

## ***Cultivating the need of a Humble Spirit - Meekness***

### **I. THE CALL TO MEEKNESS**

- A. In our zeal for the Spirit's activity, we discern the things the Spirit considers excellent. v. 9 I pray that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent...till the day of Christ... (Phil. 1:9-10)  
*<sup>9</sup> may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,*  
*<sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent...till the day of Christ... (Phil. 1:9-10)*
- B. Expressions of meekness in life together: being considerate of others in all things  
Expressions of meekness in public ministry: in our teaching content and ministry style  
Expression of meekness in leadership authority: those with more power take less privilege  
Expression of meekness when overlooked or mistreated: serving as unto the Lord instead of man  
Expression of meekness in valuing other ministries: resisting an elite or independent spirit  
*<sup>3</sup> Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, (emotions or pride) but in lowliness of mind... (Phil. 2:3)*
- C. He is our audience and we seek His applause.  
*v. <sup>4</sup> Your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you. (Mt. 6:1-4)*
- D. Paul contrasted two ways of living: to live as **unto God** or as **unto man**, i.e., to live seeking the applause of God or of men. Eyeservice speaks of serving to gain the applause and recognition of men by serving with more humility, generosity, diligence, and purity when someone is watching. Do we get offended after we serve diligently and are ignored or criticized for our labors?  
*<sup>6</sup> Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers ...but... <sup>7</sup> as to the Lord, and not to men, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord... (Eph. 6:6-8)*

### **II. LEARNING ABOUT MEEKNESS FROM JESUS**

- A. **“Meekness is the magnet that attracts God’s favor.”** The only character trait that Jesus declared about Himself was that He was meek (v. 29).  
*<sup>28</sup>“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart [meek, humble], and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Mt. 11:28-30)*
1. **Rest:** The Lord promises to give us freedom and joy, a happy spirit with contentment.
  2. **Learn from Me:** The most significant issue in being a disciple of Jesus is to learn meekness from Him. We are to regularly ask Him to teach us about it—to give us *insight* into the specifics of walking it out and then to release *inspiration* to embrace it with joy.

3. ***Heavy laden:*** Its many expressions include *emotional pain* (mistreated or overlooked), the *weariness of striving* with others instead of serving them, and *anxiety with fear*.
  4. ***Easy yoke and light burden:*** This speaks of the ability to enjoy our fellowship with God and to receive grace to obey Him even when outward circumstances are not easy or light.
- B. ***Poor in spirit:*** Humility has a deep sense of the need to be helped and taught by God and people.  
***<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:3)***
- C. We are by nature proud. This is the gravitational pull of our fallen minds. Therefore, we must zealously seek for the supernatural help of God's grace to walk in meekness. **Most of our pride is unperceived; it is not obvious to us.** Most are socially sophisticated enough to avoid blatant strutting and to politely honor social etiquette and protocols. The enemy tempts us with pride that lies subtly hidden in our attitudes, related especially to our knowledge and dedication, but it can also be related to our gifting, anointing, appearance, resources, and position of influence.

### III. MEEKNESS FORMED IN MYSELF

- A. ***Humble yourselves:*** We make the decision and trust God's method and timing for our exaltation. (so important-I've spent countless hours in prayer hearing the spirit say so). The Spirit will show us more as we wait, with less talking and more listening to Him.
- B. ***Offended Spirit:*** One of the most important aspects of our spiritual life is how we respond when mistreated. Being mistreated is something that all of us experience many times throughout our entire life. If we respond in the right way, then we will go deeper in God. If we respond wrongly, a residue of bitterness will build up in us over time resulting in a dull and defiled spirit.
- C. ***How to respond when mistreated:*** We are not our own because Jesus bought us and now owns us. Therefore, He is responsible for us. He owns our relationships, money, reputation, physical well-being, ministry position and impact, etc. Therefore, He is responsible to be our source in these areas.

***19 You are not your own...20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)***

**IV. SEVEN EVIDENCES OF HUMILITY**

- A. **Evidence #1: Teachable spirit**—Being eager to learn from others and easy to correct. Humility is quick to hear or to be taught and is slow to speak or to correct and instruct others (Jas. 1:19). Pride seeks to quickly speak or teach others instead of being quick to be taught (or to hear). It is expressed in a condescending (arrogant) attitude with an inappropriate confidence that is not rooted in truth.
- <sup>1</sup>Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. (1 Cor. 8:1)***
- <sup>19</sup>Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath [anger]... (Jas. 1:19)***
- <sup>18</sup>Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise...let him become a fool [one who sees their great need to learn] that he may become wise. (1 Cor. 3:18)***
- B. **Evidence #2: Sees personal faults**—Humility is quick to take responsibility for personal faults. Pride does not see personal faults—is defensive instead of being quick to acknowledge its errors.
- <sup>6</sup>Not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. (1 Tim. 3:6)***
- C. **Evidence #3: Grateful spirit**—Humility sees we are getting a better deal than we deserve (if all the information was considered). Pride complains much, feels mistreated, has a bitter spirit.
- D. **Evidence #4: Sees the value of others**—Humility has a deep awareness of others. Everyone has an important story that involves their joy, pain, lack, gifts, and agenda. Pride is self-absorbed and distracted with much emotional traffic in seeking to manage many of our negative emotions.
- E. **Evidence #5: Kind with faults**—Humility is kind and patient with the faults of others. It is not easily insulted, offended, or angered. Pride is quickly exasperated with the faults of others and easily offended and insulted. The measure of our anger is the measure of our unperceived pride.
- F. **Evidence #6: Does good in secret**—Humility does good in secret because it first seeks approval and recognition from God instead of from people (Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18). We naturally draw attention to how devoted, smart, diligent, anointed, and generous we are (with money and time).
- G. **Evidence #7: Seeks the benefit of others**—Humility uses its position of influence to benefit others instead of treating others roughly or bullying and intimidating them.
- <sup>3</sup>In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out...for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was in Christ... (Phil. 2:3-5)***
- <sup>23</sup>The poor man uses entreaties, but the rich answers roughly. (Prov. 18:23)***