

**HUMILITY** – Part 1 - How do I begin this walk with God? If you have just recently heard **and responded** positively to the Gospel message, if someone has just brought you that spiritual Good News you have been needing but maybe didn't even know it, then you have probably felt sick-to-death of the darkness you have been living in. You have been made aware of your **sin**. Biblically speaking, sin is transgression; rebellion; a rejection of God's instruction and guidance. It is an offense which results in guilt; not in your conscience but before God as Judge. Sin is "missing the mark" set by God as our goal. It is an act of disobedience or lawlessness which breaks our fellowship or "right relationship" with God. **Iniquity** is the pride condition which skews one's vision of reality. Like light coming through water, iniquity "bends the light" for the person to "see things" his own way instead God's way. This is that is the human condition that keeps us separated from God.

However, the Holy Spirit, through the bad news, opens our eyes to the Good News and helps us "see a great light" truly; the True Light! This can happen only when our pride, our self-exaltation has been gotten out of the way enough to perceive reality and hear the truth, God's Truth, usually through some kind of personal failure or brokenness, of heart or life.

There are those who reject this explanation as mere personal "weakness", as an excuse to not work harder or be stronger; as using God as a "crutch" to replace one's own failure or insufficiency. Yet, while trying to insult and belittle, they do not realize how true this is, but not quite in the way they mean it. For how else can one expect to really approach God, the all-powerful Creator God of the universe, in any other position but weakness and insufficiency, begging God for mercy and help? There is no other way.

**Humility** is God's favorite characteristic in man. The ancient rabbis taught that humility is the **supreme virtue**. It is man's only reasonable response to God's **holiness** and **Truth**.

The simplest way to define biblical humility is with the word **God-consciousness**. The greater one's God-consciousness the greater one's humility. Any life with God, no matter how brief or lengthy, no matter how shallow or deep, **must** begin through humility. God is impressed very little with us and all of our grand efforts to impress or even out do Him. On the other hand, it really takes very little to impress God. Born out from **humility**, the simplest act of repentance, faith, obedience, or love, done as unto the Lord, will impress God.

Biblical humility is an act of will that directs attention toward God, not self. It says, "I must decrease so He (God) may increase" (John 3:30). Biblical humility is a lowering of self so that Christ may be lifted up. It is submitting to God's authority; obedience to His will in your life. It is giving the person and purpose of Christ preeminence. More on this later.

All Scripture references are from the N.I.V.

**Psalms 18:27** > You (God) save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

**Psalms 25:8-9** > Good and upright is the LORD. Therefore, He instructs sinners in His ways; He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.

**Psalms 149:4** > For the LORD takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation.

**Proverbs 3:34** > He (the LORD) mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6)

**Isaiah 57:15** > For this is what the High and Lofty One says, He who lives forever, whose name is Holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

**Isaiah 66:2b** > "This is the one I (the LORD) esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at My Word."

**Zephaniah 2:3** > Seek the LORD all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

**Matthew 5:3** > Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 23:11-12** > "The greatest among you will be your servant, for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

**Philippians 2:8** > And being found in appearance as a man, He (Jesus) humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!