

Chapter 1

Humility in Its Purest Form

Humility is one of the most-mentioned or referred to subjects in the Bible. Although I will only be scratching the surface of this subject, you will see in this book just how much humility is referred to in the Scriptures. For example, the Book of Proverbs is loaded with verses on the blessings of humility and the destructive effects of pride. However, not many pay much attention to it. Not many sermons or books are written on this subject. The enemy would love for us to neglect humility because of its importance in ushering in the greatest move of God this world has ever seen. In order to reap this end-time harvest, we need to do our best not to neglect it.

I strongly believe that in the coming wave of the Holy Spirit, God will emphasize the importance of humility to the Body of Christ. When we are in tune with humility and what He is doing (and we are about His business, not doing our own), He will confirm His word among us with many more signs, wonders, and miracles. Understanding and walking in humility will play a major role in helping Christians do what He is calling the Body of Christ to do. Jesus said that we would do everything that He did 2,000 years ago, including the miracles; He said we would do even greater works!

Leaving the Greater Works for Us

Jesus said

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to the Father (John 14:12).

This Scripture speaks volumes about humility and the reason Jesus came. Jesus came into this world in humility, even to the extent of being born in a manger. He did not value His own ministry as superior to others or seek to “outperform” everyone else. Rather, He encouraged His disciples that they (and we) can and should do even greater things than He did. He was the perfect example of humility. The simple fact that Jesus said we will do greater works than He did shows us that He is not in competition with us. Rather, He desires that we surpass His miracle ministry now. Through His word, He is encouraging us to do greater works than He did. Why? To acquire a name for ourselves? No! For the simple reason it is about souls, not to put on a show.

Just before I conducted an evangelistic campaign in Fatehgarh Churian, Punjab, India (near the Pakistan border), the Lord opened my eyes to *humility in its purest form*. We had witnessed great miracles in the campaign the night before. The next day before the evening campaign I prayed John 14:12 and asked that the greater works or greater miracles would happen on this evening. As I prayed I began to see this verse like I had never seen it before. It was like scales came off my spiritual eyes and I saw how Jesus wants us to do even greater works than He did for the sake of spreading the Gospel. When we are in competition with each other we do not

desire to see people surpass us in ministry or in our gifting. Pride will want the focus to be on us. Thus we keep others from excelling and being more effective than us. Jesus was not that way. Jesus was not out to prove anything. He was out to do the will of the Father and win the lost.

Jesus was Humility in the purest form! Pure means “not mixed with anything else, unadulterated, genuine, perfectly clean, spotless, with no evil, without sin.”¹ Thus, humility in its purest form is humility that is not compromised or distorted by the religious traditions of people. Those who are health conscious know that foods in their purest form have the maximum benefit on a person’s health. The same holds true spiritually.

We are really blessed to have wonderful friends in Alberta, Canada, who run a honey mill and bless us with honey from their harvest. The honey we receive from them is in its purest form, right from the source without any processing. We know honey “in its purest form” is much better than the white sugar that goes through various processes before reaching our table; and it has kept us healthy. God’s humility in our lives, if it is not watered down or processed by human traditions, can have the maximum impact on our lives. We must receive it directly from the source: Jesus, not human traditions.

As I mentioned earlier, in John 14:12, Jesus decided, at the peak of His ministry, to turn it over to His disciples. He stepped aside and handed the ministry over to us. He had performed phenomenal miracles, yet said He was leaving the “greater works” for others to perform in His name. Not only is this a powerful example of Jesus’ personal humility, but it also demonstrates the humility believers must walk in. Only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit, who surrender to Christ’s authority in their lives, can do the greater works. As we become His vessels of humility, we are released in greater power. The more we understand and walk in His humility, the more He can do through us.

Learning Humility from Christ

Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

In these verses, Jesus very clearly explains His character and nature, inviting us to learn accordingly from Him. Many use these verses for altar calls, to invite the unsaved to come to Christ. I believe Jesus is also talking to believers, especially those in ministry.

