HUMILITY & PRIDE

Let's start with the definition from my favorite dictionary! The 1828 Webster's dictionary says humility is:

> **Humility -** *freedom from pride and arrogance; humbleness of mind; a modest estimate of one's own worth, and it's an act of submission.*

I truly struggled to figure out how to organize this week's conversation about humility because we know humility is good and pride is bad. If there's anything that we've learned from reading the Bible, it's the fact that pride came before the fall. That's also **Proverbs 16:18**.

Pride is self-seeking, arrogant, and destructive. Eve saw the fruit was good to make her wise; wise apart from God. The word *wisdom* is used throughout the Bible, and depending on the context it is either referring to a godly wisdom, like in Proverbs where Solomon says we are to seek wisdom more than treasures and riches, and other times its used with a negative connotation, referring to people who are wise in their own eyes which is the having wisdom of the world, and not wisdom that comes from the fear of God.

Four weeks ago, we talked about Temptation. I cannot believe it's already been four weeks! I mentioned **I John 2:16** and compared it to **Genesis 3:6.** First, it was a desire of the flesh for Eve, then the desire came through her eyes, and lastly, it ended in a quest for wisdom.

Pride started in the garden and is something every single one of us struggles with. Why can't humility be our default mode!? It reminds me of that saying that goes: "You don't have to teach a child to be bad; you have to teach them how to be good." We are those children. So on our quest of learning about Humility, I want to level the playing field by saying we are all really good at knowing how to be prideful.

Our factory default setting is Pride. That is a feature that comes preinstalled on every make and model of human. We also all have a Humility button, but we use it more like blinkers, meaning the degree to which we use them differs by person. For some of us, our Humility button acts like someone spilled a soda on it,

and the sugar and syrup have gone down into the places that cannot be reached with a cleaner, rendering our button, practically useless, and at it's very best, unpredictable and glitchy.

The people of **Genesis 11:4** may as well have removed their Humility button and replaced it with a cigarette lighter. This is the story of the Tower of Babel. Because of their selfish ambition, ego, arrogance, and vanity, the people desired to "*build a name*" for themselves. **Proverbs 29:23** says, *"One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor."* And that's what happened. Their pride was growing, growing, growing in the same direction that they would build their tower. So because of their pride, God brought them low, so low that one day they are ambitious busy bodies, on the verge of erecting monumental towers, and the next day they can't even ask another person where the bathroom is because nobody speaks the same language.

Their actions remind me of:

> **Proverbs 26:12** - *"Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?*
> *There is more hope for a fool than for him."*

This kind of wisdom is *self-sufficiency* and being *independent* from God.

> **Proverbs 3:7** - *"be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil."*

The people of Babel had an order back in **Genesis 9:1**. God told them to *"be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth"*. The word *"fill"* or replenish means to do so in a wide scattering or application. The people here seem to have continued to congregate in the same place; an act of disobedience and rebellion.

> **1 Samuel 15:22-23** - *And Samuel said,*
> *"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,*
> *as in obeying the voice of the Lord?*
> *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,*

and to listen than the fat of rams.
For rebellion is as the sin of divination,
and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has also rejected you from being king."

This verse tells us that obedience is what God desires, rebellion is it's counterpart, and presumption is to be replaced with listening. Choosing not to rebel or act out of presumption requires a humble heart. In order to obey and listen, a level of submission must first occur.

The people of Genesis 11 have not found that level of submission and they're taking matters into their own hands. This Genesis passage also tells us the materials they plan to use to build the tower, which not coincidentally, is the same method Noah used to waterproof his ark and Miriam used to waterproof Moses's basket. It seems as though when the Lord told them that he would never flood the Earth again, the people did not trust His promises and began making alternative plans to survive the next disaster.

Psalm 10:3 - *"For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,*
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord."

The people of Babel did not trust in God, they sought to make a name for themselves, and even challenged God's position by attempting to construct a tower equal to his heavenly home. Ego, rebellion, arrogance, and selfish ambition; all expressions of a prideful heart.

