

A Humble Heart

God fellowships with the humble

God delights in the fellowship of the humble. He regards those who are lowly in heart special to His heart and draws close to them.

“For thus says the high and lofty One – He who inhabits eternity, Whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, but with him also who is of a thoroughly penitent and humble spirit ...” (Is 57v15 AMP)

“Thus says the Lord: Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What kind of house would you build for Me? And what kind can be My resting-place?

“For all these things My hand has made, and so all things have come into being [by and for Me], says the Lord. But this is the man to whom I will look and have regard: he who is humble and of a broken spirit, and who trembles at my word and reveres My commands.” (Is66v1-2 AMP)

Moses had such a deep level of intimacy with God – so deep that we can regard him, above all mankind during his time, as having the closest relationship with God. Of His closest friend God said; “... he is entrusted and faithful in all my house. With him I speak mouth to mouth directly], clearly and not in dark speeches; and he beholds the form of the Lord.” (Num12v13 AMP)

In a verse preceding the ones I have just quoted, we are given insight into Moses’ character and level of humility; “Now the man Moses was very meek (gentle, kind and humble) above all the men on the face of the earth.” (Num12v3)

When I read these versus I see a connection between humility and intimacy with God. One of the reasons Moses had such deep levels of intimacy with God was because he was a man more humble than any other, indeed, “above all the men on the face of the earth.” So if our greatest quest would be intimacy and union (oneness) with God, then a goal most foremost in our lives should be humility.

But what, in essence, is humility?

Humility before God – brokenness

Living before God in humility is living before Him in brokenness. Brokenness is not being sorrowful or mournful, but it is a state of being utterly submissive to Him. This can only come about when our wills (which owe their existence to pride and self) have been broken by God. Much like how a horse-trainer breaks the will of a wild stallion.

God can never have intimacy with someone whose heart is of a proud, arrogant and stiff-necked nature. So, in God drawing us to Himself, much of His dealings in our lives are to break our carnal, fleshly and proud hearts. And this process of being

broken is not easy; in fact it is painful and uncomfortable, seemingly gruesome (at times) and hard on the flesh, but worthwhile when the process is done.

When we begin to embark upon this Christian journey, we begin with a heart that is not broken and one that is often very opposite of being meek and humble. To remedy this God will allow circumstances, situations and people across our path as tools to uproot our proud state.

We see this process in the life of Moses. God allowed him, beginning with the death of the Egyptian, to go through many tests and dealings in the wilderness. These tests, no doubt, were to strip away every trace of his old Egyptian life of pride, arrogance and self-dependence until brokenness was found in him. Only then could Moses experience and see what no man of his era could; seeing God face-to-face and experiencing deep intimacy with Him. It was only after God's breaking of Moses' will and stiff-necked nature and bringing him to a place of utter submissiveness that God could say of Moses: "... he is entrusted and faithful in all my house. With him I speak mouth to mouth [directly], clearly and not in dark speeches; and he beholds the form of the Lord." (Num12v6-8 AMP)

Our task during this process of breaking, striping and testing by God is only to pray: "Lord break me completely so that whatever is proud and arrogant in me may die – I want to experience union with You", then to yield to His working in us until true humility is formed in us.

When humility and brokenness have, to a larger extent, been worked into a believer's life, then he/she would have reached the realisation of his/her own utter helplessness and total dependency on God for everything in life. He/she would have exchanged his life for God's. God would have become his/her only source. It is at this stage that the child of God is not prone to complain or demand of God because of his/her 'right', but he/she is rather grateful for all the things bestowed on him/her and is ever-conscious of his/her heavenly Father's abundant grace and mercy.

It is only when our wills have been broken that we can truly say together with Paul: 'It is no-longer I that lives but Christ in me.' It is also at this point when all hindrances and obstacles caused by pride have been cleared off the path which leads to intimacy with God.

"... God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the *lowly* (those who are humble enough to receive it). So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you. Come close to God and *He will come close to you.*" (James4v6-8 AMP) [emphasis mine]

Humility before man - servanthood

The degree to which we have been broken before God will be the degree to which we are servants before men. To be servants of men, especially men of the household of faith, is indirectly being a servant of God. A believer, who has the true heart of a servant, will not see his serving as unto man but unto God. Jesus said: “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Serving is not true serving if the service is not done with the *heart of a servant*. One can serve without a servant’s heart and therefore with the wrong motive or heart attitude. So, the trueness of our service will not be measured by the *extent* of the deeds of service (how much we do), but rather by the attitude of service.

True servanthood is an expression of *love* towards our fellowman, and that is the attitude to which we must all aspire. It is laying down one’s life (in many various ways of service and not necessarily in death only), *in love*, for our neighbour. “*I serve you because I love you*”.

The well-known scripture verse, 1Cor13v3, clearly confirms this truth: “Even if I dole out all that I have [to the poor in providing] food, and if I surrender my body to be burned *but have not love* (God’s love in me), I gain nothing. (Amplified Bible) [emphasis mine]

Jesus is our example of a true servant. He constantly served – and in serving man he He was serving His Father and doing His will.

“... and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matt20v27,28 NIV)

Servanthood towards our fellowman is the outworking of our humility before God. God is pleased with the humble and with those with servants’ hearts. Indeed, His delight is in them and in their fellowship and intimacy.

“Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love kindness and mercy, and to *humble yourself* and *walk humbly with your God?*” (Mic6v8,9 AMP) [emphasis mine]