



A Broad Review of  
Andrew Murray's

# Humility

Fran Rogers

A Broad Review  
of  
Andrew Murray's  
*Humility*  
~ *the Beauty of Holiness*



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1<sup>st</sup> Edition

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Father and Family Books

ISBN-13:978-1539162278

ISBN-10:1539162273

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Cover Design by Ryan A. Sturgis

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## Introduction

Andrew Murray's book *Humility* is a time-honored publication reprinted throughout the last few centuries. From his writing we see humility as the least taught and sought, and the most needed virtue of the Christian life. So, it is not surprising that God is still leading His children in this area.

Having this book for at least twenty years, I have taken it off my bookshelf occasionally to re-read and pray for God to continue to work this virtue in my life. Not only seeing the lack in my own life for this nature of Christ, but studying it, I see how far short I fall of this "cardinal virtue" and how much I need to make it a special request.

In the year 2014 I did more than just read these twelve short chapters. By the Lord's leading and my commitment, I began in the Preface to study, meditate and memorize the main points of the truths found there.

Believing that others also struggle in this area, and without it forfeit the blessings that come with it, my review and study was posted on my blog, God's

Grace ~ God's Glory. I shared this review once a month (a chapter a month). This allowed us to become more familiar with the truths of God's word that He uses to renew our minds and to conform us to the image of Christ, His Son. As with the readers of my blog, I invite you to join me; to see these truths as a reality in your own life.

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We suggest that you first read or listen to each chapter, then read each chapter's review.

**The main points for meditation and memorization in this review and study will be in bold print.**



## *Preface*

**M**urray suggests that there are motives - "three great motives that urge us to humility" - which means that it is something that we do not have, and that when we realize the need, will desire it and pray for it.

### **The motives:**

"The first we see in the heavenly hosts, in unfallen man, in Jesus as the Son of Man.

"The second motive appeals to us in our fallen state, and points out the only way through which we can return to our right place as men."

**"In the third motive, we have the mystery of grace, which teaches us that as we lose ourselves in the overwhelming greatness of redeeming love, humility becomes to us the consummation of everlasting blessedness and adoration."**

This third motive is Murray's emphasis in his book. As I have memorized, and continue to meditate on this "mystery of grace" and "the overwhelming greatness of redeeming love" I see humility as the middle ground between Christ's initiative (His blessedness) and my response (adoration). It seems that this would be the normal Christian life. Humility is necessary if we are to receive all that God has prepared for us, from the new birth, and throughout our sanctification.

Without it we are ruled by pride, which keeps us from the good things that the Lord has for us. If Christ truly lives within us, He will give us the desire and work the nature of humility in and through us. Murray speaks of the ordinary Christian teaching that puts "the second aspect of man as sinner in the foreground."

There seems to be the thinking that "we must keep sinning if we are indeed to remain humble.

"Others have thought that the strength of self-condemnation is the secret of humility. And the Christian life has suffered loss, because believers have not been distinctly guided to see that **nothing is more natural and beautiful and blessed than to be nothing, so that God may be all.** It has not been made clear that it is not sin that humbles us most, but grace."

**“It is the soul led through its sinfulness to be occupied with God in His wonderful glory as God, as Creator and Redeemer, that will truly take the lowest place before Him.”**

**“If humility is to be our joy it must be understood apart from all sin as a covering with the very beauty and blessedness of heaven and of Jesus.”**

“When we see that humility is something infinitely deeper than contrition, and accept it as **our participation in the life of Jesus**, we will begin to learn that **it is our true nobility**. We will begin to understand that (*even as Jesus was a servant*) **being servants of all is the highest fulfillment of our destiny, as men created in the image of God.**”

**“Humility should be sought after as the distinguishing feature of the discipleship of Jesus.”**

**“It should be esteemed as the cardinal virtue; the only root from which the graces grow; and the one dispensable condition of fellowship with Jesus.”**

**“There is a call to all earnest Christians to prove that meekness and lowliness of heart are the chief marks by which they follow the meek and humble Lamb of God.”**

At the back of the book is a prayer suggestion for those who would be a part of this study. It is good to use this as a daily prayer.

Dear Father, **“of your great goodness, make known to me, and take from my heart, every kind, and form, and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility that will make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit.”**



## Chapter 1

### The Glory of the Creature

The following story was a result of God's working in three particular areas ~ in my studying and praying for this first chapter on humility; in my praying for wisdom to write a letter to encourage our granddaughter, Kourtney, who was turning eighteen that month, and graduating from high school, and in my memorizing, playing and singing our church's Hymn of the Month, *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*.

You may want to read the story; later read the first chapter, then come back for the review. They fit together, but may be too long for one sitting.

#### THE LITTLE BOAT

Michael was a young man who, as a child, heard and read about, and saw movies, of distant places. It became his heart's desire to see the world. So, getting an education, then a job, he saved his money.

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Forgoing marriage until he realized his dream, he made his plans; and one day booked his passage on the largest cruise ship that he could find.

Having come to the day of fulfilling his dream, he arrived with his luggage at the place of departure. The gigantic ship *Pride* was appropriately named. Even from a distance its size and presence took his breath away. There was this huge world within a world, beckoning him to enter, to come away, and enjoy his success. How proud he was to see his plans coming to fruition. The ramp into the ship was ample for the multitude that was boarding upward into his dream.

Awe-struck, he practically tripped over himself as he carried his stuff to the ship. As he struggled toward the ship a man standing by asked if he needed help.

He said, "No, I can handle it."

At the same time a small sign next to the man caught his eye ~~~~ It read, "Boat to Paradise."

"You have a boat?" Michael asked

"Sure," the man answered, pointing to the end of the pier.

Michael said, "I don't see it."

"Would you like to?" the man asked.

He replied, "Sure, I have a few minutes before my ship leaves."

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Walking to the end of the pier he saw this small fishing boat with a set of oars. Snickering to himself Michael said "So, you take people to Paradise in your little boat?"

Understanding his cynicism the man answered, "Yes, I do, one at a time."

Now that his curiosity was stirred, Michael asked, "How many people have you taken to Paradise?"

The man answered, "Only a few; not many people believe me, and so miss out on this one; most prefer the big ship, and all the other places."

Then Michael's interest was more than he could control and so, questioned once more, "How much do you charge for your little excursion?"

The man replied, "There is no money in exchange; just understanding that you have to leave your baggage here. You don't need to take anything with you; everything you will need is provided for you. You must also be willing to follow instructions. You must listen to my directions. I must teach you how to get through the rough waters; how to survive the long, slow passage; and prepare you for your arrival. Without this dependence on me you will not make it; nor would you appreciate what you experience when you get there."

Michael had one more question as he looked out over the ocean. He saw beyond the cruise ship the brightness of the sun, but in the direction of the small boat there were clouds.

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“Do the cruise ships dock at Paradise?”

In reply the man said, “The cruise ships are too big. The inlet is only large enough for this small boat.”

Michael by then was intently drawn to this man; somehow he believed that what he was offering was true. The man was not forceful. He was not arrogant. He was meek in his manner, yet very strong.

Michael, out of the corner of his eye, saw the cruise ship *Pride* move away from the port as he, with the help of the man's hand, stepped down into his little boat. As the man moved the oars across the waves, rippled by *Pride*, the little boat became steady. Michael watched as his dream ship got smaller and smaller. Further out he saw the ship sink into the horizon.

Far out in the ocean, beyond sight of land, they passed through rough waters. They experienced rain, thunder and lightning, yet without fear or harm. After the settling of the storm, Michael and the man talked about life. They compared the differences in each of theirs. Michael learned much that he had not been taught in the schools he had attended. The man told him that Paradise was a place owned by his father, who sent him to invite and accompany those whom he wanted to share his huge estate. Each one there had been given a portion of his kingdom, and had the means and the liberty to go and come, as they

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desired. Some brought others back with them to receive the same blessings.