Obadiah is quite fitting for these people.

Obadiah 3 - *"The pride of your heart has deceived you,*
you who live in the clefts of the rock,
in your lofty dwelling,
who say in your heart,
"Who will bring me down to the ground?"

Well, God did. Literally. Not only did He keep the tower from being built which kept them close to the ground, but He also brought them down in humility and hedged their way up with language barriers. I

don't know if you've ever traveled to another country where the primary language is not English, but it is a humbling experience. It can also be a very frustrating one. It reminds me of the toddler years where we used short memorized phrases that consist of only one or two words and we're just trying to make the most of it. Lot's of hand gestures going on. Are you used to relying on superb communication skills or your noble physical presence to control the conversation? Well, that has been thrown out the window because now your face is contorted in confusion and you look like a grumpy American, neither of which is impressive or intimidating.

> **Psalm 31:23** - *Love the Lord, all you his saints!*
> *The Lord preserves the faithful*
> *but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.*

He sure did.

2 Chronicles 26 talks about King Uzziah who walked in obedience to the Lord. As a result, the Lord made him very prosperous. He was building towers, defeating armies, growing large herds, and it says that as long as he was seeking the Lord, the Lord was blessing him (**2 Chronicles 26:5**). As he was growing in wealth and status, a lot of people started hearing about him and his fame spread far. Not only was he growing strong in stature, but he was also growing strong in ego as well, and now because he was Mr. Popularity, he thought he could go burn incense on the Lord's altar whenever he wanted, but there were disastrous effects from that. His fame, strength, and prosperity led to him becoming a very arrogant man who was unfaithful to the Lord, and as a result, died a lonely, leperous man.

2 Chronicles 32:24 shows God's compassion and mercy to those who seek him. King Hezekiah was deathly ill and the Lord told Isaiah that Hezekiah was going to die. In response to this news, Hezekiah hit the ground in prayer which moved the heart of God to have compassion on him and the Lord healed him, adding 15 years to his life.

This reminds me of **2 Chronicles 7:14** where God tells the people that if they *"humble themselves, and pray and seek [His] face and turn from their wicked ways, then [He] will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* In Hezekiah's situation, God healed his physical body. But Hezekiah did not respond in continued humility. Instead, he grew proud, and as a result, the Lord brought destruction to his

family.

This reminds me of times when we find ourselves laying at the bottom of the pit, desperate. We have no other choice but to call on the God, who is the only One who can change our situation. But once the dust settles, and we are no longer in that desperate place, we often go back to living our lives the way we were before God's intervention and we fall back into old habits, just like Hezekiah. My counselor calls this "rubberbanding." I was chatting with a friend about hard seasons that last longer than we would like. God is trying to change our heart, not our behaviors and if we do not sit in hardship long enough, when the season is relieved, we will rubberband and go back to our old ways. Hardships are meant to change us. I've said this in almost every video: God is in this for the long game and He desires to change our heart more than our behaviors and only He knows exactly how long we need to sit in hardship before our new behaviors and mindset become our new way of living. This is sanctification.

Both King Uzziah and King Hezekiah are lovely demonstrations of Ezekiel's words:

> **Ezekiel 28:5** - *"by your great wisdom in your trade*
> *you have increased your wealth,*
> *and your heart has become proud in your wealth—"*

These kings felt self-sufficient in their status. The pride of their wealth eventually brought about their destruction just as **1 Timothy 6:10** said that it would. Jesus explained in **Matthew 19:24** that it would be *"easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."* The arrogance that comes from having more than you need is a trap for self-sufficiency and rebellion against God.

I mentioned these three examples of prideful people so we can see that dismissing humility has consequences. Remember, there are blessings that come with choosing to be humble, but there are also equal and opposite results of not choosing to be humble.

