7 - A Loving Response.** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. 6 The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. 7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt *bountifully* (to deal fully with, good) with thee.

In the middle of these two verses, we find encouragement for all of us. The writer said, **"I was brought low, and He helped me."** He helps us to bear the worst and hopes for the best, helps us to pray when we might give up and helps us to wait when our faith might have failed. God's people are never brought so low, that God's everlasting arms are not under them. By the writer's own testimony, God saved him out of his troubles either by the preventing of the suffering he was ready to fall into or the recovering of the agony he was already in, and He can do the same for us.

It is interesting in verse 7, he begins talking to himself.

4. **Vs. 8,9 - A Determined Response.** For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. 9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. 10 I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:

He first declares his awareness of the details of his deliverance.

- **My soul from death.** It should humble all of us that by the mercy of God we are still alive today.
- **Mine eyes from tears.** It should humble us that by the mercy of God we might have sorrow today but most of us may have had more in the past.
- **My feet from falling.** It should humble us that by the mercy of God that we have been kept from falling more times than we are aware of.

The writer's determined response was, "**I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**"

While I am alive to this life and this world, I will walk before the Lord!

**John 8:12 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**