Let’s take a look at some of the words He uses and expound further on them to help us understand the magnitude of His words. In verse 28, He invites the heavy laden to come to Him and find rest. The word for *heavy laden* in the Greek means to load up, to overburden with ceremony or spiritual anxiety. Many Christians are just going through religious motions, feeling overburdened, and producing little or no fruit. When we come unto Him, He says He will give us *rest* from that. The Greek brings it out this way: He will give “recreation, intermission, pause, and a letting down of chords drawn tight.”²

In verse 29 Jesus tells us to take His yoke (Greek: *obligation*) upon us. What does He want us to take on? This “yoke” is the ability to learn from Him about humility in its purest form. This is our yoke-lesson: *He is gentle, lowly in heart, and humble!* Only then will we find rest for our

souls.

In verse 30 Jesus says that His yoke (obligation) is easy and His burden (task) is light. If we are truly taking on His obligations and tasks they will be easy and light. If what we are doing is not easy and light, we must ask whose obligation or task we are carrying. If we are not willing to learn about and tap into Jesus' pure humility, we will often strive to make things happen on our own. But this is when our tasks stop being easy and light.

True humility brings with it a grace that enables us to do more than we could ever imagine for the Kingdom. That includes serving others, miracles, signs, and wonders! But if it is all about our ministry, our church, or us and we are walking in pride and arrogance, then we put ourselves in a place where there is little grace, and God could literally be resisting us.

When we labor for God with humility, His grace makes the task easy enough to handle because His grace strengthens us.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Taking it to the Next Level

If the Body of Christ desires to reach the next level, producing the greatest results and having a lasting effect, then we need to understand the importance of humility in its purest form and stop competing with each other. Jesus Christ is the essence of humility!

Who are we, the *Body of Christ as a whole*, to fulfill this ministry? Unfortunately, many Christians are filled with strife, pride, apathy, unbelief, and other problems. Yet He has put us in charge of performing the greater works and fulfilling the Great Commission.

Many Christians have difficulty trusting God in all areas of life. Yet think of Him. He has faith in *us*! Now that's faith! He really believes in us. He believes in *you* more than you believe in yourself! Thus Paul said in Philippians 4:13:

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

Since Jesus is living in us, through His Holy Spirit, and since He believes in us, *we can do all things*. He will strengthen us to do what He has called us to do. But, if we are simply going through religious motions or performing to be seen by people, He will not strengthen us for those tasks. Then we are left striving to make things happen without His enabling power (grace).

In John 16:7, Jesus said:

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage [Greek: profitable, expedient] *that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper* [Holy Spirit] *will not come to you; but if I depart I will send Him to you.*

The Holy Spirit helps us do the greater works. He could not have come unless Jesus laid down His life and ascended on high.

How many ministry leaders today train people and then release them in ministry to see them surpass themselves? Yet Jesus, in His prime, turned it over to us and said that it would get better once He left. This is humility! He left the best for us! He left the greater works for us to do! There are some in ministry today who are doing just this, in that they are training others to take over areas of their ministry. This is how the Gospel spreads out rapidly.

We need this quality of humility to equip and release Christians for the work of the ministry today. We need Christian leaders who do not desire just to be in the limelight; rather, we need leaders so humble that when the spotlight shines on them, it points to Jesus. It's not about our ministries or our denominations or looking good for everyone to see. It is not about who has the best ministry or best church or who has held the biggest evangelistic campaign. We are all playing on the same team! It is all about Jesus! The less of us, the more of Him, the more we accomplish for His glory, honor, and praise.

We need leaders who desire to see others raised up in ministry and do not feel insecure about passing the torch so that all can tap into the blessing and miracles of Jesus. That does not mean we need to give up what we are doing, but that we are secure enough in who we are in Christ to raise others up to successfully minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It means that if the ones we train pass us in success, we rejoice. Christianity is not a competition. Some have made it that way, causing many comparisons in Christian circles. The apostle Paul said:

*For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves, and **comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise** (2 Corinthians 10:12).*

Within many Christian circles there exists a grave distortion regarding humility. I had to re-learn a lesson in humility after reading *The Final Quest*, by Rick Joyner.³ Prior to reading the book, I really thought that I was walking in humility and that I understood God's perspective on things, but actually I did not. I had to repent a lot during the course of reading the book. *The Final Quest* gives a picture of a last days' Church that is full of the critical spirit and arrogance. It showed the negative effects of this attitude.

