

Exercise of Joyful Humility

Text: Phil. 2:12-14

Date: 1-10-21 @ 10:30 am

2021 Theme: **Joyfully Displaying the Humility of Christ.**

What does joyful humility mean? Joy is inherently tied to happiness that is rooted in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Humility is a “modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc.” Joyful humility is displaying these meek qualities without a somber countenance and attitude. It is not a “poor or woe is me” attitude. It is not drudgery or weakness. It is not “walk all over me”.

Step 1: Permit God to work in us (Phil. 2:12-13).

We must learn to stand on our own 2 feet with a sense of human frailty yet knowing God is behind us as His children.

Ask God to help you deal with an area of habitual sin. In an area of strong character, ask God to allow you to demonstrate that strength in a new and fresh way towards other people.

Work out your own salvation:

- This does not mean that you work for your salvation because that goes against the tenor of Scripture.
- They were already saved.
- The word has the meaning of *work to full completion*. In other words we are to carry salvation to its final completion)
- In view of the problems of pride and disunity, the believers at Philippi were to put into practice the principles of salvation to resolve their problems.

Paul is commanding us as believers to not be satisfied with just being saved! We need to be continually working toward the goal of sanctification – changed from glory unto glory. See II Pet. 1:5-8.

We work out because God has worked in. **God is doing the work of transforming our lives into that which is pleasing and glorifying to Him.**

As believers we are to carry out that which God, the Divine enabler, has empowered us to do.

Wuest: “It is God the Holy Spirit who energizes the saint, making him not only willing, but actively desirous of doing God’s sweet will. But He does not merely leave the saint with the desire to do His will. He provides the necessary power to do it.

We cannot do this without God, but we cannot leave it only to God.

How do we specifically work out God’s purpose and Christ’s example of humility?

Step 2: Put away complaining or arguing (Phil. 2:14).

The verb form means “to grumble because of disappointed hopes; to be dissatisfied.” Complaining reflects a bad attitude as a result of not getting what is desired. **Complaining displays a lack of trust in God.**

“It is the kind of criticism, dissatisfaction, fault-finding, and gossip that goes on within small groups or cliques” (Practical Word Studies in the N. T. 1400).

What are the results of murmuring?

- Hurt
- Damage
- Division
- Tearing down
- Elevating selfish opinion
- Opposition to God’s will
- Hindered progress
- Stymied growth
- People being misled
- Self-centeredness
- People pushed away from Christ and the church (Taken from Practical Words Studies in the N. T. 1400)

Does any blessing or good come out of these things?

Disputing means *to argue or dispute*. But, underneath the surface of the word is *doubt* or *anxious reflection*.

This doubting then is the intellectual rebellion against God and the complaining is the outward expression of that doubt.

Conclusion

What area of your life would you say you need to have more joyful humility on display? What areas of your life might you consistently complain about? Are there areas in your life that God is not being allowed to work on?

Pray a prayer like this: “God, I know that I struggle with this area of habitual sin. Would you transform my life so that I would have victory in that area?” Areas like speech, thoughts, holding onto possessions, my love for God, or my love for those who oppose us.

In an area of strong character, ask God to allow you to demonstrate that strength in a new and fresh way towards other people.

Joyful humility should be at the center of our goals and passions year because that is how Christ lived here on this earth.