Even before they arrived at their destination Michael's dream had changed. He believed that there was a place, a Paradise, revealed to only a few. He learned that humility was the only means of getting there. Reaching this destination meant trusting the one who invited him, and was taking him there. ❧

Not everybody will need an explanation of this parable, but for those who might ~~ Michael represents those who trust in, and follow Christ, with whom God planned to save His people. His Son knows the way of humility. Having been born in humble surroundings of poor parents, brought up as a carpenter's son, Jesus, the Son of God and Man, lived humbly, and so died humbly, by the pride and hands of men. By His mercy He saves us from the sin of pride and destruction; by His grace He gives us a portion of His kingdom, and brings us to live with Him eternally.

Only He can teach us, and lead us in the way of humility. There is no way to God except in Him and the power of His Spirit working in us to loose us from pride; that we may see it for what it is, to loathe it; to love and cling to the Savior. It means total dependence on Him; not on ourselves, on others, or the things of this world.

In the reality of Christ our fantasies fade away. True joy in this world is living in light of the promises of that eternal paradise with Him; each day

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humbly waiting on Him, as He works His will in us and prepares us for His glory.

Humility is accepting all things as they come; believing in His sovereignty and plans for us, praising Him in all things as we seek His kingdom and righteousness, anticipating that He will lead us to know Him and what He desires for us. One on one with Christ is sometimes a lonely life, away from the business and frills of the world; but this alone is true life and happiness. In His plans for us He brings us together with others who are following Him.

### **First Things First**

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11

The treasure of humility is not easily seen in the world today. To find "that which was lost" it is fitting that we return to the beginning, so that we understand what we are looking for. In this first chapter, Andrew Murray takes us back to God, the Creator, to reveal His purpose for our creation.

(Following the above story I had hoped to do a quick review, but after trying to shorten it there seemed to be something missing. Much of it is repetitive; but all relative to understanding Murray's main points.) Throughout this chapter he uses key pronouns and words that help us to **see**; so that we

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are able to **sense** our need of humility and its reality in our individual lives. Here are the key words in the proper order.

### **GOD (Creator/Redeemer/Power)**

#### **Relationship**

#### **Life**

### **Man (Creature)**

#### **GOD (Creator)**

Before there was creation and a need for redemption there was **God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**; three in One. There was **relationship**. There was **life**, without earthly creatures. There was the glory of God shared with the angels. There was nothing so glorious as what they had been given in their **relationship**. But some of the angels wanted more; some wanted God's place.

#### **Relationship**

(I have underlined ship, because it helps me to think of any word that ends in 'ship' as a place where there is unity, where two or more come together in the same mind, heart and spirit, with the same destination; relationship, fellowship, membership, etc. There is a captain, and passengers.)

When **God** created the heavens and the earth, He made **man** in His image. Men, not angels, were to be His image-bearers. Through **man** He would reveal "the glory of His love, His wisdom and His **power**."

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As **God** is the ever-living, ever-present, ever-acting One --- who upholds all things by the Word of His power (Hebrews 1:3) ---the **relationship** of man to **God** could only be one of “unceasing, absolute, universal dependence.”

**“As truly as God by His power once created so truly by that same power must God every moment, maintain.”**

### **Life**

There is no true **life** apart from this **relationship**.

**“The life God bestows is imparted not once and for all, but each moment continuously, by the unceasing operation of His mighty power.”**

### **Pride of Man**

“When the serpent breathed the poison of his **pride** ---the desire to be like **God**---into the hearts of our first parents, they, too, fell from their high estate into all the wretchedness in which **man** is now sunk.”

By leaving them to their own will, God proved that apart from Him they were unable to follow His instructions and fulfill their purpose.

Here is where Satan and man wanted to be; on the same level with **God**.

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### **GOD**

#### **Satan and Man**

### **XXXXXX**

### **DEATH**

The **relationship** between **God** and **man** was shipwrecked; the life and joy that God had intended for them was lost.

It is at this point that we must see “**Pride**, or the loss of this humility, as the root of every sin and evil; the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure.”

**“The truth is this --- pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you. Do not look at pride as only an unbecoming temper, or at humility as only a decent virtue. The one is death, and the other is life; the one is all hell, the other is all heaven. As much as you have of **pride** within you, so you have of the fallen angel alive in you. As much as you have of true **humility**, so you have of the Lamb of God within you.”**

#### **God (Redeemer)**

Apart from our creation there is a second blessing and power for the Christian --- “the restoration of our lost humility, the original and only true **relationship** of **man** to **God**. Jesus came to bring humility back to earth, to make us partakers of it, and by it to save us. Here on earth 'He humbled Himself, and became

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obedient unto death' (Philippians 2:8). **And now the salvation He imparts is nothing less than a communication of His own life and death, His own disposition and spirit."**

"His own humility has become the ground and root of His relationship to **God** and His redeeming work. **Jesus Christ** took the place and fulfilled the destiny of **man** by His **life** of perfect humility. His humility is our salvation. His salvation is our humility."

**"And so the life of the saved ones, of the saints, must bear this stamp of deliverance from sin, and full restoration to their original state. Their whole relationship to both God and man must be marked by an all-pervading humility.** Without this there can be no true abiding in God's presence or experience of His favor and the **power** of His Spirit. Without this there can be no abiding faith or love or joy or strength."

It is here that we must meet our Creator and Redeemer --- admitting, "that there is nothing so natural to man, nothing so insidious and hidden from our sight, nothing so difficult and dangerous as **pride**. Let us feel that nothing but a very determined and persevering waiting on God and Christ will disclose how lacking we are in the grace of humility, and how weak we are to obtain what we seek."

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If we are to experience “this highest virtue, our only happiness, now and through all eternity we must present ourselves as empty vessels in which God can dwell and manifest His **power** and goodness; the form and the vessel in which the **life** and glory of **God** are to work and manifest themselves.”

**"Humility is simply acknowledging the truth of our position as man and yielding to God His place. It is the sense of entire nothingness, which comes when we see how truly God is all, and in which we make way for God to be all."**

**"Such humility (*the humility of Christ*) is not a thing that will come on its own. It must be made the object of special desire, prayer, faith, and practice.**

"If you could see what a sweet, divine, transforming **power** there is in humility, how it expels the poison of your nature, and makes room for the **Spirit of God** to **live** in you, you would rather wish to be the footstool of all the world than lack the smallest degree of it."

As we continue in this pursuit and joy of humility “let us study the character of Christ until our souls are filled with the love and admiration of His humility. And let us believe that, when we are broken down under a **sense of our pride**, and **realize our inability to cast it out**, **Jesus Christ Himself will give us this grace as part of His wondrous life within us.**”

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"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29

Gracious Father in heaven, we thank you for bringing us to your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; and for the power of your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and lives for repentance, redemption, reconciliation and renewal. As we continue our study in the life of the Lamb let us experience this grace that works His humility in us through your word and divine power.

**"Of your great goodness make known to us and take from our hearts every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in us the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make us capable of your light and your Holy Spirit."** In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

**O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus**

*O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me,  
Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward  
To Thy glorious rest above.*

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*O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore;  
How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Love of every love the best;  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to Thee.*

(Words by Samuel Trevor Francis, 1875;  
Music Ebenezer, Thomas John Williams, 1890)





## *Chapter 2*

### **The Secret of Redemption**

Consumer advocates continue to report the dangers of a polluted world. We are told how to avoid certain toxins and how to overcome others. Our mind-set changes as we gain new knowledge of what affects us physically and personally.