I made many incorrect decisions because of my pride. When I learned and began to walk in humility, it helped me make right decisions that produced good fruit that is impacting eternity.

The apostle Paul, like Rick Joyner's book, shows us a picture of the Church in the last days.

*But know this, that in the **last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away** (2 Timothy 3:1-5).*

The Old Testament prophets many times warned God's people to humble themselves and turn from sin and idolatry so that God would heal the land and bless them. It is much better to learn humility and humble ourselves than to be humiliated, which is the alternative when we do not choose humility. God puts the choice clearly before us to humble ourselves or to be humiliated. Humbling ourselves is a much better choice.

In recent years, the United States and many other countries have slowly turned from their roots, rejecting any dependence on God. We are living in perilous times, not really knowing what looms on the horizon.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)

We need to humble ourselves, search our hearts, and turn from arrogance and self-sufficiency during these perilous times in order to clean up our lives and see a move of God like this world has never witnessed before.

Despite negative things happening all over the world, my focus is Jesus Christ and His Gospel. Does that mean we should just turn a blind eye to sin, arrogance, and self-sufficiency and just expect everything to be fine? No! Look at God's judgment and the bad things that happened to Israel and Judah when they turned their backs on God. Some might say, "That was Old Testament, brother." But read First Corinthians 10 to see what Paul says will happen if we follow the same path they followed.

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (1 Corinthians 10:11-12).

Let's look at what humility and reverence for God can do for us when bad things are happening all around us. Zephaniah prophesied to the nation of Judah during the reign of a godly king, King Josiah, to turn their hearts back to God. Even though they had a godly king, they were just going through the motions of acting godly, but in reality their hearts were far from God. Zephaniah prophesied of the impending judgment that would fall on them if they did not humble themselves and repent. He warns them:

Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger (Zephaniah 2:3).

Here it shows us that if we seek humility, we will be hidden when bad things come, and we also will be ready for the most powerful move of the Holy Spirit ever witnessed on this earth. Many Old Testament prophets (see Joel 2:20-32, Isaiah 2:2-4, Micah 4:1-2, Ezekiel 38:23, Daniel 2:35, Psalms 22:26-27) prophesied about this great outpouring in the end times. Humility will cause us to stay in a place of safety. It can keep us hidden from calamity and trouble that could be looming on the horizon when a nation that God has given much to departs from its roots. Humility brings safety and draws others to Christ, inviting them to get in the circle of His divine protection. You will see God's blessing and divine protection when you seek humility.

Our founding fathers had the heart and desire to humble themselves and seek God in the early days of establishing our country. As a result, God protected them and showered them with favor, despite the odds being against them. This is what has made the United States such a prosperous and wonderful country to live in. We need to return to our early foundation of dependence on God and get rid of our self-sufficient attitudes of leaving God out. Part of humility is recognizing our dependence on God.

Jesus Equals Humility

Jesus is the One worthy of all praise and worship, yet while in His fleshly body He turned the greater works over to us *while the attention was still on Him*. Look at Jesus' example:

*Let this mind [attitude] be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **but made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. 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. Therefore **God exalted Him** and given Him the name which is above every name, 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, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father* (Philippians 2:5-11).

Verse 7 in the New International Version says He “*made Himself nothing.*” The American Standard Version says He “*emptied Himself*” of being God when He came to earth. Even though He was God, He put aside His deity to identify with humanity. He referred to Himself as the Son of Man more than God or the Son of God. He did not try to defend Himself, and He did not announce His deity as one expecting royal treatment. Think about it! Many times He was referred to as *a friend of sinners*. (See Matthew 11:19.) He did not come in arrogance and pride, condemning the sinner, but rather in love, power, acceptance, and humility to set them free.

