

Be Humble, Stay Humble

SCRIPTURE: *You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*
1 Peter 5:5-7

- Many Christians churches are dying today – WHY? Because people no longer want to be involved in Christianity. Christianity has been marginalized, tagged as non- essential and pushed aside. It’s influence dwindling and vanishing. This is the Post- Christian phenomenon.
- This realization should wake us up from our slumber. We may have forgotten what Jesus had promised in Matthew 16:13-18. But if Jesus promised to build the church, then why are there churches falling apart?
- The church, the *Eklesia*, is a gathering of the called. These are people who have been “called out” by Jesus to become His church. This is the specific requirement for us to be considered a church for God – the “called” should be living out the faith that they have declared.
- The promise that Jesus made was directed to the specific group of people who have been called out, people who have declared their faith and people who live by their faith.

If we are the “called out” then how should we behave?

- There is an expectation for us who have been called out – we are to behave just like Christ – selfless and humble - - which can only be done if we continue to grow and live as followers of Jesus Christ.
- The called out should continue to know God more, love God more and obey Him more.
- No longer is it enough that we limit ourselves to being Sunday Christians, it is no longer enough that we content ourselves with being silent about our faith because Jesus cannot build a church on that kind of foundation.

The church today is falling apart because the people who have been called out to be the church refuse to live their lives as followers of Christ. They do not emulate and reflect Jesus in their lives. The result – we become powerless against flesh, world and Satan. We blend in and conform rather than stand out and be different. And when this happens, it makes us open to the attacks of the enemy. We fall prey to selfishness and pride. Then we no longer become witnesses of Christ, going against Jesus’ command in Acts 1:8

What then should we do if we want Jesus to build His church on us?

1. Do not underestimate nor overestimate the enemy and the challenges ahead of us.
2. More importantly, we should know our resources and our directives.

What are our RESOURCES? Our resources are each other and Jesus Christ

What are our DIRECTIVES?

1. Kill Pride. This is the reactive response.
 - Pride leads to a hard fall and eventual destruction. Proverbs 16:18-19
 - God hates the proud. Proverbs 16:5; Psalms 10:3-4
2. Stay Humble. This is the proactive response.
 - Read 1 Peter 5:5-7
 - Humility is essential to being a follower of Christ. This is what sets us apart. This is why God has incentives for being humble.
 - a. God is opposed to the proud. James 4:6

- being humble is not performance to earn grace, rather it is the state of emptiness that merits His grace.
- c. God's mighty hand will EXALT the humble
 - God is mighty to lift us up if we are truly humble, but mighty enough to put us down if we are not
- d. God's mighty hand will TAKE CARE of the humble
 - God's almighty hand will fix ALL the anxieties and concerns of the humble but never those of the proud.

So how do we cultivate humility?

FIRST, know exactly how pride looks like and do the exact opposite. (refer to previous message)

SECONDLY, do not be anxious at all but rather cast to God all your anxieties. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

- More often than not it is pride that is stopping us from fully experiencing God's faithfulness and presence in our life.
- We should emulate Peter and the other apostles, we have to see and believe that Jesus is our Savior and He is Lord of our whole life. It is Jesus who calls the shots, not us. He is the One in control, not us. He owns everything, we are mere stewards.
- We have to claim His promise in Matthew 11:29 **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.**





Our first step closer to humility is to admit we are sinners and we are in need of a Savior. We have to admit that nothing we do can save us from eternal death. It was Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, His shedding of blood that is the atonement for our sin. (Hebrews 9:22) It is only through Jesus Christ that we have been saved, it is only by being like Jesus Christ that we can experience God's grace and faithfulness.

What does it mean to be like Jesus? Philippians 2:1 -11 tells us that to be like Jesus we have to be SELFLESS and HUMBLE.

It is only when the light of Jesus, when His glory shines through us that we can become effective witnesses for Him. It is only then that we become the rock that He can build His church upon.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: What are the things you are anxious for? Make an itemized list. Take time to pray for each one, casting each one upon God and emptying yourself of these anxieties.</p> <p>Is there still any sin in your life? Is there any pride in your life? Confess to God</p>
	<p>Family: What is your family's testimony of God's grace? Do people see Jesus' character in your lives? Ask yourselves: Are you living out your faith?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: How have you acted on the call of discipleship? Are you allowing yourself to be held accountable? Have you assumed responsibility to make yourself accountable?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best reflect God's grace and love in your community?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.