When I begin a new topic, I like to get an aerial perspective on how the Lord views this particular topic and that includes seeing how this topic both positively and negatively affected the people in the Bible. Like I've said before, I would rather learn from their mistakes than go through the fire on my own and I would also much rather pray proactively in my husband's life. These particular negative examples may not

be scriptures that I highlight in my husband's Bible, but they are good for my own understanding of the consequences of pride.

OK, I'm tired of talking about all this negative stuff so let's flip to **John 13:5.** This is where Jesus is washing the disciples feet. To the degree that the people of Babel wanted their tower to be high, Jesus shows us what it means to live in his upside-down kingdom by going low. This is the ultimate posture of what it means to be humble. You cannot be selfish, arrogant, or haughty while you are kneeling on the ground washing another person's feet. I want to mention that Judas was also standing in this line and this verse comes after the last supper, so Jesus is fully aware that Judas is about to betray him, yet, here He is on his knees, washing the feet of his enemy, with the greatest of humility. Think of someone who is really hard to love. Could you humbly wash their feet?

Let's talk more about this upside-down kingdom. With our worldly minds, we think that the best, biggest, greatest, strongest, most powerful weapon against the forces of evil should come looking like an army division, but Jesus comes in with the completely opposite truth and tells us that it's actually love, not power or might, that conquers all.

In **1 Peter 5:3** we are told that leaders should not be domineering, arrogant, or overbearing over those who are in their charge, but they should be examples of Christian living. Christian living is doing as Christ did, which we just witnessed in the form of footwashing. This is the whole reason the Jewish people did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He came riding in on a donkey. Everybody expected a powerful looking ruler to free them from the Roman government, but here comes is this lowly carpenter, riding on a borrowed donkey.

Jesus further confounds the people when He gives upside-down rules for His upside-down kingdom like in **Matthew 19:30, Mark 9:35**, and **Luke 22:26**. All of these verses tell us the youngest and last will be the greatest and first in His kingdom.

If I'm writing a prayer for any of these verses in my husband's prayer Bible, I might say something like, "Thank You, Lord, for Your guidance and clarity on the way in which we are supposed to live. I know my husband has a good heart so give him a sweet reminder during his days that to be last is to be first in Your eyes. I pray that he maintains a servant heart throughout all his days."

Another backwards truth is found in **2 Corinthians 12:9–10**. Paul boasts about his weaknesses because when he is weak, God is strong. And this is a thinking that goes beyond our instinctual responses.

Horses are really good about reminding me of this. I have one horse in particular that is spooky and we have been giving him medicine for a few weeks. My dad is not a natural horseman but he's trying his best. He is totally new to this lifestyle. He's used to dogs. Dogs are predators. They respond to positive reinforcement. They also naturally love people and desire to be touched and cuddled and they are usually eager to please. Horses on the other hand, are an 1100 lb prey animal with not near as much generational domestication as a house dog. When my dad began to struggle giving Nuzzler medication, one of his ideas was to tie him to a pipe fence so he couldn't pull his head away. This would totally make sense if the horse was the size of a dog and my dad just needed a little leverage to overpower him. But that's not the case with horses. The horse is almost 6 times my dad's body weight so there is no scenario where my dad wins this arm wrestling competition safely. However, the way to Nuzzler's heart is through softness and humility. As a predator, a dog looks at us and sees another predator; and equal. As a prey animal, a horse looks at us and sees a monster; a natural enemy to avoid and as a result, we have to earn his trust slowly. Whereas, with a dog, he trusts naturally, and we have to "earn" his avoidance. It's upside-down from what my dad is used to and it's hard to retrain your brain to think in this flip-flopped way. When we approach Nuzzler with humility and kindness, we are strong in spirit, not so much physically. This is like catching more bees with honey than vinegar.

Paul has understood that his weaknesses are the best areas for God's power to work, thus making Paul strong in spirit. If Paul fights through his weaknesses, making himself tough and powerful with a spirit independent from God, God has no room to work. It's when we get out of our own way and invite God to fill the gaps of our deficiencies that we become strong and successful. When we relinquish the control that comes from a prideful heart, we are simultaneously allowing God to take control.