The same is true as we consider what affects us spiritually. For though we need not be ignorant about our physical welfare and should do what we can to care for this body that is the temple of God's Spirit, we remember that it is only temporary. Our spirit, with His Spirit, returns to Him with all that He has given and grown in us through the **power** of His grace. He is here preparing us for His glory by His Spirit, which He has given us.

In the second chapter of his book, Andrew Murray hones in on the secret and reality of the work of Christ; His **power** that was in God at the beginning of creation; His continued **power** throughout history, and now in the lives of His people.

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In the following chapters of this book we shall see the mystery, the **power**, and the beauty of God's grace for mankind revealed in Jesus Christ, His Son. But first, we must come face to face with the problem and the **need** of all mankind; the real reason that we all come into this world with a death sentence over our heads, and the reason Jesus died.

Along with the prophets, the apostles, and the early church fathers, other believers and advocates for "life in Christ" continue to seek God's word and to alert us to their findings of the dangers of a corrupt world.

Murray points out the stark truth that man's problems come not from the air we breathe or the food that we eat. These may be toxic, but the poison that is destroying us is within each of us. We were born with it.

"But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." John 2:24-25

### **The Deception**

"When Satan spoke his words of temptation into the ear of Eve his words carried with them the very poison of hell." She believed the lie and the true knowledge of life was hidden from all men.

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Her yielding to Satan's temptation "destroyed forever that blessed humility and dependence on God, which would have been our everlasting happiness. Instead of this, her life, and the life of the race that sprang from her, became corrupted to its very root with that most terrible of all sins and all curses ---the poison of Satan's own pride."

### **The Need for Redemption**

"Wars, selfishness and suffering, ambitions and jealousies, broken hearts and embittered lives, and daily unhappiness are a result of this same wicked pride."

These are the historical and ongoing danger signals of this toxin in man.

"Our insight into the **need** of **redemption** will largely depend on our knowledge of the terrible nature of the **power** that has entered our being; that is working daily---hourly---with mighty **power** throughout the world."

No one can escape this pride. We may try in our own **power** to defy it, but to no avail. No food, medication, or vitamin supplement will overcome the sin of pride within us. There is nothing in the knowledge of man that will produce an antioxidant for this threatening **power**.

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The only means of detoxification is through Christ. The only antioxidant is the humility of Christ. The blood of Christ covers and cleanses all our sin.

### **The Power of Pride**

Murray uses the word “**power**” at least ten times in this chapter, comparing two different seeds and roots, two trees, different fruit; two men --- the first and Second Adam, and the **power** and nature in each.

“Pride has its root and strength in a terrible spiritual **power**, outside of us as well as within us.”

How are we to respond to this truth, this reality? The knowledge from God's Word and the **power** of His Holy Spirit is meant to bring us to the end of ourselves. In Note B we read, “Our salvation consists wholly in being saved from ourselves, or that which we are by nature.”

“Hence the first unalterable term of the Savior to fallen man: Except a man denies himself, he cannot be My disciple (Matthew 16:24). Self is the whole evil of fallen nature; self-denial is our capacity of being saved. Self-denial is the work of humility in us, so that we may confess out pride, deplore it, and be aware of its satanic origin. This may lead us to despair of every conquering it or casting it out.

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**“But it will also lead us all the sooner to that supernatural power in which alone our deliverance is to be found --- the redemption of the Lamb of God.**

“All the evils of fallen angels and men have their birth in the pride of self. On the other hand, all the virtues of the heavenly life are the virtues of humility.”

**“It is humility alone that makes the impassable gulf between heaven *and* hell.”**

**“We must honestly fix our hearts on our own lack of the humility revealed in Christ’s life. Only then will we begin to feel what Christ and His salvation truly are.”**

### **The Power of Christ’s Redemption**

“Even as we need to look to the first Adam and his fall to know the **power** of the sin within us, we need to know well the Second Adam and His **power** to give within us a life of humility as real and abiding and overmastering as has been that of pride. **We have our life from and in Christ, as truly, even more truly, than from and in Adam.**”

How are we to respond to *this* truth, *this* reality? The knowledge from God’s Word and the **power** of His Holy Spirit is meant to bring us to Christ, our

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Redeemer that we may properly *comprehend who He is --*  
*- His chief characteristic --- the root and essence of all His*  
*character as our Redeemer --- His humility.*

**“Jesus said, If ye continue in my word  
then are ye my disciples indeed;  
And ye shall know the truth,  
and the truth shall make you free.”**  
**John 8:31-32**

**Pride Free**

As we continue in the following chapters we will learn to study the life and work of Christ, and His humility. He will enable us to remember the original intent of our Creator: that we *do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.* (Matthew 4:4) We will look more diligently at this heavenly attribute of humility in God, who condescended to reveal and share His glory with His creatures, who has maintained and cared for us even during our ignorance and rebellion against Him; who in His timing came to reconcile a people to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ; who living and dying has saved His people; who continues in His humility to save us, and to sanctify us for His own glory; who lives now at the right hand of the Father, humbly interceding for us, and by His Holy Spirit working His humility in us.

**“Have this mind... that is in Christ Jesus...  
who humbled himself...”**

Philippians 2:5

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Humility is the rock-bottom place where we begin to experience re-creation --- new life; and it is not without a struggle between the spirit and the flesh that we live daily; in the *strife between pride and humility, the two master **powers** --- the two kingdoms at war for the eternal possession of man.*

**“The life of God, which in the incarnation entered human nature, is the root in which we are to stand and grow. It is the same almighty power that worked there, and from then on to the resurrection, which works daily in us. Our one need (now) is to study and know and trust the life that has been revealed in Christ as the life that is now ours.”**

**“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** John 6:63

**“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself:” “He that hath the Son hath life;”** 1 John 5:10, 12

**“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”** 2 Peter 1:3

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**“..we have the mind of Christ.”**

1 Corinthians 2:16

Dear Father, open our minds and hearts to see that it is not what goes into us that defiles us, but what is in us and comes from us. Please work in our hearts to believe that Christ --- whom you have given us --- will work in us, overcoming our sin of pride; making us what you want us to be. Return us to that place of humility, of full dependence on you, for the life that you planned for us. Bring us to look beyond this world to Christ, *the author and finisher of our faith*, our Redeemer and life eternal.

**"Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit."** In Jesus name, we pray. Amen



## Chapter 3

### Humility in the Life of Jesus

Are you clothed with humility? Andrew Murray leaves us with this question in the third chapter.

To understand what he is asking, we must look carefully at this most important chapter in his book. I am led to ask another question, “What does real humility look like?” We find the answer to both questions when we look into the *inner life* of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we seek something of the Lord wholeheartedly we find and experience the blessedness therein. In Jesus’ *state of mind and heart* it is this *beauty and blessedness of heaven* that we see. His *nature and disposition* was that of the one who came to serve the will of His heavenly Father and the men he came to save, so that He might work in us the same mind, heart and disposition.

## *A Broad Review of Andrew Murray's Humility*

### **Isaiah 53**

I suggest that we read Isaiah 53 ~ the prophecy of the promised Messiah. A daily meditation would help us to understand this as the prophecy of Jesus Christ. His life, His humility, His actions were lived with the recognition that He was to fulfill this prophecy.

