

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
THE WAY OF HUMILITY, PT. 2
MARCH 19TH, 2017 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Defining Meekness

Col 3:12-13 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- A. A simple definition of meekness is to cultivate a servant spirit is in seeking the advantage of others above ourselves.
- B. Meekness involves yielding to another even though you have the power to resist. It's not weakness. Rather its perfect power under perfect control governed by perfect love.
- C. Meekness involves yielding your abilities, rights, preferences, and opinions to others.
- D. Meekness is an attitude of heart whereby a person willingly accepts and submits without resistance to the preferences of someone else.
- E. Meekness is at the foundation of who God is. Meekness is what He does and what He blesses forever.
- F. The triumph of of meekness is inevitable in that it will eventually triumph over pride. We must resist the fear that "we will lose" with meekness.

II. Defining Humility

Jas 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

Rom 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.

- A. Humility is an attitude of heart whereby a person holds His own goodness, importance, and opinion in low esteem
- B. Humility is first expressed toward God and then toward men. When one is humble toward the Lord, He will be humble toward men.
- C. Humility looks to God for the essentials of life: protection, direction, and provision.
- D. One who relies on himself for protection, direction, and provision is living in pride toward the Lord. This person is not submitted to God but himself.
- E. Humility can be defined as living with an intentional God-ward focus in submission to God's will and desires.

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F. God imparts grace to the one who humbles himself. Alternately, God resists, in that He opposes, the proud.

III. Context for Meekness

A. God desires to reward His people in the age to come (Luke 12:32). One of the main criteria for the reward system of the age to come is meekness in the lives of the saints in this age (Mat 5:5, Luke 19:17, Mat 25:21, Luke 22:28-30). Meekness isn't the only thing that gets rewarded, but along with our development in love, meekness is one of the critical issues.

B. Therefore, God sets up the context of our live to continually give us the opportunity to walk out meekness. Each of our relationships is a God-ordained opportunity to walk our meekness in love.

C. Meekness is primarily walked out in context with those whom we are around the most. In other words the main stage of our lives that we have the opportunity to walk out meekness and humility are family, friends, work and ministry. The practical walking out of meekness in these contexts is what we will primarily be judged on.

D. God uses these familiar relationships to draw our pride to the surface. We are exposed when selfish absorption manifesting through anger and pride are uncovered in our lives. At this point we have the opportunity to humble ourselves in meekness or justify ourselves in arrogance.

E. If we make the mistake of justifying ourselves, God will begin to oppose us in order to help deliver us from pride. Since we have exalted ourselves God, in kindness, will cause the same situation to repeat itself in order to try to work humility in us.

F. God's goal is not your temporal comfort in this age, rather it is that meekness and love be worked into your life so that He may reward you at the highest level possible in the age to come.

G. If we can understand that the context of our lives is sovereignly designed by the Father to work the greatest amount of humility and meekness in our lives it will change the way we perceive trials and challenges that we walk through and God's intentions in them.

IV. Difficulties and challenges help us grow in meekness

2Co 4:17-18 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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- A. God allows difficult circumstances in our lives to help us become more dependent upon Him and submissive to His will. Facing hardships that we cannot solve alone requires us to call on the Lord for help. Crying out to God for his direction, protection, and provision is a key expression of humility. When we turn to God for help in recognition of our inability, He pours out grace upon us to enable us through the challenges. When He answers and provides for us, we are grateful toward Him and it reinforces to us our extreme need for Him.
- B. This does not mean we should deliberately put ourselves in hard circumstances, nor that we shouldn't try to improve our circumstances. As we work through trials, we should do so and give thanks to God for His grace.
- C. However, if God chooses to allow a problem to persist, we should not accuse Him, but look for the opportunity humble ourselves under His leadership knowing that His desires and plans for us are ultimately for our good.
- D. Hardships work for our good if we endure faithfully. The meek and humble person realizes this and submits without rebelling or being bitter against God.
- E. If our goal is to live in meekness and humility, any irritating circumstance that exposes our pride, selfishness, or anger is actually a blessing when viewed with an eternal lens.
- F. Because of the brokenness of our souls and our un-renewed minds each of us require difficulties, irritations, and trials, to help us grow in meekness.