

# 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 it’s still the right thing to do.*
- ❖ *Humility comes back again and again to Jesus Christ 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. Humility doesn't result from focusing on our faults and sins. Rather, humility 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. ***LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?*** (Psalm 8:1,3-4)

Think about it. We are only one of many billions of people who have ever lived. We exist on one tiny planet in a vast universe that scientists can't begin to measure. We breathe for only a few decades out of an endless eternity. On what grounds do we think we can even begin to approach knowing more than the God who made time, made space, made all that has been and all that will be? What kind of arrogance would even begin to consider that we are more powerful than our creator?

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

The God of time and eternity who created us in love, comes close to us every day to invite us to live close to His heart. Humility says, "Here I am. Show me how to do that today. Show me anything damages that beautiful opportunity for relationship and I'll let that go." We say that with our actions as well as our words because it would be so stupid to live any other way. When we fail and fall, we immediately turn our hearts and our eyes to the one who loves us and has exactly what we need to get it right and we ask for healing and help. Then we go on and we leave the past behind. We look ahead. We plan forward. We keep our eyes on the one who loves us and is with us. That's humility. ***If you will humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, in his good time he will lift you up.*** (1 Peter 5)

Many people, after examining their life closely, feel cut off from God. Genuine remorse may cause some to wonder if they dare approach God to ask for His help. Considering the scope of what they've have done, they feel unworthy to ask God for anything. Sometimes their problem behaviours are despised as the lowest kind of evil society so they embrace deep shame. They struggle with self-hatred. 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)

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 on-going 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 keeps us from humbly surrendering ourselves, including our shortcomings, to God?
2. How am I practicing this relationship of "coming close to God"?