Jesus said about Himself in Matthew 20:28:

*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

Just before Jesus said this, He was talking with His disciples about those who would be seated next to Him for eternity. Those who will be seated next to Him for eternity are those who have served from a willing heart, those who understand and walk in humility.

*Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.” But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask.... to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.” And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many**” (Matthew 20:20-28).*

Many believers jockey for position in God's Kingdom. It ends up breeding strife and competition. Proverbs 13:10 says:

By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom.

In the passage in Matthew we just looked at, in verse 24, the other disciples were displeased with James and John for seeking recognition and preeminence. Not only does jockeying for position alienate us from others, it also becomes a distraction that keeps us from accomplishing God's will. Instead of advancing the Kingdom (unconcerned about gaining recognition), we are sidetracked by looking for labels to pin on our chests.

Jesus gave His disciples a lesson in being great in God's Kingdom (see Matt. 20:25-28). Greatness comes through serving and through walking in humility. Jesus led by example, not just by words. And He told His disciples not to try to control others. True authority comes by following His example of humility and servanthood. When we develop these traits, others will want to follow us and submit to our authority even though we are not asking or looking for that submission.

One great example of a person who served the least of these with this attitude was Mother Theresa in Calcutta, India. Her life impacted millions of people and lives on as a legacy today. Many women submitted to her and learned from her example. As a missionary myself to India, I see her impact all over India. Her organization *Sisters of Charity* has rescued millions of helpless children and lepers.

My mother-in-law Renuka Frank was inspired by Mother Theresa. Once Renuka picked up a newborn baby that had just been disposed of, out of the dump in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India, and took the child to the Sisters of Charity. Things like this inspired Renuka and my wife, Sharmila, to establish Karishma Girls Home and Sewing School in Agra, which has rescued many girls and women from a horrible life in northern India. As of today, many hundreds of women from the slums of Agra have been taught a trade and given dignity in Karishma Sewing School.

Jesus did not try to draw extra attention to Himself and His great ministry. In fact many times, when He healed someone, He said, "*Go and tell no one*" (see Mark 1:44, 5:43, 7:36). Even at the Mount of Transfiguration, when Elijah and Moses appeared with Him, Jesus told His disciples to "*tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead*" (see Matt. 17:9). If similar events happened in our ministries today, we would be sure to tell everyone, publish a book, and publicize what happened *in our ministry*. Jesus was the opposite because He came to identify with humanity and serve humanity. He was not into elevating Himself above others for attention, even though He was God. In fact, His death says that He humbled Himself or lowered Himself further in order to lift us up and out of sin, poverty, disease, and so much more.

Even when it came to laying down His life, He did not defend Himself. Pride always defends itself; humility leaves the defense to God.

He [Jesus] was oppressed and afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth (Isaiah 53:7).

This is humility in its purest form. He could have called 12 legions of angels to rescue Him from torture and death and to prove who He was, but He did not defend Himself (see Matt. 26:53).

...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8).

He was humiliated, tortured severely, and hung on a cross. Spikes were driven into His hands and feet as He hung between two criminals—just so we can have eternal life. The movie *The Passion of the Christ* depicts how severely Jesus was tortured and the awful price that He paid for our complete salvation. Because Jesus humbled Himself so low, now He is exalted to the highest place (see Phil. 2:6-11). We need to follow His example.

[For many the Servant of God became an object of horror; many were astonished at Him.] His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, and His form beyond that of the sons of men—but just as many were astonished at Him (Isaiah 52:14 AMP).

Jesus was whipped and beaten beyond recognition as He humbled Himself to pay for our salvation in spirit, soul, and body. By those stripes “*we are healed*” (Isa. 53:5). He bore our sin, sickness, torment, poverty, and humiliation—not with us, but *for us!* He is not asking us to bear or carry these things (see Isa. 53). He did it for us. The word *borne* in Isaiah 53:4 is the Hebrew word *nasa*, which means to bear up, carry off, take away, pardon or raise up.⁴ He took all the junk and left us with the good stuff. He took the raw deal, and we received the good deal. Calvary was the great exchange. Look at “*humility in its purest form*”—His name is Jesus! Jesus, the Son of God, was humiliated for us at Calvary and left the good things for those of us who will come to Him and learn about humility.

