

MONDAY AUGUST 23

CHRISTIAN HUMILITY

Pride is not a characteristic God wants to see in our lives. The Word tells us that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5).

When it comes to taking on humility, we may sometimes have the wrong picture of what that looks like. It is not to be wimpy and weak. It is in direct contrast to pride. Jesus gave us a visual picture of what that looks like in Matthew 18:4. The disciples wanted to know who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. He brought a little child in and told them that repentance was needed (a repentance of any pride) and becoming like this little child...trusting, lowly, loving, forgiving.

Peter (one of Jesus' disciples) who heard what Jesus told them later wrote the following: "Therefore humble yourselves (demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation) under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you." (1 Peter 5:6 Amp.)

God has much to say in His Word regarding humility. We find that the humility of heart and mind is the secret for several things. We'll mention a few.

1. Redemption: Philippians 2:5-9 tells us we are to make our attitude that of Christ. He took on the role of a servant and that is a key in our redemption when we give our lives to Him.

2. Riches and honor: We are not speaking necessarily of earthly riches. We are to store up treasures in heaven. Proverbs speaks of humility coming before honor (Proverbs 15:33). "The result of humility is the fear of the LORD, along with wealth, honor, and life." (Proverbs 22:4 HCSB)

3. Our fellowship with God. His Word declares He looks favorably on the one who is humble, submissive in spirit and trembles at His Word (Isaiah 66:2).

4. Greatness in God's kingdom (Luke 22:26; Matthew 20:26-27).

5. Revelation from God. He knows He can trust what He reveals to one who has a humble heart. (Matthew 11:25; Luke 10:21)

Submitting ourselves under God's mighty hand brings its rewards, but far above that our heart should be that God's recognition of us is far more valuable than any man's. Refuse the temptation for any pride or arrogance. The safest place is to remain under His mighty hand where we experience peace and rest and above all His favor.