

Humility

Step Seven: Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.

- ❖ *Humility is living in the balance between "I'm no good" and "I'm just fine as I am."*
- ❖ *Humility focuses on getting close to God rather than on my faults.*
- ❖ *Humility knows I'm not worthy to ask God's help but that it's the right thing to do.*
- ❖ *Humility comes back to God who has the resources and time to build life in me.*

God will teach the ways that are right and best to those who humbly turn to him. (Psalm 25)

An attitude of humility is rooted in a true sense of one's self. Humility, grounded in self-knowledge, helps us to avoid the distortions of both too much self-confidence and exaggerated self-doubt. A humble person is not someone who feels inferior but someone who is without pretence, down to earth. Humility lays the foundation for discernment of truth because to be "humble in heart" as Jesus instructs us, means that *we will accept the uniqueness of our experience and the limited nature of our knowledge.* An attitude of humility allows us to accept dependence on God and one another and to be open to God's turning us in a new or unexpected direction.

Jesus says, Let me teach you; for I am gentle and humble, and you shall find rest for your souls. (Matt. 11)

Humility is not gained by seeking it directly nor by focusing on one's faults and sins. Rather, it comes quietly to those who draw close to the Lord. As we experience God's greatness, we sense our own smallness. When we encounter God's wholeness, we realize our own incompleteness.

If you will humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, in his good time he will lift you up. (1 Peter 5)

After examining our life closely, we may feel cut off from God. Considering the scope of what we have done, we may feel unworthy to ask God for anything. Maybe our problem behaviours are despised as the lowest kind of evil by those whom we consider

respectable people. We may struggle with self-hatred. Our genuine remorse may cause us to wonder if we even dare approach God to ask for His help. But God tells us that we are always welcome to come to Him, even when we feel this way. It is the humble heart that opens the door to God's forgiveness.

It is a broken spirit you want -- remorse and penitence. A broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not ignore. (Psalm 51)

Pride ends in a fall, while humility brings honor. (Proverbs 29)

God has created us in His image. God wants to renew us and remake us so we truly become people of character, integrity, love, and compassion. God knows how. We don't. God has the resources and the time to accomplish this in our lives. Are we willing to surrender ourselves to a loving God, as often as it takes for as long as it takes, and allow Him to rebuild life and character strength in us? The issue and choice for us today is not God's ability but our ongoing availability to God's power and plan. Humility brings me back to God in repentance, gratitude, and peace to seek His will for my life today.

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What aspects of humility am I developing in my life?
2. What aspects of humility seem to still be lacking?
3. What keeps us from humbly surrendering ourselves, including our shortcomings, to God?
4. How am I practicing this relationship of "coming close to God"?