

Humble Yourself and Be Taught of God.

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Introduction: Are We Humble Before God?

- A. Do we truly believe that “God is”? (**Heb. 11:6**)
- B. True recognition of God’s greatness will humble us and cause us to see how “small we really are” in comparison to Him (e.g., **Isa. 6:5**).
- C. If we want to have fellowship with God and go to Heaven, we must approach the Lord with a humble spirit (**Isa. 57:15; Mat. 5:3**).

I. To Draw Near to God, We Must Be Teachable (Ps. 25:9).

- A. God wants people who are as humble as children (**Mat. 18:1-4; cf. 1 Jn 3:1**).
 - 1. Laying down our selfish ambitions and pride, we must take on the lowly position of a child and have the *deepest* humility in approaching the Lord.
 - 2. Children are, to a great extent, teachable and *humble*.
 - 3. In humility, we are to allow God to teach us and mold us into what He wants us to be and as a result we will be greatly blessed (**1 Pet. 5:6**).
- B. The *only* way to have fellowship with God is to humble ourselves to the teachings of God (**John 6:44-45; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
 - 1. This is *the* way He draws us to Him, by the power of God’s word.
 - 2. We listen *attentively* so we may learn from God what we must do to come to God, to have a relationship with Him, to please Him.
- C. God has made His word understandable (**Eph. 3:3-5**), it is up to each person to open his heart to the Scriptures (**Luke 8:15; cf. Mat. 13:14-16**).
 - 1. Stubbornness and pride keeps truth out, yet a humble heart holds fast to the truth and benefits spiritually as a result (**James 1:21**)

II. Our Attitude toward the Scriptures is Our Attitude toward God.

- A. We don’t *truly* respect the Lord, if we do not do what He says (**Luke 6:46; cf. Mat. 7:21-23**).
 - 1. Many people today pay “lip service” to God, claim to believe that Jesus is Lord, but do not obey His word.
 - 2. People who shout “Jesus is Lord” from the rooftops, but ignore or neglect the teachings of Scripture, do not truly respect Him.
- B. True respect for God is demonstrated by respect for His Book – *The Bible*.
 - 1. If we *really* believe the Bible to be the word of God, we will take it seriously in our lives (**1 Thes. 2:13**).
 - 2. There is no other book on earth that we can humble ourselves to *totally* and *completely* than the Bible.

III. Humble Yourself to the Wisdom of God.

- A. We cannot be taught by God if we are proud and presume to know beforehand the will of God (**Isa. 5:20-21; cf. Prov 3:7; 12:15; 26:12**).
 - 1. Many people try to determine for themselves what God’s will is without Bible study and as a result they *tell God* what they think is good and evil!
 - 2. God does *not* think the same way as we do! (**Isa. 55:8-9**)
 - 3. The wisdom of God is superior to man’s wisdom (**1 Cor. 1:18-25**).
- B. To be spiritually complete, we must humble ourselves to be examined by the word of God.

1. The Scriptures can put us through a “painful” process of cross-examination and judgment (**Heb. 4:12**).
2. When we go to the word of God with a *humble* heart, we are often “cut to the heart” and forced to see our shortcomings and weaknesses.
3. The Scriptures are designed in such a way that if we listen with a humble heart **we will** be challenged! (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**)

IV. What Does Humbling Ourselves Before God Require?

- A. We must unload the “baggage” so we can *really* listen to what God says.
 1. Personal opinions, feelings, philosophies or traditions of men, and popular opinion (**Prov. 14:12; Col. 2:8; Mat. 15:9; 7:13**).
 2. Family wishes and religious traditions (**Mat. 10:37**).
 3. Prejudices against the messenger of truth (e.g., **John 9:34; Gal. 4:16**).
- B. We must resolve to let God’s word teach us how to be saved.
 1. Too often we want salvation to be given on *our* terms, not God’s (e.g., **2 Kings 5:10-14**).
 2. God has made His gospel easy to understand and obey (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4; 1 Pet. 3:21**).
- C. Christians must continually humble themselves to God’s counsel (**Prov 12:15**).
 1. Rather than decide for ourselves what our beliefs or conduct will be, we seek to understand God’s will on *everything* we do (**Eph. 5:15-17**).
 2. Living the Christian life demands humility, submitting always to God’s will above our own, walking carefully according to God’s wisdom.

Examples: (1) The way we think (**Phil. 4:8**), speak (**Eph. 4:29**), dress (**1 Tim. 2:9**), use our bodies (**Rom. 12:1**), and behave (**1 Pet. 1:15**). (2) Sins we must give up (**Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-10**). (3) Marriage (**Mt. 19:1-9; Eph. 5:22-33**) and parenting (**Eph. 6:4**). (4) Spiritual riches over material riches (**Mt. 6:19-21; e.g., Mt. 19:21-22; Prov. 28:11**). (5) Worship (**Jn 4:23-24**).

- D. When we pray to God for help and deliverance, we make requests in harmony with His will (**1 John 5:14-15**).
 1. Too often, through our requests, we tell God how to solve the problem, what *we* think He should do, rather than relying on His wisdom.
 2. We need to ask God: Where am I going wrong? And then listen to His word (the Scriptures) with an open and humble heart.
 3. By studying His will, we will be able to make the proper requests.
- E. An acknowledgement of our need for His mercy (**Luke 18:13-14**).
 1. Until we recognize that we are *sinners* who need God’s mercy, we will never be right with the Lord (**1 John 1:8, 10**).
 2. The humble person can address his sins and confess them (**1 John 1:9**).
- F. Sometimes it requires starting over and rebuilding your faith.
 1. As humiliating as it may be, sometimes we need to relearn what we should have known all along (**Heb. 5:12**).
 2. The humble person sees his need to constantly be reminded, lest he forget (**2 Pet. 1:12**).

Conclusion: Our Salvation Depends on Our Being Humble before God and His Teachings: “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6)