“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53:11-12

From His childhood Jesus knew He “*must be about His Father's business.*” Luke 2:49 In His baptism He was identified as both servant to the Father and to man, “to fulfill all righteousness” in obedience to the Father and to take on the ministry of our redemption. (Matthew 3:15) In the calling of His disciples to testify of His character and His mission of the Father's will and kingdom, he showed them, “I am among you as he that serves.” Luke 22:27

*“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45

## *Humility in the Life of Jesus*

To witness of the purpose and power of His life He said, "My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work." John 4:34

As the good shepherd He said, "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10:15

His constant direction to the apostles was toward the destined hour; "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem." Luke 9:51

At the last supper He washed his disciples feet, and, as he shared a cup of wine, said, "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22:20

In the garden of Gethsemane he struggled in his flesh with sweat drops of blood and prayer; and then in the state of humility said, "Not my will, but thine be done." Matthew 26:39

In surrender to the authorities that spit upon Him, reviled and questioned Him he fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53:7, "he answered him nothing." Luke 23:9

On the cross "he was numbered among the transgressors." Luke 22:37

In His final words, "Into your hands I commit my spirit," and "It is finished," we see the will of the Father and our redemption accomplished through His life and His death. Luke 23:46; John 19:30

## *A Broad Review of Andrew Murray's Humility*

I have heard that we should exclude the pronoun "I" from our writing and our conversation. It is interesting that Jesus' statements include a lot of these pronouns; but they are all seen behind the words "not" and "nothing."

"I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will" John 6:38

"I do nothing of Myself" John 8:28

"I seek not Mine own glory" John 8:50

### **Description of True Humility**

You will find in this chapter the following descriptions of the humility of Christ and His people. Look for and underline these and note how these relate.

**Consent to let God be all**

**Surrenders Himself to His working alone**

**Entire subordination**

**Essential nature and life ~ of redemption**

**Resigned Himself**

**Given myself**

**Entire self-renunciation**

**Absolute submission and dependence ~ upon the Father's will**

**Giving everything to God ~ honor and glory that is due to Him**

**State of mind, spirit and disposition**

**Self-denial ~ to which our Savior calls us**

## *Humility in the Life of Jesus*

Empty vessel ~ which God must fill  
Being and doing nothing by ourselves ~ that God may be all  
Perfect resignation  
Full consent ~ to be and to do nothing of ourselves  
Death to sin and self  
A channel ~ through which the living God can manifest the riches of His wisdom, power and goodness  
Life yielded to God ~ that He might work in it.

### **The Relationship and the Power**

This **relationship** that we see between God the Father, and God the Son is the example of our **relationship** with Jesus Christ. This life he came to **live and to give** us. The redemption that He purchased by total obedience to the will of the Father is His means of restoring us to a life of humility ~ the only true **relationship** between man and God.

We learn from Jesus' life that humility for His followers is not a one-time response to the good news of our redemption, but like Him, it is His heart, mind, spirit and nature working in us always. Jesus was one of a kind, the only begotten of the Father. No other person will have the same purpose that He had; but we have the same Spirit working in us, the same **power**, to bring us to die to ourselves, so that we may experience a true **relationship** with Him.

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What does real humility look like in us? The reality of humility is first, our being "**overwhelmed with the greatness of His redeeming love**" (Preface) and what He went through to save us. Only then can we sacrificially offer ourselves to God for Him to accomplish His purpose in us. (Romans 12:1-2)

It is giving up our own plans so as to be His servant to men; beginning where He has placed us; continuing to seek His kingdom and His righteousness, His guidance and plans.

If we cannot yet see this in ourselves let us focus on the example and the power of this heavenly nature in God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. We must continue to study God's word and the life, the love, and work of Christ.

We may ask ourselves if we are clothed with the humility of Christ. Beyond this we must ask fervently for his nature and disposition. Even if we think this life of humility is too high for us, we must remember that it is His work in us, not ours.

**"It is the indwelling Christ who will live His life in us, meek and lowly. We must long for this, above everything, seeking this holy secret of the knowledge of the nature of God as He works all. We must set aside our ordinary religion to secure this, the first and chief of the marks of Christ within us."**

## *Humility in the Life of Jesus*

**“And begin to praise God that there is opened up to you in Jesus a heavenly humility of which you have hardly known, and through which a heavenly blessedness (which you possibly have never yet tasted) can come into you.”**

What in Jesus' words or life has overwhelmed and humbled you?

Dear heavenly Father, we praise you for condescending to us in the person of Christ your Son, revealing His humility, without which we would never have received your forgiveness and reconciliation. In your love for us and your desire to bring us to yourself, you gave us your Son, who willingly gave Himself to you and us. Thank you for making us your own through your plan of redemption. We praise you for your marvelous grace, and pray that you would continue by the same power of your Spirit that was working in Jesus to work His humility in us, conforming us to His image.

**“Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**





## Chapter 4

### Humility in the Teaching of Jesus

**H**ow important are the teachings of Jesus in the world today?

The writer of the book of Hebrews began with these words, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Hebrews 1:1-3

On the mount of transfiguration Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice

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from the cloud said, “**This is my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. **Listen to him!**” (*exclamation point!*) Matthew 17:1-13

How often are we like Peter ~ thinking of what we can do for God. He wants us to listen and hear and obey. Like Peter, our human nature of pride excludes our paying attention when we should.

Jesus is quoted in John 6:63; “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**” He was the Word of God in human flesh speaking the words by which we needed to live. He was that seed planted in the ground, to die, to bring forth new life in us. That seed must be planted in fertile soil. The heart filled with the humility of Christ is the only medium in which His life lives and grows.

As important as Jesus’ example of humility are His teachings on humility. We skim over the things that seem less important, especially when they are not a main emphasis of the church’s teaching. Andrew Murray points to this in his writings in Humility

In the fourth chapter we have the doctrine of humility spelled out very clearly by Jesus; and it behooves us to study these, to memorize them and to meditate on these until they are part of our daily lives. We will see that these teachings are not the usual things that we learn, even in church.

From the Chapter 3 and our meditations on Isaiah 53 we should come into this chapter with

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grateful hearts for Jesus' humility, His suffering and His sacrifice for us. We should be willing to daily look to Him as *the author and finisher of our faith*. If He is our Lord and Savior, having died to take our sins upon Himself, to make us righteous before the Father, we should be continually studying His words and His teachings. As is the master, so is His servant. If our faith is real we will be seeking *His kingdom and His righteousness first* and foremost in this life.

As we remember in previous chapters, we are talking about **relationship** ~ relationship to God through **discipleship** in Christ. Humility, as we have been learning, is the root of our life in Christ. Without it there is nothing to be gained by what we say and do. We must read and we must remember what Jesus still teaches today through the written word of God.

### **The Doctrine of Humility**

Jesus is the only true teacher. We cannot look to man for this doctrine, but only to Jesus Christ. Let's examine the main teachings from Murray's nine points in this chapter.

From [Matthew 5:3-5](#) we understand that the "poor in spirit" may be poor physically, but the meaning has to do with the heart and the spirit of a person. This person knows that there is nothing good in him. He, unlike Simon Peter, (before He understood Jesus' teachings) has nothing to give, but must constantly look to God for all things. The

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“meek” are not looking for anything for themselves, but all for God and others. God will give heaven and earth to these.

There are two examples that Jesus uses.

1. In [Matthew 11:29](#) He is the example. It is in His own Spirit of *meeekness* that He gives us *rest for our souls*. Peace with God is through our humility in Christ.

2. In [Matthew 18:4](#) Jesus uses the example of a *little child* as the “greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” This “little child” would have been quiet in the middle of these proceedings, listening; in awe of Jesus. “This little child” was still dependent.

There are examples of those who needed humility.

1. His disciples often disputed about and asked for the prominent places in His kingdom. The “chief among” them, and the “greatest among” them would be the “servant. Even as the Son of Man came to serve.” His teachings were those of the kingdom of heaven. We who are His, His children, His people, are His servants. Our glory is to be His servant, as we practice servanthood here on the earth.