Jesus made Himself nothing so that we can become everything He intended us to be. Do we comprehend what it implies to *lay ourselves* (our selfish ambitions) *aside* and become nothing? Or are we too full of ourselves to do that? If we lay ourselves aside, we ***can tap into more of Heaven and all of the blessings and provisions made for us at Calvary***, including the grace of God, health, wealth, protection, peace, joy, freedom from sin and its effects, and so much more.

Let me give you some Scriptures on becoming nothing and what it can do. If we are not looking for recognition or jockeying for power, God will exalt and promote us, just like He did for Mother Theresa and Renuka Frank. It's just the opposite if we are seeking preeminence.

Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great; for it is better that he say to you, “Come up here,” than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen (Proverbs 25:6-7).

We should not try to exalt ourselves. Let God and others do that for us; then we will see God's favor come into our lives. As I have learned about humility, I have ceased to promote myself or our ministry to get open doors. When the time comes, we do share about what the Lord is doing. I do not have to strive to promote this ministry. God has done that for us. Despite us not doing much to push open the doors for our ministry, the Lord has opened some huge doors and showered us with tremendous favor that at time blows us away. Sharmila and I stand back and say, who are we to have this kind of favor?

Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips (Proverbs 27:2).

...A man is valued by what others say of him (Proverbs 27:21).

The religious leaders of Jesus' day did just the opposite of what King Solomon tells us to do.

*Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat... But all their works **they do to be seen by men**... They **love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.'** But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for **One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is **greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled** [humiliated or brought low], and he who **humbles himself will be exalted**** (Matthew 23:1-12).*

Many in the Body of Christ run after titles. Jesus was not much into titles, as we can see in the above verses. We can operate in an anointing or ministry office, but we do not need to be focused on titles. People will recognize us by our gifts and anointing. We do not need to flaunt titles as a way of putting people on pedestals. Jesus, God in the flesh (the Most High), said *you are all brethren* and the *greatest among you shall be your servant*. Jesus came as a servant and called us brethren. At no point in His ministry did He assume an exalted position or place Himself above His disciples. Because of that attitude, He was exalted to the highest place (see Phil. 2:9-11). He earned His exalted place through the greatest act of humility ever witnessed. He came to be a brother and to serve. We need to learn from His example.

Jesus did not find His identity and acceptance in ministry or in titles, but in His relationship with the Father. The Father said:

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17).

We also have that acceptance and favor from the Father because of what Jesus did for us. Jesus talked, in Matthew 23:6, about how the Pharisees loved being on a pedestal. I do not feel comfortable when people put me on a pedestal, which often happens when I minister in other countries. When I was young and played football, I wanted to be on a pedestal for all to see because of my insecurities. Now since coming to Christ, being placed on a pedestal makes me feel very uncomfortable. That pedestal is for only one person, Jesus Christ!

My desire is to be "brethren," to be on the same level and let others know they can do great things for God as well. God has given me spiritual sons to mentor. Mentoring is an important part of Church life, but as I do it, I choose to be on their level rather than having them put me on a higher level. I believe this is the way Jesus operated, as I will demonstrate in the upcoming chapters. Jesus was not a control freak; He was not looking for recognition. He came in humility. He came on our level, and He came to serve.

For a time, early in my ministry, I found my identity in ministry and titles. As a result, I felt driven to find my acceptance through performing well in ministry. I ended up going through many trials because of my pride and being driven in ministry because of wrong motives.

What brought me to the point brokenness? It was after going through a major crisis in the fall of 1988 and feeling like I should quit the ministry that the Lord taught me about intimacy with Him. I had felt like quitting ministry mainly because of how I thought many would perceive me

in the Body of Christ and because I thought that I had really failed. It was then I learned to find my acceptance simply in my Father God. He loves me and is well-pleased with me because I am in Christ. I found out that I was no longer running on my failed track record, but on Christ's track record. I found out I no longer had to prove myself, but I could humble myself and find greater grace to accomplish more for the Kingdom.

