

really humble? I believe it occurs when serving others has become so much a part of us that it's second nature. Unthinkingly, we step in to assist, to help, to give support, to do the menial task, to provide relief. We are simply not thinking about ourselves at all. Let me illustrate.

One senator attended a weekly Bible study lunch .. with numerous politicians and professionals. As soon as the meeting was over, most of them rushed off to important conferences or high-powered jobs. Our senator however, was usually seen lingering after the meeting, folding and stacking chairs--and he was the highest ranking official there! He was simply making the caretaker's job easier.

When we serve from the heart outward, not calculating or grandstanding, we are humble. It's not an act of pretentious piety but a deed of sensitivity and compassion. We won't even be aware of it because we're doing it naturally (ie supernaturally). That's what humility is all about. --DE

REFLECTION

- Do I have a feeling of pride whenever I go out of my way to help someone? Am I honest enough to admit it?
- Among my friends, who is humble? What are the evidences of it?
- Are there some ways I should be serving my fellow believers? The unsaved in my workplace? How?

There's no excuse for pride; humility never needs one.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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"Poof--It's Gone!"

READ: Matthew 23:1-12

A man's pride brings him low. Proverbs 29:23

Joni Eareckson Tada wrote these words about humility: "We grab for humility and--*poof*--it disappears like stardust through our fingers."

Boy, is she ever right.



Here's a typical sequence. As we read the Bible, the passage above for example, we are reminded of the command of Christ to be humble. So we pray for humility. The Holy Spirit brings to our mind some acts of servanthood. So we clean up even when we are not on the roster. We volunteer to help out in creche. Or we help some of our fellow Christians who are going through a tough time.

The next thing you know we are patting ourselves on the back for having such a great servant spirit. Poof! The humility has "disappeared like stardust," as Joni said.

So how can we know when we are



I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Humility.

(Psalms 42:7) .. All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

In 1 Peter 5:5-7 there are two commands to be humble and 4 outcomes of having that humility:

1. _____, verses 5-6,
2:13, 18, 3:1,

(Philippians 2:8-11) "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. {9} Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, {10} that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, {11} and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."



(John 13:3-5) "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, .. {4} rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. {5} After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."
(Hebrews 13:17) "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

2. _____, verse 5

(James 4:6) "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.""

(Proverbs 3:34) "Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble."

(Isaiah 57:15) "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."



(Isaiah 66:2) "For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word."

(2 Corinthians 12:7-10) "And lest I should be exalted above measure .. a thorn in the flesh was given to me, ... {8} Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. {9} And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. {10} Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast."

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

(Ephesians 1:3-8) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, {4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, ..., {5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. {7} In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace {8} which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,"

(Ephesians 3:20-21) "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, {21} to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."



3. _____, verse 6, 4:12-19



Al Shabaab

(Luke 14:11) ""For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.""

4. _____/_____, verses 6-7

(Philippians 4:6-7) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; {7} and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

