

# HUMBLED BY LIFE, BUT... HELPED BY THE LORD!

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“THOMAS” CL THOMAS

**INTRODUCTION:** The idea of humility may be one of the most counterintuitive doctrines in Scripture that we are challenged to wrestle with, largely because we are taught the very opposite. Our culture is one of ambition and exalting of one's rights. It feeds on the building up of one's self. In fact, we argue that these are rights that we have. And, if you don't allow me to have that right, I will protest to secure that right and insure the wellbeing of one's self. NO! It is very unlikely that someone will be celebrated for taking the low road, FOR SIMPLY SUBMITTING to the power of circumstances. *We are so sinister at exaltation that we will call out the fact that we take the low road and not even realize that if you have to announce it; it's no longer a low road.* Humility. To be humble is a virtue that challenges our nature and authentically, legitimately assaults our egos in order to take on the character of Christ. We can't win this battle of character if we don't know the terms.

There are occasions in life that are more powerful than one's personal ability. In those occasions, we are forced to be brought under powers that are not OUR OWN and even made to bend in ways that we did not choose. We don't like it. We don't want to comply. We don't understand it. We don't want to tap out and submit to another's rule. Yet, it could very well be an opportunity to grow in the character of Jesus under the will of God for exalted nature that you CANNOT realize unless you humble yourself.

This study will focus on the terms.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this sermon is to consider the text of **1 Pt. 5:6-7** and its emphasis on humility so that we have a definition of humility and see the ways we can apply this meaning to our everyday lives.

To accomplish this purpose, we'll work on three major points:

1. Humility *Defined*
2. Humility *Demonstrated*
3. Humility *Applied*

*Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1Pt. 5: 5b-7NIV)*

## I. HUMILITY DEFINED (1 PT. 5: 5B-6A)

- A. What do we mean when we talk about humility? What is the term? What does the concept **Be Humble** imply? All of the questions are addressed in these verses.
- B. **To be humble is a character trait that reflects the lowliness of mind and acknowledges one's look or loss of power, prestige and position especially as one reflects on one's creator.**
  1. How do we know its character? "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another".

2. A humble heart is one that is fully aware that life is a gift. I AM HERE BECAUSE OF GOD.
  3. A humble heart is always *dependent* on God.
  4. A humble heart does at least three things from this passage.
- C. First, Humility comes out of **Demotion** of your position. “UNDER”
1. God is not accepting partners, equals or cochairs in discipleship.
  2. Under implies that at no time are we in charge!
  3. *7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (Jas 4:7–10NIV).*
  4. James 4:10 “**Presence**”
  5. 1 Pt. 5:6 “Under the mighty hand”
- D. Second, Humility comes out of **Deflation** of your prestige. “Self-exaltation” and Gods exaltation are not the same.
1. Prov. 27:2 *“Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider and not your own lips...”*
- E. Third, Humility comes out of complete **Dependence** on God. 1 Pt. 5:7
1. “Casting all your cares...”
  2. Peter quotes a Psalm here. (Ps. 55:22) *“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”*
    - a. “Throw your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you.” NET
    - b. “Give your worries to the Lord, and he will care for you” ERV
    - c. “Leave your troubles with the Lord, and he will defend you;” GNTD
    - d. “Turn your burdens over to the Lord, and he will take care of you.” NT
  3. *“Two things I ask of you, O Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.”* (Proverbs 30:7-8 NIV)
  4. The indictment of our arrogance is our constant tendency to *fix* what we cannot or *pick up* again what we said we have given to Him. Every time we revisit the thing we say.
    - a. I don’t think YOU, GOD, are qualified
    - b. I don’t think YOU, GOD, have all of it
    - c. I can do better than YOU, GOD!
    - d. I will take this part off YOUR hands, GOD!
    - e. I don’t know that YOU are who you said YOU are... GOD!
    - f. I, I, I...

5. **Humility is directly correlated to dependence, GIVE IT TO GOD!!**  
**Whatever it is!**

- F. Humility is only achievable among disciples who have **demoted** themselves under God, **deflated** their egos and position for his Glory and are utterly **dependent** on Him for everything they are!

*And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1Pt. 5:10-11 NIV)*

**II. HUMILITY DEMONSTRATED (1 PT. 5:10)**

- A. From what we have discovered from our study, humility can only be practiced through circumstances that necessitate the practice of demotion of self, deflation of one's ego/pride and total dependence (or trust) in God. Jesus is the quintessential picture of what it means to humbly walk with God through the vicissitudes of life.
- B. The character of Christ is our end goal.
- C. Jesus showed humility throughout His life.
1. In **conflict**...I could call. (Mt. 26:52-54). **Remember**, He didn't use the power at His disposal, rather He chose to take path that was according to God's will. How often in life are we challenged to exchange our personal power and might to follow a path that designated by God. It is humbling and even humiliating, yet it our chance to demote, deflate and depend!
  2. In **crisis**...not my will. (Lk. 22:42). **Remember**, in this passage He did not want to choose the path of pain and sacrifice. His humanity understood the cost of the cross. He wanted another way. However, he practiced humility. Again, can you imagine the need to practice humility it the face of severe potential pain and physical discomfort. In those moments in the disciple door to demote, deflate and depend!
  3. In **character**...increased. (Lk. 2:52). **Remember**, the Bible describes God the Son as one increasing in *wisdom, stature and favor* with God and man. The point here is that Jesus, WHO KNEW ALL THINGS, was willing to learn the curriculum of humanity. The disciples lesson is obvious. We are called and challenged to learn from the moments we are in to gain character shaping and Jesus developing natures. Whatever situation you are in, God wants the end of it to be that you look more like Jesus as one practices demotion, deflation and dependence!
  4. In **completion** of the will of God...until death. (Phil. 2: 5-8). **Remember**, Jesus' most amazing expression of humility was His willingness to surrender His life to the will of God for the glory of the kingdom agenda. Our calling is the same. God invites every follow to come and die to self, giving their life

back to a Creator who will keep and cover His children through every age and every stage of life. When we completely adhere to the will of God we actively demote, deflate and depend on God, we humbly follow!

### **III. HUMILITY APPLIED “SO WHAT?”**

A. If humility means me being humble - I am not able to chair my life, that I'm NOT in the lead, then ask yourself. Am I humble **everywhere**?

**1. What places do I need to get off the throne?**

**2. Where am I still god? Where do I overrule the supreme ruler?**

a. Does he rule over my attitude?

b. Does he rule my temper?

c. Does he rule my tongue?

d. Does he rule my heart?

B. If humility means He gets the glory...

**1. What places do I find myself still needing to be seen?**

2. If you have to announce it, you have a problem!

C. If humility means dependence...why do I lack trust?

1. Do you trust him in your health?

2. Do you trust him in your relationships?

3. Do you trust him in your career?

4. Do you trust him?

**CONCLUSION:** Life is dynamic, and the disciple must face each of those dynamics with consistent Christlike character. Facing life like Jesus insist on a nature that is above our natural make up. We are called to understand and apply the nature of Jesus. The challenge of our current time is one that demands an active remembrance of and trust in God! Take on the mantle of humility. Choose to walk with the heart of Christ that will cast your cares on a God who is big enough to handle them while His children demote their positions of rule, deflate their ego's and depend on Him exclusively! Stay humble!