During that time, the Lord spoke very clearly to me. He said "*Mark I have called you to an intimate relationship with me and out of that intimacy I want all of your works to be birthed and nothing apart from that intimacy.*"

Shortly afterward, I was at a meeting where Prophet Larry Randolph was speaking. I had never met him before or heard of him. He pulled me out of the audience and confirmed the call of God on my life to reach India with the Gospel of Jesus Christ with pinpoint prophetic words. I have not looked back since. We have gone on to see well over 125,000 people come to Christ in India alone, not to mention the other countries we reach out to as well.

Ten years later, in 1998 I started learning about humility. Humility, combined with intimacy with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is a key in helping us become all we need to become for the Kingdom of God.

Exalting Self Versus Humbling Self

Many of us in Christian circles think we have everything just right, and we judge weaker Christians as sinners. It is easy for any of us to do this; it's our human nature, and if undisciplined by the Spirit, we will quickly step into judgment of others. Jesus told a parable about someone like that:

*Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for **everyone who exalts himself will be humbled** [humiliated], and he who **humbles himself will be exalted**" (Luke 18:9-14).*

Our team in India has, over many years of ministry, witnessed this kind of arrogance with a number of pastors. Our campaign coordinator, who organizes our campaigns and conferences, has had to deal with many pastors who walk around with an arrogant, know-it-all attitude, which can make it difficult to organize campaigns in their cities. Usually, our campaign coordinator looks for the humble people of God in a city to help organize our campaigns.

In one city there was a pastor who had made some mistakes, but he had humbled himself and repented. Because of his past failures, this pastor did not want a position of preeminence. He just wanted to serve quietly. He confessed his previous mistakes to our campaign coordinator and said very little about his own ministry. Because of the pastor's humility, our campaign

coordinator chose him to organize things in his city.

However, another pastor was very upset because he wanted to have the preeminence. He constantly cut the humble pastor down because of his past failures, even though the pastor had humbled himself and repented to the Lord. The second pastor and his wife also talked much about their (very small) ministry to try to impress us. Although we saw many thousands of Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs turn to Christ in the campaign, the second pastor continued maligning the humble pastor because we had chosen him to oversee things. The arrogant pastor's church remained very small, even after the campaign, because his focus was wrong. Because we did not choose him over the humble pastor, he also maligned us rather than focusing on the harvest and souls.

There are many pastors in developing countries where we minister that remain focused on their ministries, walking in arrogance, looking down on others, and making others look bad. All along, their churches remain small and ineffective, as in the previous example. It is time to deal with heart issues. In the coming move of the Holy Spirit, for some I do not believe God will allow these manifestations of arrogance to continue; I believe He will step in to put a stop to it.

We can choose to humble ourselves, like the one pastor did, and God will exalt us, or we can continue in our pride and arrogance, which will only lead to our humiliation. It is our choice! We must choose humility before we ruin our ministry and bring reproach to Christ. Jesus' biggest obstacle was the pride and arrogance of the religious leaders (and the religious spirit behind them). It is no different today!

John the Baptist said, "*He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease*" (John 3:30). John did the same thing that Jesus did—he turned the attention that was on him toward Jesus, stepping out of Jesus' way. John made himself nothing! He laid aside his privileges and pointed people to the one it's all about: Jesus.

If we can operate in the manner that Jesus and John the Baptist did, we can raise up individuals more effective than ourselves to do the greater works and fulfill the Great Commission. We can greatly multiply our effect. If we decrease and the nature of Jesus increases in us, imagine what will happen! There will be more Heaven on earth, more signs, wonders, miracles, and the "greater works" Jesus talked about. This is how Christianity will multiply on the earth.

A number of years ago, a friend of ours, Mike, gave us a prophetic word that I have not forgotten. He told us he felt our ministry would not go to a place of great visibility. It would not grow upwards, but outwards, spreading out very far.

