



God's Hearing, Forgiveness, and Healing Pt 2: Humility that brings Healing!

January 8, 2023

Holy Text: 2 Chronicles Chapter 7:14

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV) *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Last week, we said...

1. That this very popular and much needed verse is often **misunderstood**...or maybe more accurately...**misapplied**.
2. That our LORD's promises of Hearing, Forgiveness, and Healing are **CONDITIONAL**. The contingent conjunction "IF" is so important:

- **IF you understand that you are called by My Name...**
- **IF you humble yourselves...**
- **IF you pray...**
- **IF you seek My Face..,**
- **IF you turn from your wicked ways**

- **THEN I will hear from Heaven**
- **THEN I will forgive their sins**
- **THEN I will heal their land!**

3. That our LORD's promises to Solomon ARE relevant for the Church! The Great Commission, among many other Texts, is proof of this.

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

4. That we are A People Called by His Name!
 - From a NT perspective, this speaks to our identification with God in Christ. I believe this can be considered a part of the "IF" conditions.
 - The connotation or inference in Hebrew of "called by His Name" is that that God Himself has put or set His Name upon His people. He Himself has marked them, set them "against" any other "names" and called them to proclaim Him and all of His ways. This is a term not of human choice but of divine grace and declaration! When the people of God forget this, we struggle!
5. That the LORD's Name should be honored and that we must remember who we are!
 - The LORD is Jealous for His Name! (Ex 34:14)
 - The LORD chose us out of love and for His Name's sake! (Ezek 36:22-28)
 - That a "name" has a deep biblical significance!
 - That we should be honored and humble to be Called by His Name! (Acts 15:14-17; 2 Thess 1:11-12)

- We are chosen by God, saved by His grace (Jn 15:16; Eph 1:3-5, 2:8-10), ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20-21), strangers and sojourners, kings and priests, (1 Pet 2:5, 11; Rev 1:5-6), and Kingdom Citizens, with blessings and responsibilities thereof (Php 3:20; Eph 2:19-20)!

Humility Review

Today, we return to one of the most important states of Christian being in character traits in the entire Bible. Next to love, humility might be the greatest of all spiritual virtues. So much so that we have taught extensively on this subject. I encourage you to go to our website and search for messages like:

Some thoughts on Humility

The Outworking of Humility Parts 1-5 from James

Let us Humble Ourselves

Blessed are the Meek

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

Restored through Repentance: The Power to Heal People, Families and Nations

Restoration through Forgiveness: Freedom through Releasing Others

The Blessings of Fearing the LORD

The Cost and Joy of Following Jesus Parts 1-4

This Kind Pt1: Learning from Failure

Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda

Help! Getting out of the Ditch through Humility

The Hubris of Man

Pride can be defined as *“Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.”*

Humility can be defined as *“freedom from pride and arrogance; humbleness of mind; a modest estimate of one's own worth. In theology, humility consists in lowliness of mind; a deep sense of one's own unworthiness in the sight of God, self-abasement, penitence for sin, and submission to the divine will.”¹*

We've been quoting an 1865 work by Andrew Murray (*Humility*) for many years:

And so pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil. It was when the now fallen angels began to look upon themselves with self-complacency that they were led to disobedience, and were cast down from the light of heaven into outer darkness. Even so it was, when the serpent breathed the poison of his pride, the desire to be as God, into the hearts of our first parents, that they too fell from their high estate into all the wretchedness in which man is now sunk. In heaven and earth, pride, self-exaltation, is the gate and the birth, and the curse, of hell.

And so the life of the saved ones, of the saints, must needs bear this stamp of deliverance from sin, and full restoration to their original state; **their whole relation to God and**

¹ Webster 1828 Dictionary

man marked by an all pervading humility. Without this there can be no true abiding in God's presence, or experience of His favor and the power of His Spirit; without this no abiding faith, or love or joy or strength. Humility is the only soil in which the graces root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure. Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all.

In the life of earnest Christians, of those who pursue and profess holiness, humility ought to be the chief mark of their uprightness.

Beloved, God hates pride and loves humble hearts. Scripture is replete with this truth:

Proverbs 6:16-17 (KJV) *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

Proverbs 16:18-19 (KJV) *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.*

Isaiah 57:15 (KJV) *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

Obadiah 1:3 (KJV) *The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?*

James 4:6-7 (KJV) *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:10 (KJV) *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

1 Peter 5:5-6 (KJV) *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

If we want to see healing in the land, God says we must humble ourselves. To that end, instead of reteaching much of what we've said in the past on humility, I'd like to set before you areas in which a renewed humility would most likely bring MUCH healing!

12 Areas where Humility can bring Healing

In our Text, the phrase “shall humble themselves” means “to bend the knee; hence to humiliate, vanquish: - bring down (low), into subjection, under, humble (self), subdue.”²

Let us keep this in mind as we look to critical places of humility that can foster healing.³ Our arrogance says God’s commands must agree with our feelings; humility says bow the knee.

1. Humility before God

- **Micah 6:8 (KJV)** *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

2. Humility concerning the Scriptures

- **Psalms 119:48 (KJV)** *My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.*
- **James 1:21-22 (KJV)** *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

3. Humility in Preaching

- **1 Peter 3:15 (KJV)** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

4. Humility in Prayer

- **Isaiah 66:2 (KJV)** *For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*
- Consider some of the great prayers in Scripture (Dan 9, the LORD’s Prayer, etc.). They are all characterized by a wonderful humility! This is why we love the Valley of Vision!

5. Humility in holiness

- God’s people are often marked by their unwillingness to hear (rebellion). This is the fruit of pride! But here is God’s heart...
- **1 Peter 1:13-16 (KJV)** *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

6. Humility in our shamefacedness and modesty

- **1 Timothy 2:8-10 (KJV)** *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. 9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

7. Humility during times of conflict

² Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionary

³ How did we come up with this list? We simply looked where we are the most broken!

- **Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV)** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: **32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
 - **Colossians 3:12-13 (KJV)** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
8. Humility in our Households and towards Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
- **Colossians 3:18-20 (KJV)** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. **20** Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
9. Humility in Corporate Worship
- **Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
 - In our LORD's Day worship, men must lead (1 Tim 2:11-14, 1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Cor 14:33-37), prayers must be offered (1 Tim 2:8), the Word must be taught (2 Tim 4:1-2), praise must be given (Heb 13:15), and the traditions/ordinances should be observed (1 Cor 11).
10. Humility concerning raising and discipling our Children
- **Ephesians 6:4 (KJV)** And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - **Luke 6:40 (NLT)** *Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.*
11. Humility in our personal finances
- **Proverbs 3:9 (KJV)** Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
 - **Psalms 24:1 (KJV) A Psalm of David.** The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
12. Humility with our giving
- **Luke 6:38 (KJV)** *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*
 - **2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (KJV)** But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. **7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

I believe it all my heart that increase humility in just these areas (and there are more!) would bring about healing in the land like we haven't seen in generations!

IF we humbled ourselves, MUCH could change!

Will we? May it be, in Jesus' Name,

Amen!