2. The Pharisees were used to the chief places. In [Matthew 12:11](#) Jesus was emphatic; “He that is greatest among you **shall be** your servant.” And in [Luke 14:7-11](#), in the parable of the guest who would be invited to come up higher He said, “He that

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humbleth himself shall be exalted.” He spoke the same thing after the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. ([Luke 18:14](#)) **"In our worship of God everything is worthless that is not pervaded by deep, true humility toward God and man."**

The doctrine of humility is all about the kingdom of God. Unbelievers live in their own worlds, but we are called with a holy, high, and heavenly calling to live with and for God, not for ourselves. The *new heart* that is ours in Christ is the *new wineskin* that receives the *new wine* of Christ's life and His humility. ([Ezekiel 36:25](#); [Luke 5:38](#))

Murray points out that we don't think low enough; perhaps, that one may think humility is not becoming to a man. Can we be too humble? We must receive Christ as He is and live by His teachings here if we are to live with Him eternally. We understand by Jesus' teachings that true humility is the only way and means to heaven; the reality is by being the servant of all.

**“Humility, as it is the mark of Christ the heavenly, will be the one standard of glory in heaven. The lowliest is the nearest to God.”**

If we think of any glory at all, it will not be until we enter the portals of glory with Christ; and then it will be the glory of being His servant.

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that

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spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:" Hebrews 12:25

"There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."  
1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus Christ is not only the mediator but also the means of all life. In Him we see our lack and need of humility; and more than this we see and receive from Him what He is and teaches us to be. God's word came to us in Christ, and does not return to Him void, but fulfills in us His servants all that He planned in our creation and redemption. As we long and pray for His spirit of humility, we look for its precious fruit according to His promises.

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Dear Father, I praise you for your commands of what you planned for us to be, and for the promises that come with them. Rule in our hearts and give us such a longing for Christ and His teachings that we discipline

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ourselves by His words; knowing the authority of your word commanded in us by your Holy Spirit. Make us to know the joy of humility. In our service to you and others let nothing be too menial or vexing.

**“Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit.”** In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

*“But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
the debt of love I owe;  
Here Lord I give myself away;  
Tis all that I can do.”*  
*(Alas!, and Did My Savior Bleed)*  
*Isaac Watts 1707*





## Chapter 5

### Humility in the Lives of Jesus’ Disciples

From the beginning of this review on *Humility*, we know that we have come to something that is beyond any of our speculations. We have learned that humility is not just another commodity that we can add to our purchases in this life.

For a long time I have observed that Christ in Christianity is not just another order that we place before God, but a supernatural work of God in our hearts, minds and lives as He is preparing a people with whom to share His kingdom and His glory.

No one will be a part of His glory without the **preparation** for it, and this includes the humility of Christ. Yes ~ are we not learning that humility is the first, the chief and the root of all His gifts of grace? “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” Ephesians 2:8

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Is it not His mercy that brings us to Christ in a supernatural new birth of His Spirit (John 3: 3, Romans 8:1-9) to grow us in *grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ?* (2 Peter 3:18)

His purpose for His grace and our faith is given in Romans 8:29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

As we see this development of God's grace in the lives of Christ's disciples in this chapter in Andrew Murray's *Humility* we are encouraged in the thought of “**how real our participation can be in the perfect triumph of Christ's humility over the pride Satan had breathed into man.**”

As we remember key words from this book, we see in this chapter the repetition of the word **power**. We understand that just as we have no power to birth ourselves, whether physically or spiritually (this is the supernatural work that we referred to earlier) we have no power of our own to cast out the power of pride and self; or to grow and to conform ourselves to Christ's image.

Three points keep us on track in this chapter.

- 1. How much there can be of earnest and active Christianity while humility is still sadly wanting.**

## *Humility in the Lives of Jesus' Disciples*

**2. How weak all external teaching and all personal effort are, to conquer pride or give the meek and lowly heart.**

**3. It is only by the indwelling of Christ in His divine humility that we become truly humble.**

There were times when Jesus used the expression “O, ye of little faith,” knowing that his disciples were not yet mature in their understanding of His calling. We, like them, are eager to serve in our roles as newborns, yet we are not developed in our faith. For most, we leave off the study and devotion that is needed; to learn what we need to know and to grow. And even with our study and prayer and earnest seeking of the *kingdom of God and His righteousness* we cannot by these acquire this **power** of humility.

In our desire for the humility of Christ there is a continual reminder of our limitations. We are limited by our lack of knowledge, understanding, and power; but more by God's own will, His choosing, His timing, and His good pleasure.

We see this limitation in Jesus' disciples. They spent three years with Him, in His presence, seeing His example, and hearing His teachings. They had a limited knowledge and understanding until the supernatural **power** of God came upon them at Pentecost.

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Those three years the disciples spent with Jesus were only for **preparation**. The **power** of the Holy Spirit that came after Jesus' ascension was the fulfilling of Jesus' words of *the promise of the Father*, (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4) after He had finished His redemptive work. It was to establish their leadership of the church, through which the work of Christ would be known, where believers would receive the teachings of Jesus; grow in their knowledge and understanding; be conformed to His image, and by which others would be brought to follow Christ.

### **Other Reminders From Jesus' Ministry**

We remember Jesus' words to Simon Peter before he understood what Jesus and His kingdom were about.

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Was this not the change that would come after His ascension? In his pride he responded; “Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.” Luke 22:31-33 Then he denied Jesus three times.

Jesus' words in Luke 11:13 reveals the place and need of the Holy Spirit; “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

## *Humility in the Lives of Jesus' Disciples*

“The law of the Spirit of life in Christ has delivered us from the law of sin and death,” (Romans 8:2) bringing us to the knowledge and understanding of this life in Christ; to experience His nature and disposition in us.

As in all of this life we want things immediately, but as the life in Christ is totally different than any we have ever known, we are learning that it does not all come at once. Jesus, at one point, told His disciples, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” (John 16:12)

### **The Preparation**

From this chapter we see the work of Christ and His Spirit in our hearts and lives for this necessary grace of humility.

1. The teaching (revelation from the written word and the Holy Spirit) and example.
2. Our convictions, our desires, our prayers and our vain efforts.
3. The reality of the Spirit of Christ living in us and producing His own nature and disposition.

**“Nothing can avail but that the new nature, in its divine humility, will be revealed in power to take the place of the old. It will become as truly our very nature as the old ever was.**

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**“Pride is ours, from Adam, and rules in us with such terrible power, because it is ourself---our very nature. Humility (*from Christ*) must be ours in the same way; it must be our very self, our very nature. As natural and easy as it has been to be proud, it must---it will be---to be humble. The promise is, “Where,” even in the heart, “sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Romans 5:20)**

How long must we pray, desiring what is promised in His word. It is not for me to say. I pray and wait, even as the disciples did for *the promise of the Father*. I know that He is doing His work, for I desire to desire what He desires. I live each day in anticipation of His will and His work, grateful for a crumb from the master's table; waiting for the feast, and telling others about it. I pray this humility of Christ for all His people and me so that we may receive all that He has promised to us and prepared for us. (1 Corinthians 2:9).

### **All the Work of Christ**

In whatever category we find ourselves listed at the end of this chapter, we can in His timing understand, desire and pray for, and eventually experience the deliverance and victory that He promises and works in and through us. Even so, we will always need to **expect more of the fullness of Jesus**, our Lord, our Savior, our Redeemer.

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Jesus' life and death was all for this purpose ~ *the abundant life* that is rooted in His humility. From heaven to earth; from earth to heaven; from heaven, by His own Spirit, to the hearts of His people, Christ has come, and continues to live and reign in our hearts and lives ~ in our **preparation** for His eternal glory.

*“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass  
the glory of the Lord,  
are changed into the same image  
from glory to glory,  
even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”  
2 Corinthians 3:18*

Dear heavenly Father, we wait on you, desiring the fulfillment of the promises that are ours in your Son; for His humility to be revealed in us; for our conformity to His image; for the abundant life that is in Him alone. Forgive us for our impatience, and anything that may prevent our receiving all that you have prepared for us.