Much of the ministry we do in north India and Nepal has been just like that, to areas where no other evangelistic outreaches have been held or missionaries are going. If you ask people if they know about our ministry, most do not. Yet God is using no-namers like us and others in these unreached areas to bring in many thousands to Christ. We seem to fly under the radar, undetected. God is using this available mud to display His glory to those who sit in great darkness. Who are we? Just simple people who want to be used by God to reach souls!

I believe He will raise up many others to do just the same. We have begun to witness this. We know an engineer who works for Pacific Power, a close friend, Howard and his wife, Leslie

(www.eternallifeinternational.com), who travel to Pakistan, India, Costa Rica, and the Philippines on Howard's vacation time each year and lead many tens of thousands to Christ. In one of their Pakistan citywide open-air campaigns, a baby was raised from the dead. Not many people know of Howard and Leslie Ferris, but they are impacting nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are available to be used for the harvesting of souls.

If we are listening to what the Holy Spirit wants to do in these last days, we will know that we cannot continue ministry in the same ways that we have in the past. We need to be flexible and willing to think outside of the box if we are to be used of God in a powerful way. If we are willing to humble ourselves and not look for recognition, God can do great things through us.

God is raising up ministries that do not desire to have the attention, but are willing to make their impact felt far and wide. I believe in a nameless move of God where many will not be able to say it was this person or that person who ushered in the move of God. More so, in these last days we will see God raising up a company of people (rather than a person) who do not hunger for recognition but who hunger for God and desire to see His name lifted high.

I know there will always be ministries that will be visible and recognized. God is not against that. But He will not be working *only* or even *mostly* through the large ministries. As times are changing, many will need to position themselves for what God is doing, recognizing that we do not have to be recognized as being “great” in the Body of Christ in order to do great exploits for Christ. We will see this more and more in the days to come. Get ready!

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love (Ephesians 4:16).

We do not have to be highly visible to impact nations for Jesus Christ. The move of God in present-day China is a perfect example. There are hardly any “big names” (mainly because of the persecution in China toward Christians). Rather, the Gospel is spreading rapidly through no-name teenagers and uneducated villagers, through male and female pastors alike. The Chinese Church is the entire Christian body working together effectively to reap the harvest.

This is one reason why we have become a part of the Apostolic Network of Global Awakening with Randy Clark and Bill Johnson. Randy Clark believes strongly that the greatest miracles that take place in his ministry are not by him, but by those he has prayed over and imparted to. He realizes that it is not about his ministry, but believes strongly in team ministry. As result of this humble attitude, God has used him to spread revival all over the world. Millions have come into the Kingdom of God through those he has prayed over. The first time I saw Randy Clark and Bill Johnson minister together this way was in Castle Rock, Colorado. That week there were more than 1,000 testimonies of healings and miracles that took place by the living Christ. Many phenomenal signs and wonders also occurred that week.

An example of humility and impartation through Randy's ministry are Roland and Heidi Baker (Iris Ministries). Since Randy prayed over them in Toronto, they have planted many thousands of churches in Africa. Many undeniable miracles, signs, and wonders have taken place, and many have been raised from the dead through their ministry.⁵

Important Points to Ponder

1. In the Greek, what does it mean to be heavy laden?
2. According to Matthew 11:29, what will we learn from Jesus?
3. What is the alternative to humbling ourselves?
4. What good came out of Jesus becoming nothing for us?
5. Do we need to follow His example of becoming nothing? If so, how would you do this?

Scripture Memorization:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to the Father (John 14:12).

Endnotes

1. Clarence L. Barnhart and E.L. Thorndike, eds., *Scott, Foresman Intermediate Dictionary* (New York: Doubleday, 1992), s.v. "Pure."
2. Strong's Greek Dictionary of the New Testament.
3. Rick Joyner, *The Final Quest* (Charlotte, NC: MorningStar Publications, 1996).
4. Strong's Hebrew Dictionary of the Old Testament, *nasa*.
5. See, for example, Heidi and Rolland Baker, *Always Enough: God's Miraculous Provision among the Poorest Children on Earth* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 2003).