A prayer for 2 Corinthians 9:10 might sound like, "Thank You for making my husband strong in many areas. I pray that wherever he feels deficient, he does not see his weakness as a disability, but as an area of opportunity for You to fill and show off Your power."

A lot of these new age, self-affirmations are actually puffing up our ego to a degree that does not allow the

Lord room to do what He does best. They do not allow us to recognize that we are weak creatures who need a Savior. They are simply further emphasizing our own self-sufficiency.

> **Galatians 6:3** - *"For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."*

Romans mirrors this same thought.

> **Romans 12:3** - *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."*

This particular verse is preparation for the conversation that Paul is going to have with them about the spiritual gifts. He's preemptively warning them that they should remain humble and not get carried away with the confidence that comes from walking in the Spirit.

One of the ways I can pray this verse for my husband would be to ask the Lord to guard his responses to the blessings that He brings to him. May my husband see that it's the Lord, and only the Lord, that brought the abundance and I pray does he not come to expect this blessing as something he deserved or worked hard for but as a gift from his heavenly Father.

If you are a words of affirmation kind of person, just make sure that they are rooted in scripture.

One of the big themes I saw throughout reading all of these verses about humility is that God does the exalting. We are to lead an honest, diligent, gentle, quiet life, doing everything as if it is for the Lord. This kind of lifestyle that follows a scripturally truthful life opens the door for God to move in tangible ways.

Luke 14:10–11 tells a man that when he is invited to a gathering, to go and sit in the lowest place so that when the host comes, he can move him into a higher position.

Proverbs 25:27 says it is not *"glorious to seek one's own glory."*

This reminds me of being upgraded on an airline. Sure, we can pay money to sit in first-class or even use points to be upgraded, but there's a different kind of excitement and honor that comes from being surprisingly chosen to be upgraded from the other120 economy passengers. If we throw our money at everything and bully, manipulate, or sweet talk our way to the top, we leave no room for God to exalt us. In fact, there's a lot of opportunity for us to be humbled instead. And personally, I think being publicly humbled is humiliating.

There are two verses that are very similar. **Proverbs 15:33** and **Proverbs 18:12** they both say *"humility comes before honor."* Just like in the Luke verse, to be humble and accept your position at the lower table is the first step and must happen before being crowned with honor. Now I'm thinking of the verse in Matthew that says *"you were faithful over little, I will set you over much*." When we maintain a God-fearing heart posture in the low places, perhaps we can be trusted to maintain that same heart posture when the Lord lifts us up like in **Psalm 147:6.**

To the same point,

> **Proverbs 27:2** - "*Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips."*

We don't need to be tooting our own horn. Talking about our accomplishments or name dropping often comes off as arrogance and offputting. We are not trying to prove ourselves to one another and a person who feels he needs to qualify himself to his peers is a person living with an orphaned spirit and does not know who they are in Christ. When you know that you are chosen, loved, and known, your heart will not need acceptance from man.

> **Philippians 2:3–4** - *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

We talked about this desirable selfless attitude a couple weeks ago in our conversation about Compassion but in the context of praying for our husband's humility, I want to mention it again. Not all ambition is rooted in pride, that's why Paul specifically says "selfish" ambition. We talked about ambition in Week 1 in terms of Diligence. Ambition is good! But if that ambition is coming from a desire to advance or get what

we want, that's where Paul says es no bueno. He also mentions *"conceit"*. This means to have a favorable or a self-flattering opinion; a lofty or vain conception of ones own person or accomplishments. This makes me think of the verses we just covered about thinking too highly of oneself. The line of scripture says to *"count others more significant than yourselves."* Wow. I'm so used to hearing the "do what makes you happy" or "look out for number one" kind of chatter, and this flips that thinking upside down. To count others as more significant than yourselves means to go out of your way when it's not convenient, to get your hands dirty to help, to sacrifice your time, talent, or treasures when you are already stretched, and to love others even when it's hard. If I'm being honest, this verse kind of stings a little bit. When I'm having a hard day, what does it look like to *"count others more significant"* than myself? It means ignoring the way I feel and choosing to get out of my comfort zone. Maybe it means buying an extra meal when you're already on a budget to share with the homeless man you pass on the way home. If this verse said "count others with significance", I think it would be much easier to swallow it. But that *"more significant than yourselves"* leaves a bit of an aftertaste. Selfishness is a drug I'm detoxing from.