**“Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**





## Chapter 6

### Humility in Daily Life

Growing up in the church I often heard of symbolisms of Christ's cross. The one I remember was the vertical post as representative of the relationship between God and the believer; the horizontal bar representing the relationship between believers. There, Christ and His sacrifice are seen as the center of both relationships; working in both directions.

In this sixth chapter, as in other chapters of *Humility* there is an emphasis on **relationships** and **power** within relationships.

#### Love and Humility

Reference is made to the book of 1 John regarding love as God means it to be. Though we say that we love God, if it is not evident in our relationships with others, it is not the love *of* God. The same thing is true of humility. As both love and humility are His

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attributes, revealed in Christ and His work on the cross, **“humility before God is nothing if not proved in humility before men.”**

These are both the work of Christ's life possessing us, working by His Holy Spirit of love and humility in us.

In particular Murray points in this chapter to our relationships within the church; to those in fellowship with Christ. How difficult it seems to serve and worship together with a *heart of humility*. Like children of “little faith” there is a lack of compassion and gentleness. Have we not all experienced this ~ from both sides? I have been the brunt of sharp words. These do not grieve me as much as knowing that I have spoken things that were not necessary, nor to the glory of God. These cut more than any others. When I think of the cross, I am reminded that Christ's sacrifice was to deliver me from my selfish nature and to show His love to others.

### **It Is Hard For The Rich to be Humble**

“The humble man seeks at all times to act on the rule, **‘In honor preferring one another; serve one another; each esteeming others better than himself; submitting yourselves one to another.’** It is often asked ~ how can we count others better than ourselves, when we see that they are far below us in wisdom and in holiness, in natural gifts, or in grace received?”

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Some who are more knowledgeable in the truths of the Bible lord it over others. This is the nature of all people who are without Christ. To be delivered from this nature, we must have the power of the Spirit of Christ working His nature in us. We are rich in the things of God not to be “puffed up” in our knowledge, but to “reveal the humility of Jesus to our fellowmen.”

While expressing our wisdom and knowledge of God, we are sometimes promoting ourselves instead of Christ.

Many have the "virtues of boldness, joy, contempt of the world, zeal, and self-sacrifice while the deeper and gentler virtues are scarcely thought of or valued. ~ the more divine and heavenly graces, more distinctly connected with the cross and the death of self."

### **Repetition and References**

There is much repetition in this chapter, as well as in the whole book. This is true of the whole word of God. We keep seeing the same things over and over. As you read this chapter, you will notice those statements and references. Pinpoint the particular statement that you want to remember. If we take time to meditate, memorize, and pray for what we read, we can receive understanding and the authority of it by the power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives.

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**“Let us be content with nothing less than taking each of these texts as the promise of what God will work in us.”**

“For God, who commanded the light  
to shine out of darkness,  
hath shined in our hearts,  
to give the light of the knowledge  
of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,  
that the excellency of the power  
may be of God, and not of us.”

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

### **The Main Point**

The main verse repeated in this chapter is good to remember; to pray for, and anticipate.

**“Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave you.”**

Colossians 3:12-13

In this verse is the symbolism of the whole of the cross of Christ. As He stretched out His arms and died to forgive us, we are clothed in His righteousness, love, and humility, and enabled to reach out, not only in fellowship to our brothers and sisters in Christ, but to all people. It is to those with

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whom we live daily that are the witnesses of our humility. Caring for my mother and Jerry has been and continues to be a means for God's working in me, but I still fall very short of this grace, and long for His working the love and humility of Christ within me.

### **Prepared and Waiting**

At this point we are halfway through the book. So far we have a knowledge of true humility, the conviction of our need, the desires and the prayers for the humility of Christ. As we are now in preparation, we continue to pray and wait for the "supernatural, heavenly, divine, spiritual, reality" (*Waiting on God* by Andrew Murray).

**"Have full assurance that where He is enthroned in the heart, His humility and gentleness will be one of the streams of living water that flow from within us."**

Dear Father, you have brought us to the point of fervently praying and diligently seeking to have the nature and disposition of Christ, the power of His love and humility poured out from heaven into vessels that you have chosen for your honor. We desire this sweet and lowly gentleness that is the mark of the Lamb. We relinquish all to you for the work and power of your Holy Spirit in us. Enable us to *look on every brother or sister who tries or vexes us as your means of grace, as your instrument for our purification.*

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**“Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit.”** In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.



## Chapter 7

### Humility and Holiness

In this seventh chapter Andrew Murray brings us to the heart of his message, the original title of *Humility ~ The Beauty of Holiness*

He reminds us that humility is the fruit of holiness; the inward impression and the outward expression of holiness. He has written in previous chapters that humility is the root of the Christian life. It is both root and fruit of the working within the Christian heart; the true expression of our relationship in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working within us. To the end of this life Christ will always be in us; His love, His mercy, His grace, His humility. It is in this working that we find no place for pride; either at home, in the workplace, or in our public worship. It is “Christ in us, the hope of glory” by which we transcend from this life to the next.

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Murray speaks to the Pharisee and the publican here, warning of the work of pride even in our worship. Without saying it, we are in danger of thinking that we may be holier than others. Pride creeps in where we least expect it.

“Self find its cause of complacency in that which is just cause for thanksgiving, in the very thanksgiving which we render to God, and in the very confession that God has done it all. **Pride can clothe itself in the garments of praise or of penitence.**”

### **Praise or Love**

Often wondering which is easier ~ to praise God or to love Him ~ I think the question may apply here.

It is easy to stand with others each week in public worship, joining others in singing and praise. But when the worship time is over, and praise is done, we return to our usual dispositions and conversation. Love and humility toward others outside of worship is the true testing of holiness.

### **What is Holiness?**

**“You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.”**

*Leviticus 20:26*

## *Humility and Holiness*

It would be beneficial to us to take a few minutes (at least) to look at the meaning of holiness. The suffix “ness” means “a state of” or “condition.” Put this together with the meaning of “holy” (set apart; sacred, righteous) and we see that holiness is the state of being holy, set apart unto God for His righteousness to be displayed in us. When we live in the reality that this is the work of God’s Spirit for us and in us ~ not our own doing ~ we live in the awesome wonder of His state of holiness into which He has brought us.

**“For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;  
He will beautify the humble  
with salvation.”  
Psalm 149:6**

In His own mercy He has saved us and brought us from the state of sinfulness into the state of holiness. (Colossians 1:12-13; Titus 3:5-6) His mercy then is coupled with humility in our hearts to live humbly and in service to God and others.

True worship starts with our recognition and praise of His holiness and mercy to us. Together with others in public worship and service we live in fellowship, remembering where we were before He brought us to Himself in Christ. Where others may be weak in their faith, we seek to encourage and serve them in their relationship with Christ.

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“The power of a perfect love forgets itself and finds its blessedness in blessing others --- in bearing with and honoring them, however feeble they may be. The power of this love is given where the spirit of love is shed abroad in the heart, where the divine nature comes to a full birth, and where Christ, the meek and lowly Lamb of God is truly formed within.”

“Come and let us flee to Jesus and hide ourselves in Him until we are clothed with His humility. That alone is our holiness.”

Dear Father, we are so prone to the work of the flesh; to pride, even of holiness. Do your work in us to keep us close to you, that we may be ever watchful against self and our own thoughts. Keep us focused on you; our hearts centered in Christ and Christ in us; our lives ordered according to your everlasting covenant in all things. Keep our thoughts by the power of your Spirit on that which is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, of virtue and worthy of praise. Let us serve today wherever you have placed us. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

(In Note D there is a blessed suggestion for our practice in the state of humility.)



