

The Beauty of Brokenness & Humility

Full Version with Scripture References

In the book *Gospel Workers* we are told, "I saw that the strength of the children of God is in their humility. When they are little in their own eyes, Jesus will be to them their strength and their righteousness, and God will prosper their labors" (*Gospel Workers*, 1892, p. 365).

"However trifling this or that wrong act may seem in the eyes of men, no sin is small in the sight of God. Man's judgment is partial, imperfect, but God estimates all things as they really are. The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; *while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked*. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God, for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe. He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; *but pride feels no need*, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 30).

The following may be hard to digest all in one reading. I encourage you to take your time (maybe even a few days) as you pray and reflect on the truths of God's Word in this reading. And don't despair as you realize all the ways you fall short, for God promises that He can change our heart. He can save even to the uttermost (See Ezek. 36:26, and Heb. 7:25).

The following passage from *Steps to Christ* has given me great courage. I pray it does for you as well!

"The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature. This is evidence that Satan's delusions have lost their power; that the vivifying influence of the Spirit of God is arousing you. No deep-seated love for Jesus can dwell in the heart that does not realize its own sinfulness. The soul that is transformed by the grace of Christ will admire His divine character; but if we do not see our own moral deformity, it is unmistakable evidence that we have not had a view of the beauty and excellence of Christ. The less we see to esteem in ourselves, the more we shall see to esteem in the infinite purity and loveliness of our Saviour. A view of our sinfulness drives us to Him who can pardon; and when the soul, realizing its helplessness, reaches out after Christ, He will reveal Himself in power. The more our sense of need drives us to Him and to the word of God, the more exalted views we shall have of His character, and the more fully we shall reflect His image" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 64-65).

However back to the task at hand, the Bible also tells us, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves” (2 Cor. 13:5). So it’s time we do some examining. Are you ready? Take a deep breath! Here is the no-sugar-added straight to the point contrast between pride and humility.

The Beauty of Humility ~ Contrast between Pride & Humility

- **Proud self-filled people see all the good they do and feel worthy of Salvation.**
- Humble selfless people know that only through Christ’s righteousness can they gain Salvation.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5

- **Proud self-filled people feel confident and proud of how much they know.**
- Humble selfless people feel humbled by how much they have yet to learn.

“Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: ‘Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?’ ” 2 Samuel 7:18

- **Proud self-filled people thank God that they aren’t like the world around them.**
- Humble selfless people realize that “pride” itself is as deadly as the sins of the world.

“Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.” Prov. 16:5

- **Proud self-filled people carry grudges because they have difficulty saying, “I was wrong. Will you forgive me?”**
- Humble selfless people are quick to say, “I’m sorry, let’s work this out.”

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Matt. 5:23,24

- **Proud self-filled people tend to focus on the failures and weaknesses of others, and are unmoved by others brokenness.**
- Humble selfless people feel deeply their own weaknesses and great spiritual need, and are sensitive to those who are broken.

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Tim. 1:15

- **Proud self-filled people have difficulty submitting to others and are especially prone to criticize and murmur against those in positions of authority or leadership.**
- Humble selfless people serve all in humility, as servants unto the Lord. They especially seek to encourage and lift up the arms of those in positions of authority and leadership, recognizing that God appoints leaders for His glory.

"And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matt. 20:27-28

- **Proud self-filled people have to prove they are right and save face even when they are wrong.**
- Humble selfless people are willing to yield the "right to be right" in situations even when they are right, as they are more worried about being righteous before God than being right before men.

"For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil." 1 Peter 3:17

- **Proud self-filled people are selfishly protective of personal space, time, and their reputation.**
- Humble selfless people have a generous giving spirit and are willing to be inconvenienced, allowing God to protect their space, time, and reputation.

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

- **Proud self-filled people are too busy to notice or reach out to the "small people" in their lives, those who can't benefit them in some specific way.**
- Humble selfless people are always seeking to serve and minister to even the "least of these" as unto Jesus.

"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" Matt. 25:40

- **Proud self-filled people desire to be recognized and applauded, and they covet promotions, trophies and awards.**
- Humble selfless people desire to be faithful that God's glory may be seen, and they shy away from recognition or applause.

"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth." Ps. 115:1

- **Proud self-filled people are quick to flaunt their titles and great achievements and feel entitled to special treatment.**
- Humble selfless people don't need to speak of their titles or achievements, and they are content to go unnoticed as long as God gets the glory.

"Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?"

- **Proud self-filled people use their life and any influence they've received as a stage to showcase themselves.**
- Humble selfless people use the stage and their influence to try to exalt Christ and make sure only He is seen.

Prov. 20:6 "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30

- **Proud self-filled people are always thinking about the good things they do for God, and how the church or ministry couldn't do without them.**
- Humble selfless people realize that without God, they can do nothing of value for His Kingdom. They feel humbled just to be used at all.

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Phil 2:13

- **Proud self-filled people are often cold, distant, rigid, unforgiving and unapproachable. When misunderstandings occur, they wait for others to make the first move.**
- Humble selfless people are warm, loving, welcoming in their manners, forgiving, and easy to be entreated. They are quick to make amends.

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Eph. 4:31,32

- **Proud self-filled people are often defensive when criticized, and don't want others to know when they have made a mistake or done wrong.**
- Humble selfless people receive criticism with a humble open heart and seek to grow by it. They are not overly concerned when others see their failures.

"For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights." Prov. 3:12

- **Proud self-filled people tend to walk alone and have difficulty sharing their spiritual struggles and needs with others.**

- Humble selfless people are willing to be open, vulnerable, and real before others. They aren't concerned about appearing weak, but want to be genuine that God's strength can be glorified even in their times of weakness.

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 12:9

- **Proud self-filled people, when confessing sins to God, tend to confess in vague generalities. "Dear God, please forgive me for all my sins."**
- Humble selfless people, when confessing sins to God, always confess specific sins. "Dear God, please forgive me for doing this_____."

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16

- **Proud self-filled people are concerned with being respectable and not a spectacle, and thus they often live a self-righteous façade.**
- Humble selfless people are more concerned with being right with God, and they shun all forms of hypocrisy or double living.

"For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

- **Proud self-filled people compare themselves to others and feel deserving of honor and salvation.**
- Humble selfless people recognize their true sinful condition, and praise God that He sent His Son so that, though undeserving, they could receive salvation and honor.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

- **Proud self-filled people think they are pretty much ok, but they are blind to their true heart condition.**
- Humble selfless people have a continual attitude of "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

"And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' " Luke 18:13

- **Proud self-filled people don't think they need revival, but they think everyone else does. (In fact, right about now, they are making a mental list of all those who need to read this list.)**

- Humble selfless people will be the first to acknowledge that they need daily spiritual revival! They are constantly sensing their need of a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their hearts and lives.

"Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?" Psalm 85:6

"Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily." Psalm 86:3 (KJV)

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