For me personally, this will be one of those verses where I include the words "we" or "us." "Lord, help us to be more selfless and to share a unified desire to go out of our way when others are in need. Help us to be trusting in your provision that when we share our limited resources, You are faithful to replenish our lack."

For these last few verses we've covered, I also want to encourage my husband to walk out his life with a humble heart, giving other people the opportunity to sit in the high places, and for him to give God the opportunity to move him up when and where He sees fit.

For husbands that seem to have a heart set in insecurity or one that doesn't know it's loved, I might shift my prayer to talk about his identity, and how he is intimately and closely known by the God who created all of the heavens and the Earth. If you want more scriptures to pray into your husband's Identity, you're going to want to grab Scripture Book Vol 1. I'll put the link in the description below. Identity is one of my favorite topics because it's something that we all can benefit from and anytime I'm praying for somebody else's identity and reminding them who they are in Christ, God works on my heart in that area too.

As we've talked about over the course of this challenge, the fear of God is so very important for success in these areas of our husband's lives. And humility is no different. Here is what humility plus the fear of God

is going to get you:

- Guidance towards the right path (Psalm 25:9)
- Inheritance of the land and abundant peace (Psalm 37:11)
- Seen (Psalm 138:6)
- Salvation (Psalm 149:4)
- Favor (Proverbs 3:34)
- Wisdom (Proverbs 11:2)
- Riches and honor in life (Proverbs 22:4, 29:23)
- Fresh joy (Isaiah 29:19)
- Hidden from God's wrath (Zephaniah 2:3)
- Rest (Matthew 11:29)
- Public honor (Luke 14:10)
- Grace (James 4:6)
- Exaltation (James 4:10)

Let's go to **Romans 11:20.** Paul is talking to the the Gentiles and reminding them that they have been grafted onto a branch on God's family tree, but they are not to *"become proud, but to fear God,"* so as to remain as a branch on the tree.

If there is any kind of religious pride in your husband's heart, this may be a verse that you dig a little deeper into.

While we're on the topic of vegetation, look at **John 15:5**. Jesus says that we can do nothing apart from Him, just like a branch on a vine. Separate from the vine, the branch withers and dies. This is where we find that trusting in the Lord is the only way that we can accomplish all of these directives of humility. It is not through our own power, but only the power of Christ in us that can change our conduct.

Remember, God is going for the heart, first and foremost. When He changes the heart, the behaviors will follow. But sometimes we need a little tutoring session to become aware of some behaviors that still need adjusting after the initial heart change.

> **1 Corinthians 13:4** - *"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant"*

The word arrogant means to parade itself, flaunting for others to see. Sometimes our outward behaviors look loving, but the heart has not been changed. In this case, our behavior is parading around like love and sheep's clothing. This is pride looking for glory by the appearance of love.

Flip to **1 Peter 3:4**. It says that our outer person should be adorned with a *"gentle and quiet spirit"*. If I'm looking at my life, I might think about all of the areas and situations in which I do not show a gentle and quiet spirit, and for the sake of time on this video, I'm not going to run down that list, but those are areas where there may be a root of pride still lingering.

1 Peter 5:5 says that we are all to clothe ourselves *"with humility toward one another."* This word *"clothe"* refers to a word that describes the action of a slave putting on an apron and it's the same word that was used when Jesus put a towel around himself before He washed the disciples feet. We are to be willing to perform the lowest tasks asked of us. Like I mentioned in John 15:5, these types of behaviors are not possible without God working in us.

Man, I don't even know if I can pray this topic for my husband because I feel like I need some serious work in it myself! So here we go, using the word "us" again: "Lord do Your work in us. Continue to teach us about Your great love for us that will cause us to be more thoughtful of those around us and lead us to wash the feet of others, and to not neglect going out of our way to help our brothers and sisters in need."

Let's look at **Titus 3:2**. We are to show perfect courtesy towards all people. No gossiping or quarreling, but being gentle. I don't know about you, but sometimes being gentle is very challenging, especially with people who tempt me to quarrel. It's definitely going to take exercising Holy Spirit humility in these types of situations.

Pair that with **Colossians 3:12** and **Ephesians 4:1–3**. Both of these verses, reiterate the fruits of the spirit; fruits that we cannot bear in our own self-will. We cannot force these things because, remember, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, and we might be able to fake it sometimes, but to truly walk this out with the heart posture that the Lord desires for us, it's going to take abiding in the Vine.

To pray for verses like these, I might write something similar to, "Lord there is so much fruit that comes from abiding in Your presence. Fruit that can sometimes cause an overwhelmed feeling about how far we are falling short. I ask that You remind my husband that he's exactly where You need him today. That through his continual seeking of Your word, You will slowly grow him into a branch that bears all of these fruits in abundance. Thank You for giving my husband a humble and gentle heart."

That last sentence may be true thankfulness if your husband is already a humble person, but it might also be a faith-filled gratitude statement, which is thanking the Lord for something that has not happened yet. Either way, you are speaking words of life over him when you pray in faith and call out the godly characteristics Your husband is already walking in.

Let's go to **Romans 12:16**. Here we are talking about not being wise in your own sight again. Remember, this is self-sufficiency. Pride in one's ability to take care of himself renders God useless. This verse also tells us to live in harmony with one another and not to be haughty. Haughty is essentially being conceited.

Ecclesiastes 7:16 is another verse about self-sufficiency. It says not to *"be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise"* because you could destroy yourself. This reminds me of the religious pride that the Pharisees showed.

A prayer for a husband who may struggle in thinking much of himself might sound like, "Lord I thank You for the strong, confident man that You have given me to spend my life with. I ask that he continues to seek You and learn about Your grace. Thank You for this verse that tells us there is such a thing as being too righteous and too wise. I ask that You give my husband discernment to not cross this line that You have created for his own protection."

The last thing I want to cover are two psalms. The first on is **Psalm 75**. This whole psalm is about God's just judgment on the proud.

I only included verse 4 in the scripture book, but my hope is that you would look at the verses in the book and find it in your own Bible, reading the context around it. When I do that, I often find way more verses to highlight. It also helps me form my prayers because I can see what's happening in the story and I can

apply it to the person I'm praying for.

Looking at **Psalm 75:4** where it says, *"do not lift up the horn".* This is speaking to them about exalting in their own strength. James Boice said, "it is the equivalent of shaking one's fist in God's face." In verse 5 it says to not speak with a stiff neck. This analogy is referring to an ox or cattle that might resist the yoke for plowing and work. Remember my story earlier about trying to give the horse medicine. He is very stiff necked in his avoidance of medical care. God is cautioning the proud and the wicked to not resist Him in the same way. In verse 6 and 7, Aspah writes that promotion and advancement only comes from God and he's telling the people to end their streak of self-confidence. God's work of judgment is not only against the proud and wicked, but it is also for the righteous.

Now let's look at **Psalm 131**. It's one of the shortest psalms. This is David saying he has not set his focus on his own promotion or above what God has appointed him to in this present season. He has found contentment. Luke 14, like I mentioned earlier, is where Jesus taught us we are to accept a lower place and we are to wait patiently for God to lift us up in His wisdom and in His timing. David likens this heart posture to the contentment of a weaned child. David Guzik's commentary on this was really good. He explains the weaned child analogy. To the child being weaned, it feels like a battle and it's very uncomfortable, but the mother knows it's necessary. This contentment that David describes is not a natural contentment, but one that has grown by practice. He was being weaned from things in which he found happiness and perhaps these were things that he used as a crutch in his life that actually kept him independent from God, such as self-sufficiency, self-will, or selfish ambition. Praise God for the trials that cause us to be weaned from the things that keep us from God!