## *Chapter 8*

### **Humility and Sin**

To benefit by all that Andrew Murray wrote on this subject we must each read this for ourselves. What I am attempting to do with this review of chapter 8 is to combine it with [Romans 5:12-21](#) after the preaching of our pastor's August 31 sermon.

After studying Murray's concerns for our humility we see the main purpose for his writing the book. He is trying to get us past our sin in Adam to our relationship with Christ in His gift of righteousness and grace.

We can never forget that we are sinners saved by grace but we do not continue in our sin, nor do we habitually draw attention to ourselves seeing only the sin side of man. If we understand Paul's writing in the letter to the Romans, we are reminded of the depravity of man into which the sin of Adam plunged the whole human race. But more, and far above this reality, is the continual teaching of the greater work

## *A Broad Review of Andrew Murray's Humility*

and nature of the last Adam, Jesus Christ, in whom we are raised from death in Adam to life in Him.

Disobedience, sin and death came through the first son, Adam, even before the law; before God told other men what they should and shouldn't do. We who live, after the fact and since the law was established, share in the life of another Son, an obedient Son; through whom forgiveness, and righteousness is ours. But, do we believe this and by faith receive this gift? Do we, after it is received, know and live this life that is in Christ?

### **Grace and Humility**

As Murray points out, using Paul as the example, true humility is not being humbled because we sin. True humility is living in light of the grace that has saved us from our sinning, while still remembering that we are sinners, saved by God's grace. We are not saying that we never sin, but that we are no longer under its power. We do not continue sinning as if Christ has not saved us from it. When we understand this, we will increase in faith and the humility of Christ.

“The very essence of grace is to deal with and take away sin, and it must always be so. It is not sin, but God's grace showing a man and constantly reminding him what a sinner he was, that will keep him truly humble.”

“I fear that there are many who have sought to humble themselves by strong expressions of self-condemnation and self-denunciation,

## *Humility and Sin*

and yet have to confess with sorrow that a humble spirit, accompanied by kindness, compassion, meekness, and forbearance, is still as far off as ever. Being occupied with self, even amid the deepest self-aborrence, can never free us from self. **It is the revelation of God, not only by the law condemning sin, but by His grace delivering from it, that will make us humble. The law may break the heart with fear. But it is only grace that works that sweet humility which becomes a joy to the soul as its second nature."**

Many I talk to are struggling in their faith and growth in the Lord. They seem not able to overcome their doubts and fears. Some say that they are "hanging in there": others say, "I am surviving." Many are depressed and anxious about life.

Where grace abounds there is life, abundant life that overcomes sin and humbles us as we look to Christ, seeing His victory for us over sin. We should be thriving, even in the middle of the madness in which we live. I understand where these are. I too have struggled over the years, prayed, and waited. I am now 77, seeing a tremendous growth of the power of God's grace in my own life, more than I ever asked for, and it is astounding and phenomenal. As Jacob said to God, "I have waited for thy salvation." It is ordered in His timing and in His way through His everlasting covenant for His people, who are brought to Him through Christ.

## **A New Level**

A few days ago a friend made reference to her daughter's piano teacher who is taking her daughter "to a new level." Music students rate themselves as "beginner, intermediate, or advanced." Not many go from beginner to advanced, but from one level to another as they are trained and practiced in what they are being taught. This can be applied to our lives as disciples of Christ. Does not our Lord Jesus Christ challenge us to a new level of wisdom and understanding of His grace? If so, we will find ourselves more humble than we can imagine. We will be filled and enabled to thrive on the abounding grace and the abundant life that He promised.

As we continue to see our need; to desire this abounding grace; to pray and believe as we wait on Him, He will not fail to fulfill His promises to us, in us, and through us. *Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*, through whom we now live, should be an ongoing process as we pray, read, study, meditate, and wait. We should be advancing in our faith to higher levels of knowledge and holiness. This is a process working in us that will not exalt us, nor of which we can boast, but rather one that will humble us more and more.

**"It is the sinner dwelling in the full light of God's holy, redeeming love ~ in the experience of that full indwelling of divine love, which comes through Christ and the Holy Spirit ~ who cannot be anything but**

## *Humility and Sin*

**humble. Not to be occupied with your sin, but to be occupied with God, brings deliverance from self.”**

Dear Father, you, the God of all grace, have called us unto your eternal glory through Jesus Christ. You do not leave us to grow by ourselves. You know what we need ~ grace and more grace. Work in us according to your own good pleasure that we may witness of the abundant life in Christ that humbles us and glorifies you.

**“Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit.”** In Jesus’ name I pray and praise you. Amen.





## Chapter 9

### Humility and Faith

Who of us, born of flesh and blood, could honestly say that we don't care what other people think of us? There is a healthy attitude of how we ought to appear to others as far as our manner and conduct. Our desire should be to reflect the image of Christ. In this chapter of Andrew Murray's *Humility*, he is speaking of the pride of man that seeks the honor and glory of men, instead of the glory of God.

This concern is not for what God thinks or approves, but what makes us look good to other people, winning their honor and praise. He even goes so far as to say that a lot of our service in the church is good, but done for the wrong purpose.

Again, he gets to the point of pride, especially as it concerns our faith.

True faith cannot manifest itself where there is pride, but in humility it lives and grows. The higher Christian life that is spoken of here is out of reach to

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those who continue in their pride. He uses the illustration of this life as “compared to objects in a shop window --- one can see them clearly and yet could not reach them. If told to stretch out his hand and take, a man would answer, ‘I cannot; there is a thick pane of plate glass between me and them.’ Likewise, Christians may clearly see the blessed promises of perfect peace and rest, of overflowing love and joy, of abiding communion and fruitfulness, yet feel that there is something in-between hindering the true possession.”

Pride keeps us from reaching or grasping the blessings that God has provided for us in Christ.

In Jesus' words, “How can ye believe which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?” He is showing the limitations of faith while we are seeking honor from other people instead of God.

Faith is described as *what grace bestows in our dependency.*

**“Humility is simply the disposition which prepares the soul for living on trust.** Even the most secret breathing of pride ---in self-seeking, self-will, self-confidence, or self-exaltation---is just the strengthening of that self which cannot enter into the Kingdom or possess the things of the Kingdom, because it refuses to allow God to be what He is and must be---the all in all.”

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### **Seeking to See**

Can we, without humility, even see what is in the window? Nicodemus came to Jesus privately because he had heard Him speaking of the kingdom. He was looking for something from Jesus. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again to even *see the kingdom*. We all must be born of the Spirit, receiving the new heart, spirit, and life of Christ with new eyes to see Christ and the kingdom.

“Faith is the organ or sense for the perception and apprehension of the heavenly world and its blessings. As long as we take glory from one another, as long as we jealously guard the glory of this life, we cannot receive the glory that comes from God. Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ. Salvation is the fellowship with the crucified Christ in the Spirit of His cross. The cross, the death, and the grave, into which Jesus humbled Himself, were His path to the glory of God. And they are our path.”

As we learned in previous chapters, the nature of humility in us is the same as in Jesus. He told His disciples that they would have to take up their own crosses daily if they would follow Him (Luke 9:23). The reality of His humility in us brings us in faith and repentance to sacrifice all that we are and have for the name of Christ and His kingdom.

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He is *the pearl of great price*; which when we find it, will let go of everything else. Humility is the only means of seeing Him; it is the means whereby we not only see, but we receive and enjoy the treasures that are stored and displayed in Him now and for eternity.

**“Let us gladly accept whatever can humble us before God or men --- this alone is the path to the glory of God.”**

“Brethren! Nothing can cure you of the desire to receive honor from men, or of the sensitivity and pain and anger which come when it is not given, except giving yourself to seek glory of the all-glorious God to be everything to you. You will be freed from the glory of men and of self, and be content and glad to be nothing. Out of this nothingness you will grow strong in faith, giving glory to God. You will find that the deeper you sink in humility before Him, the nearer He is to fulfill every desire of your faith.”

