

GOD'S E.R.
FREED FROM ALL THINGS

Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things

Class 2 – Basic Training for Christians - Lesson Eight

“Humility – Yielding to God”

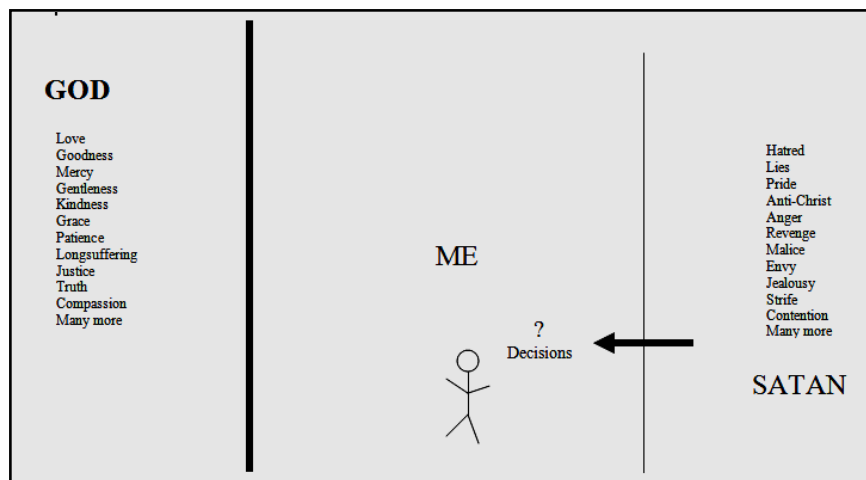
** Much of the content of this lesson is taken from Andrew Murray’s book, *humility*.

In this lesson on “humility,” the primary purpose is to understand where we stand in God. We are strong, yet dependent. We are wise, yet lowly. We are saved through faith, yet works are evident in our lives. How is it possible to maintain these postures in humility? What *is* real humility?

The nature of humility is rooted in our attitude toward God. It is the relationship of His creatures (us) to Himself. It is an unceasing and *absolute dependence on Him*. Humility is when we are clay in the Potter’s hands, we are empty and willing vessels for His use.

Humility, the place of entire dependence upon God, is the highest quality a person can have. Pride, then, is the absence of humility, and the root of all evil and sin. Remember, Lucifer’s pride, his desire to be equal to God? This is what caused him to be thrown from heaven, just as Adam and Eve were thrown from the Garden when they embraced this poisonous root. *Now nothing could save humanity from tumbling headfirst into the gateway of hell, having forfeited our true relationship with Father God that existed in our prior state of dependent humility.*

Pride has its root and strength in *spiritual power*. It comes from the outside of us, from Satan, as well as becoming established inside of us when we take the bait. It is satanic in origin.



Adam and Eve made a decision to listen to the father of lies and move their dependence upon God, to dependence upon themselves. This *forever* separated men from God. There was no way man could ever restore his relationship to his Maker. A wall, a chasm, the barrier of sin, now separated man from God.

Understanding Humility and Finding our Way to a Humble Posture:

1. Eternal Destiny:

Rev 4:10-11 They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by Your will they were created and have their being.”

This verse in Revelation shows us the posture for mankind. In the form of the Body of Christ, we will once again regain this posture of submission and absolute dependence upon the Lord as we find our way to humility.

“If you are looking for an example of humility, look at the cross.”

Thomas Aquinas

2. Recognizing Pride in Our Lives:

Is knowing Christ Jesus your first desire and your greatest joy? Or is having your own way more important than becoming like Him?

Do we lack love? Are we indifferent to the needs and feelings of others? Do we make sharp, even unnecessary comments to others without thought of their affect? Do we make hasty judgments and say we are just being honest and straightforward? Do we excuse what others say the Holy Spirit is telling them because it makes us uncomfortable? Do we get angry, touchy, irritated, bitter? Pride creeps in almost everywhere, and these are just a few examples.

3. The Key to Walking in Humility:

I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 22:27

Our Lord came as a servant to us. We began to get an understanding of what true humility is, as we listen to the Lord’s own words about his posture before the Father:

“By myself I can do *nothing*; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek *not* to please myself, but Him who sent Me.” John 5:30

“I do not accept praise from men.” John 5:41

“For I have come down from heaven *not* to do my will.” John 6:38

“I do *nothing* on my own.” John 8:28

“I am *not* seeking glory for myself.” John 8:50

“The words I say to you are *not* my own.” John 14:10

The secret of humility is to know and understand the nature of God to His creation. His desire and His provision for us is that we are vessels for Him. A vessel through which the living God can manifest His wisdom, power and goodness.

Sometimes we feel like this vessel. All broken and scarred. We are *dry* – spiritually speaking – we cannot hold the water of the Spirit of God because our vessel is not submitted to Him.



When we yield ourselves to the Lord in submission *and* humility, the Lord begins to pour through us. Notice what happens to the dry, cracked vessel? It becomes covered with the life-giving water that is within it. It is hydrated and full and no blemishes can be seen as it pours forth to others. This is the place of completeness in Him.



Just as the nature of water is to seek and fill the lowest place, so the glory and power of God flows through to the lowest and most empty vessel in order to bless and cause His likeness to be known and seen. Jesus never for a moment sought His own honor or asserted His power to vindicate Himself. His entire spirit, soul and body was that of a life yielded to God.

Jesus said, “Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.” Matt 11:29

Further He said, “The greatest among you will be your servant.” Matt 23:11

So then, the only way up to God, is to take the lowliest position on earth. “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:14

4. **Master, What do I Lack?:**

The rich young ruler asked this question of Jesus, “What am I still lacking?” He had kept all the laws. He had believed in Jesus and obeyed the commandments. Jesus answered him and said, “If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Jesus was telling him, lower yourself to the lowest place. Become as Me. Do what I do. It was too hard a thing for him. He liked his possessions and his prestige and he went away grieving.

If we believe anything we have in this world, whether it be possessions, relationships, status, or position, is worth more than having the power of the risen Lord *flowing* through us continually, then we do not even have a glimpse of the majesty of God!

5. **The Answer is in our Posture:**

The only answer to the question of how to be humble is to empty ourselves and let the very essence of God fill us. We must first understand our position before God prior to salvation (see diagram on page 1), after salvation (see diagram following on page 4), and then in proper submission and authority in Christ (see diagram on page 5).

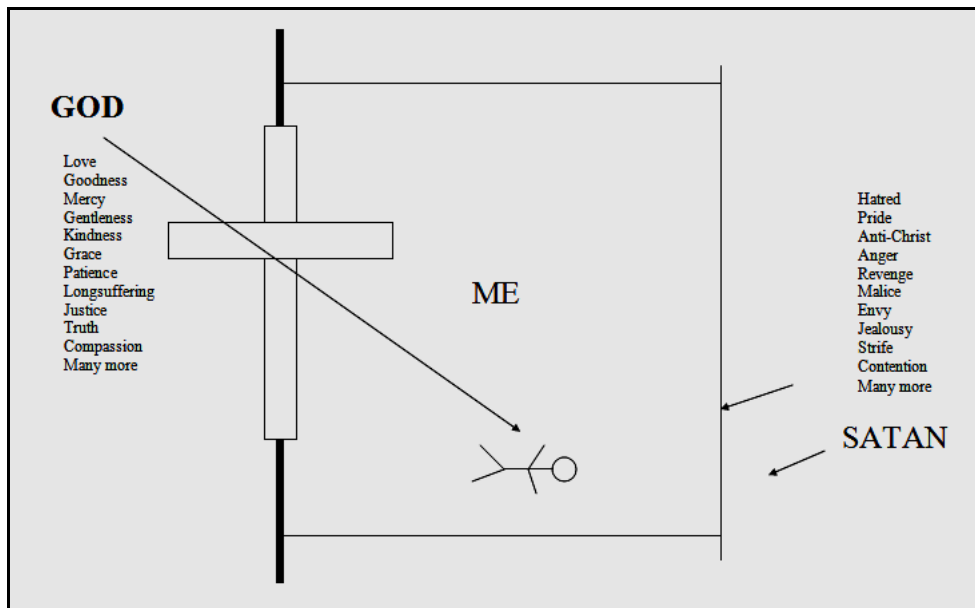
In Diagram 1, our state is hopeless because of humanity's choice to follow in Satan's footsteps in pride and rebellion to God. Our only hope is in the precious blood of the Lamb of God, shed at the cross for us. When we accept Jesus' sacrifice for us, we are now restored to right relationship with our Father God.

As you can see in all three diagrams, there are three columns: the first representing the Spirit of God (with His attributes) and His heavenly hosts, the second representing the Spirit of Man (which also includes the areas of his soul and body), and the third, representing the spirit of satan (with his attributes) and his demonic assistants. Because of the fall of Man, our understanding has been darkened and therefore we must *seek* spiritual knowledge and understanding. *"If you seek Me you will find Me if you search for Me with all your heart."* Jer 29:13. Unfortunately, many people seek spiritual knowledge through the demonic realm, rather than through relationship with the Lord, and their state of deception only becomes worse.

For the Christian, our posture is this: We are dead and He lives in us! Hallelujah!

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Colossians 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.