Spurgeon says it like this:

> *"Blessed are those afflictions which subdue our affections, which wean us from self-sufficiency, which educate us into Christian manliness, which teach us to love God not merely when he comforts us, but even when he tries us."*

If your husband is going through a pressing time, this could be a great time to write a prayer of thankfulness for the pressures that cause us to re-align our priorities and give us fresh perspectives. This is what was happening in my husband's life in the story I told you about our finances in our chat on Week 3

about Money. The weaning was stretching my husband's faith but in the end, it has made him stronger in it. You don't have to know how the story ends in order to be grateful for the pressure that causes us to change for the better.

Psalm 131 is in great contrast to Psalm 75 and I think it's wonderful guidance of what it looks like when a man chooses to do the hard work of exercising contentment in the place the Lord has put him in his current season.

> **Matthew 18:4** - *"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*

Humility is so easy even a child can do it! Children were seen as weak and unimpressive back in this culture. To be humble like a child was to regard oneself as unworthy, insignificant, and teachable rather than being an know-it-all. Jesus does not want us to put ourselves down and to participate in harmful self-abasement. What He wants us to do is acknowledge our true character, just not through the rose colored glasses from which we may view ourselves. We are sinners in need of a Savior and He is looking for people who fear Him:

> **Isaiah 66:2b** - *But this is the one to whom I will look:*
> *he who is humble and contrite in spirit*
> *and trembles at my word.*

God's ultimate desire is this:

> **Micah 6:8** - *He has told you, O man, what is good;*
> *and what does the Lord require of you*
> *but to do justice, and to love kindness,*
> *and to walk humbly with your God?*

It's such a great desire that He's made it a requirement. Lord, give us all hearts that hunger to learn more about You. May we experience Your love for us to such a degree that it changes our desires and behaviors to be Christ-honoring people in our actions towards one another. May the fruit of the Spirit drip from our

clothes and may You give our husbands the faith that they need to trust in You as he yields his life to walk according to Your ways.

We are almost finished! Only two more weeks to go after this! You are so close to the end. How is your Bible looking? I love to just gaze at all the neat and colorful flags that are growing along the pages. Do not grow weary writing **2-3 prayers a day** *(use your Polite house 20 minute candle to help you stay focused!)* and the Bible will practically build itself in the form of a Prayer Bible with 140-180 handwritten prayers.

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CLEAN YOUR HEART

Use this on days that feel hard or create a daily rhythm of surrender and begin every prayer session with it.

This is not a moment to perform, produce, or prove anything. Quiet yourself before God and intentionally lay down pride, distraction, control, and any known sin. Confess what Holy Spirit brings to mind. Release your own agendas, assumptions, and expectations. Choose humility. Choose obedience. Ask God to empty you of self so He can fill you with His Spirit. Do not move forward until your heart is surrendered and your spirit is yielded.

Lord, thank your calling me to draw near to You in this way.[1] Your Word says the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working[2] and You hear the prayer of the righteous.[3] I know my sins have made a separation between You and I.[4] If I cherish sin in my heart, You, Lord, will not listen.[5] Therefore, let me test and examine my ways.[6] Lord, weigh my spirit,[7] for even a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.[8] Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting![9] Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.[10]

[Selah - pause, listen, repent, forgive, receive grace]

Thank you for cleansing me from what is dishonorable, that I am a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to You, and ready for every good work.[11]

[1] James 4:8; [2] James 5:16; [3] Proverbs 15:29; [4] Isaiah 59:2; [5] Psalm 66:18; [6] Lamentations 3:40; [7] Proverbs 16:2; [8] 1 Corinthians 5:6; [9] Psalm 139:23-24; [10] Psalm 51:10; [11] 2 Timothy 2:21

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