**“That the trial of your faith,  
being much more precious than of  
gold that perisheth,  
though it be tried with fire,  
might be found unto praise and honour  
and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”**

1 Peter 1:7

## *Humility and Faith*

Dear Father in heaven, only you know our need. Open our eyes to see Christ, give us a new vision of the treasures of heaven, which you have prepared for those who love you. Enable us to seek your honor only ~ for your glory and our joy.

**“Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit.”** In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.





## *Chapter 10*

### **Humility and Death to Self**

**I**n this tenth chapter we come to the aim of humility, the end goal, and that is, death. Let us remember where humility originated, and follow its course to the effect it has in our own lives.

Humility began in heaven with God. In Jesus He condescended to the human level so that He might save us from our sinful state. Christ, in humility and obedience to the Father's will, with no plans of His own, gave up His position of glory to live a life here on earth, a life that He would share with us. For Him to accomplish this act for our salvation He had to humble Himself in order to die.

What if, in a very strategic situation, you need help? Someone offers, but you refuse because the terms of the one who is able to help you are not to your liking. You die because you refused what could have saved your life.

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What if, in a life-threatening position, you have the opportunity to live, but you cannot let go of something that you are holding.

These are both cases that are analogous to refusal of the salvation that is offered in Christ.

Again, think of life that is promised if we not only let go of things that we hold dear in this life, but to give up our own life. Death to self is the only means of true life. And humility is the only means of coming to the end of self. Without humility there is no promise for life. True humility leads us to die to self. In all this we see that the true life is the humble life that is ours in Christ; now and for eternity.

**"Whosoever will lose his life  
for my sake shall find it."**

Matthew 16:25

### **Revelation, Desire, Prayer, Reality**

I speak from my own experience. Humility is not a human trait, but a gift from heaven, through the Spirit of Jesus Christ, given to us for the abundant life that He promised those who come to Him. As much as I desire to live the humble life it seems still a supernatural life that I look forward to and pray for. As soon as I think I have a little humility, the oppressive spirit of the enemy assaults, and pride rears its ugly head. (Oppression is a subject about which I am studying and writing.)

## *Humility and Death to Self*

In Paul's letters to the Romans and the Galatians, he teaches us that the flesh and the Spirit are at war against each other. The hope (another gift) that we are given keeps us in prayer and more watchful *against the wiles of the devil*. He wants us dead, but not to self.

These truths are revealed to us by the Spirit, regenerating us with a new heart and a new spirit so that we, seeing our ignorance and pride, come to repentance and faith, our first step of humility toward *growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*. One step leads to another as we desire this humility, pray for it, and by His working, humble ourselves, *deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him*.

### **God Uses All Things for Our Humbling**

Every time I read this book I come away with the same impressive statement Murray makes in this chapter. It is similar to [Romans 8:28-29](#). It has made a difference in my life to see everything under God's sovereignty working through everything whatever He wants to do in my life.

**“Accept every humiliation, look upon every fellow-man who tries or vexes you, as a means of grace to humble you. Use every opportunity of humbling yourself before your fellow-man as a help to remain humble before God. It is by the mighty strengthening of His Holy Spirit that God reveals Christ fully in you.”**

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**"But if we hope for that we see not,  
then do we with patience wait for it."**

Romans 8:25

Dear Father, you knew when you started all this, that we would need everything from you to make it work to your glory. All that you expect from us is supernatural and beyond our doing, but you have put it into our hearts and promised us, that you are *exceedingly abundantly able to do more than we can ask for or imagine, by the power of your Spirit working in us*. Thank you for coming down to us that you might bring us up to yourself. Enable us to die to self; to raise us by your divine power to live in praise unto you.

**"Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit."**

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



## Chapter 11

### Humility and Happiness

The last two chapters of Andrew Murray's *Humility* are extremes.

From this chapter that deals with the valley, the last chapter then takes us to the pinnacle. **When we reach the depths of humility then we are lifted to the heights of Christ's glory.** And here is true happiness on this earth. This is not the experience for most believers. Most of us know nothing of the consecration and persecution that comes from following Christ. And we must remember that none of this is our own work. It is always the supernatural power of God working in the believer.

In this chapter, we see how Paul was brought to the glory of Christ; from the height of his own glory to the depths of his own weakness; then to the glory of Christ's sufficiency. He, like some of the Old Testament prophets, and like John in his recording of

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Revelation, had been blessed with revelations of a higher kind than is usual for man. Paul did not record these, but they were of such that, he could have been *exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations.*

### **From His Own Glory**

He was brought down so as not to glory in such visions. How? The *thorn in the flesh* was not described as a physical infirmity, but as the *buffeting of Satan.*

“Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;”  
1 Corinthians 4:11

What he learned in his state of humility was how to live in response to *infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distress*; he knew they were all *for Christ's sake.* He could *glory* and find *pleasure* in these things because he knew they were his sufferings for Christ.

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;” Philippians 3:10

It is in our own experiences that we will know Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings, so as to be humbled and made conformable unto His death ~ the death of self.

There are people in the New Testament that our heavenly Father has recorded for our imitation ~ especially Jesus Christ His Son, and then the apostle

## *Humility and Happiness*

Paul. If we spend our time researching the life of Christ and how Paul was called and given up to follow Christ, we shall see the purpose of Christ's coming and dying for His people. We shall see the work of the Holy Spirit in drawing a person to Christ, and the devotion and obedience of faith that only He can bring about in this world.

### **Other Examples**

To keep this review to a minimum, I ask you to read this chapter from the book. In this review I want to allude to other examples that reflect the truth that Murray is sharing, and to record my own impressions.

Beginning with our Lord's own words from Matthew 5:10-12 we remember:

**"Blessed** (happy) are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Blessed** are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:** for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

The name, the glory and power of God and Jesus Christ are revealed in the New Testament as relating to times of persecution because of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the book of Acts when the apostles, having been beaten and commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus, *they departed from the presence of the council,*

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*rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. Acts 5:40-42*

### **From Simon Peter's Letter**

“But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, **happy are ye:** and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;” 1 Peter 3:14

Peter reminds those believers who were being persecuted, “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

“But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be **glad also with exceeding joy.**

“If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye;** for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.” 1 Peter 4:12-14

As they were a part of Christ's sufferings He was being glorified. They could be happy knowing and experiencing the spirit of glory and of God resting upon them. They could endure the evil done to them knowing the promise that just as Christ suffered for them they could suffer for Him and also share His glory.

## *Humility and Happiness*

“Who now **rejoice** in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:” Colossians 1:24

We owe our thanks and praise to the work of the Holy Spirit in Paul's life. His sufferings and afflictions were counted to him as for the sake of the church. As we saw in Paul's life what it meant to deny self and follow Christ, we have enough visions to lead us to humility and to follow Christ. In this is our only means of survival and true life here and for eternity.

Others are following in our footsteps. What do they see? Do they see the true Christ in us? Do they see the happiness in our humility in serving Christ? Will they be led to self-denial, willing to suffer for Christ's sake and His church, to rejoice in the Lord through any circumstance?

Gracious Father, not many in America know the persecution that Paul and the early Christians endured. We pray for those who are suffering for Christ's sake, that as they endure, filled with the power of your Spirit, they will rejoice in the Lord in the middle of persecution. Let their oppressors see the joy and power of Christ in them and wonder at such great salvation that you bring to your people. Prepare us for such persecution that may come in this nation. Have mercy upon us as your people.

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“Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit.”  
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



## Chapter 12

### