

Humility is defined as the state or quality of being humble; the absence of pride. Humility is one of the three things the Lord requires of us.¹ Before honor is humility² and it is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.³ It is better to have another man praise you rather than exalting yourself.⁴ God will look on a person who is poor and of a contrite spirit.⁵ Jesus taught that whoever humbles himself as a little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven⁶ and whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.⁷ To illustrate this, Jesus told the parable of the proud Pharisee whose prayer was mainly boasting and compared it to the humble prayer of the publican who was justified.⁸ Paul wrote that a person should not think of himself more highly than he ought,⁹ should give preference to one another,¹⁰ and should associate with the humble and not be wise in his own opinion.¹¹ James wrote that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."¹²

John the Baptist and Jesus were examples of humility. John stated that he must decrease and that Jesus must increase¹³ and that he was not worthy to loose the sandals of Jesus.¹⁴ Jesus washed the feet of the disciples¹⁵ but much more than that He came in the likeness of men, humbled Himself and became obedient to the death of the cross.¹⁶

The opposite of humility is pride. The writer of Proverbs has much to say about this. When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.¹⁷ A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.¹⁹ Only by pride cometh contention²⁰ and he who is of a proud heart stirs up strife.²¹ Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD²² and even a proud look is listed in the things the LORD hates.²³ A haughty look and a proud heart are sin.²⁴

There are many instances of pride in scripture. Naaman's pride at first caused him to refuse to wash in Jordan, but when he finally obeyed he was healed of leprosy.²⁵ Haman's pride led to him being hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.²⁶ When Nebuchadnezzar became proud regarding Babylon which he had built, God caused him to live with the beasts and eat grass for seven years until he realized that God appoints kingdoms and is able to abase those who walk in pride.²⁷

Pride comes from within, out of the heart of men.²⁸ The pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world²⁹ and in the last days men will be proud.³⁰ Even knowledge can puff up³¹ but love does not.³² We should not glory in wisdom, might, nor in riches; but we should glory in the Lord³³ Pride can come by comparing ourselves with others. This is not wise. It is not he who commends himself that is approved, but whom the Lord commends.³⁴ If you have some gifts that others do not have you should recognize that every good gift that you have came either from God or others.³⁵

¹ Micah 6:8 And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? NKJV

² Proverbs 15:33 ...Before honor is humility. NKJV

³ Proverbs 16:19 Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. NKJV

⁴ Proverbs 27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips. NKJV

⁵ Isaiah 66:2 "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word. NKJV

⁶ Matthew 18:4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. NKJV

⁷ Matthew 23:12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. NKJV

⁸ Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 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!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." NKJV

⁹ Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, NKJV

¹⁰ Romans 12:10 ...in honor giving preference to one another NKJV

¹¹ Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. NKJV

¹² James 4:6 God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." NKJV

¹³ John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease. NKJV

¹⁴ John 1:27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." NKJV

¹⁵ John 13:14-16 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. NKJV

¹⁶ Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And

being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. NKJV

¹⁷ Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom. NKJV

¹⁸ Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor. NKJV

¹⁹ Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. NKJV

²⁰ Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. KJV

²¹ Proverbs 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife...NKJV

²² Proverbs 16:5 Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; NKJV

²³ Proverbs 6:16-17 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look NKJV

²⁴ Proverbs 21:4 A haughty look, a proud heart, ... are sin. NKJV

²⁵ Naaman, refusing to wash in Jordan, 2 Kings 5:11-13

²⁶ Haman Esther 3:5, 5:11,13, 6:6, 7:10

²⁷ Nebuchadnezzar Dan. 4:30-37, 5:20

²⁸ Mark 7:21-22 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. NKJV

²⁹ 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. NKJV

³⁰ 2 Timothy 3:1-2 ...in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, ...NKJV

³¹ 1 Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. NKJV

³² 1 Corinthians 13:4 ... love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; NKJV

³³ Jeremiah 9:23-24 "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, NKJV

³⁴ 2 Corinthians 10:12, 17-18 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But "he who glories, let him

glory in the LORD." For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends. NKJV

³⁵ 1 Corinthians 4:6-7...that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? NKJV