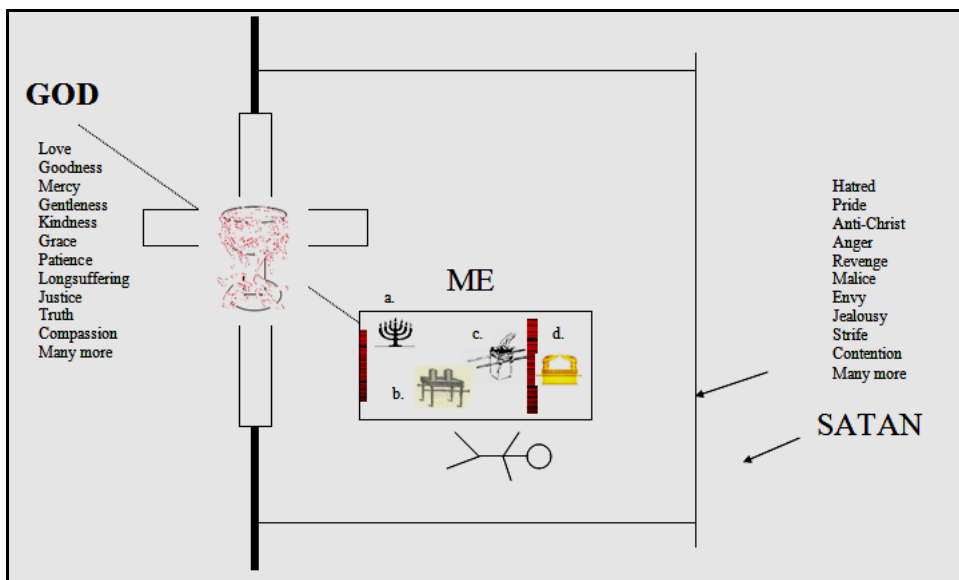
Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

But we all know we still have a struggle with sin. Why is this? It is important to remember that we are a triune being: Spirit, Soul and Body. When the Scripture tells us we *have been* seated with Him in heavenly places, He is speaking of our spirit. The Scriptures in Galatians and Colossians above say we are dead. Paul says in 1 Cor 15:31 that he dies daily. If our spirit is seated with Christ in heavenly places, and our body is alive here on earth, then what part of us is supposed to be dead? Our *soul*. Our soul is to be crucified daily and submitted to the Father. What is our soul? *Our mind, will and emotions*.

The Old Testament was inspired by the Holy Spirit through His prophets to show us the way to Christ Jesus. In the book of Exodus, the Tabernacle (dwelling place) of the Lord is described for us, which includes the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Each area had a specific purpose for ritual cleansing of sin. The outer court was where the animals were slain for an atonement for sin. By this blood of atonement, the priests could enter the Holy Place. Therein was the Lampstand, the Table of Showbread, and the Altar of Incense. Beyond the Altar of Incense was the veil. Beyond the veil was the Holy of Holies which contained the Ark of the Covenant.

Here is what the Lord is showing us through these Old Testament types: Jesus is our Lamb that was slain. We can enter into the Holy Place by the Blood of Jesus. What is the Holy Place? It is access to our Father. Coming back into relationship with Him!

In the Holy Place, the place of relationship with our God, each of the elements of the Holy Place represent areas where we surrender our *soul* – *our mind, our will and our emotions*. This is the area where we must crucify our *souls*, daily. This is an act of submission of the soul in every area to the Father.



- a. **Lampstand** - the place of illumination. This represents the place where we **submit** our *mind* to the Holy Spirit, to exchange our thinking processes for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

- b. **Table of Shewbread** – the place of substance and sustenance. This is where we surrender our own will for the Will of the Father (not my will but Thine be done);

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- c. **Alter of Incense** – we surrender our emotions here and exchange them for the passion of Christ. The soul is now dead to ourselves, but yet alive to God and being conformed in the Holy Place.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

- d. **Holy of Holies** - the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant is the place of substitution – Jesus for us. We join hands in worship with the Lord here and we hear His voice. This is the place of true worship and intercession.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

True humility is this posture! Submitting every part of our mind, will, and emotions to God and receiving His Mind, Will, and Emotions (Passion) in their place. We must be willing to surrender every part of our soul to Him in order to be pleasing to Him and fulfill our purposes on this earth.

When we assume this posture *daily* in prayer, we are vessels of honor for Him! Notice from the diagram, that though we are crucified with Christ, we live! We live in Him, as a vessel of honor! **Satan can only touch the old nature, the soul that has not died.**

Jonathan Edwards, an American theologian and stimulator of the religious revival "Great Awakening", 1703-1758, said, "*Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility.*"

The Body of Christ has no choice but to learn this posture of humility if we are to be pleasing to the Lord. We must become fully submitted members of His Body in order to usher in His Light, dispelling the darkness in the Earth.

True humility comes when before God, we see ourselves as nothing, have put aside self, and let God be all. The soul that has done this, and can say, "I have lost myself in finding you," no longer compares itself with others... The humble person feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before himself. He can hear others praised and himself forgotten, because in God's presence, he has learned to say with Paul, "I am nothing." "Humility" Andrew Murray.

Next week we will study "Be on the Alert (Avoiding Deception)" - Learn How to Stay Watchful and Never be Tripped Up Again!