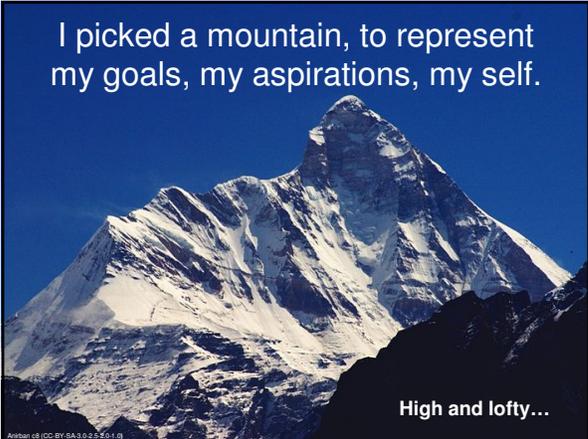


Assurance of Salvation
Part 52

Humility – What it is
(#4)



But God had other plans...

Every valley shall be filled,
and *every mountain and hill shall be made low*...

(Luke 3:5a ESV)



Last week:

- We saw the reasons that genuine humility can be considered an *evidence of salvation*.
 - *God* makes it possible. Otherwise, it *couldn't* exist.

Thank you Jesus!
You made humility possible!

Without you, I'd be a proud, arrogant fool!

EVEN SO...

Most Scripture passages focus on our responsibility to be humble.

- We know there is a "sovereignty" aspect to it.
 - (just like everything else related to salvation)
- But our duty is to focus on what *we* need to do.
 - (since this is the emphasis we find in Scripture)

★
We can let God "worry" about his part, as we deal with our part.
★

- **The unsaved** won't obey the Bible's commands about humility (regardless of what they may claim).
 - Many "church-goers" are in this category.

Of course I want to do it... Right after I finish this movie, and check the sports channel, the news and weather...



"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

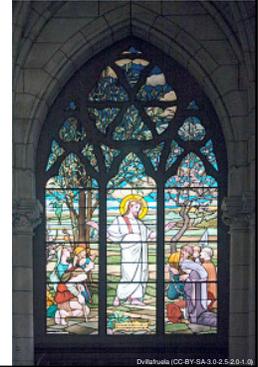
(Luke 6:46 ESV)



- **The saved** want to be like the one they are following – *Jesus!*

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for *I am gentle and humble in heart*, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

(Matthew 11:28-30 NIV)



ALL people are going to be humble... it's just a matter of timing.

- We can **CHOOSE** to pay attention to God's commands...

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but *in humility* consider others better than yourselves.

Philip. 2:3 (NIV)

- ... and follow Jesus' example...

You must have the same that Christ Jesus had:

Although he was in very nature God, he did not cling to his right to be treated as equal with God.

Instead, *he made himself nothing*.

He chose to take on the very nature of a slave, and was born as a human being.

Considered by others to be merely human, *he humbled himself* even further by being obedient to the point of death, death on a cross!



Philip. 2:5-8 (DHT)

- Or we can wait until there is **NO CHOICE**.

Because of this, God has exalted him to the highest place and given him the name of honor that is greater than any other name, so that at the name of Jesus, *everyone will bow down*, everyone in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth.

And *everyone will acknowledge* that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glorious praise of God the Father.

Philip. 2:9-11 (DHT)

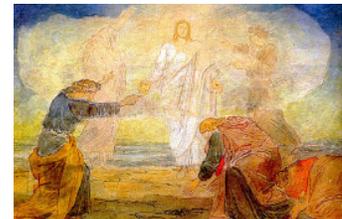
Even if we perish in hell, we will *still* bow down before Jesus.

Humility and truthfulness go together

- When you humble yourself, you are simply putting yourself back in your *rightful* place.

(Living any other way is living a lie.)

You will willingly and eagerly bow down before Jesus.



Genuine humility does not mean lying about ourselves!

- It requires us to lower ourselves only to where we actually belong.



- It does NOT mean belittling one's self, pretending that facts aren't true!

(Example next page)



{ Example of belittling one's self, pretending that facts aren't true! }

- **NEWSPAPER HEADLINE:**

"MAN RESCUES CHILDREN FROM BURNING CAR..."

... Claims he didn't do anything heroic.

THIS CLAIM IS **NOT** TRUE!!



(This might be closer to the truth):

"It may have been heroic, but God gave me the courage and the success. I could have died! I thank God that he protected me and the children!"



Here's another example of being truthful:



{ BEING TRUTHFUL, NOT BELITTLING! }

When people get saved, who gets the credit?

Who is Apollos? Who is Paul? They are servants who helped you come to faith. Each did what the Lord gave him to do.

I [Paul] planted, and Apollos watered, but **God made it grow.**

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is important because {only} **God makes it grow.**

1 Cor. 3:5-7 (GW)

Genuine humility upholds truth.

- Humility is willing to accept the truth about ourselves and God, and to live accordingly.

SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES



A willingness to admit:

- We are **100% dependent** on God, in every way.
 - Not only for salvation and spiritual growth, but for life itself.

Jesus, I need you!

"For in him we live and move and have our being."

Acts 17:28a (NIV)

"... apart from me [Jesus] you can do nothing."

John 15:5b (NIV)

A willingness to admit:

- We are **100% unworthy**.
 - We are vile, corrupt sinners, who deserve only God's wrath.

Jesus, I don't deserve you!

- This expresses our attitude:

'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

(Luke 15:21 NLT)

A willingness to admit:

- We are **100% undeserving** of anything good.
 - Especially the blessings of God.

Jesus, I do deserve judgment!

Only your mercy keeps it from me!

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

(Lament. 3:22 NIV)

(We know we deserve to be consumed.)

If we are willing to "lower" ourselves to this level (i.e., to our rightful place)...

- **It will influence the way we live:** our attitudes and actions toward God and people.

"...learn from me [Jesus], for I am gentle and humble in heart, ..."

(Matthew 11:29b NIV)

Love is ... not proud... not self-seeking,...

(from 1 Cor. 13:4-5 NIV)

Your mission: Self-examination

- Do you have this humility? Are you willing to lower yourself to this level?

Your mission: Self-examination

- Do you have this humility? Are you willing to lower yourself to this level?
 - **If not, you are living a lie.**
 - ... it's time for you to *repent!*

Your mission: Self-examination

- Do you have this humility? Are you willing to lower yourself to this level?
 - **If not, you are living a lie.**
 - ... it's time for you to *repent!*
 - **If yes, it is evidence that you are saved.**
 - ... it's time for you to *rejoice!*
 - ... *And for you to continue growing in your salvation!*

Credits (1)

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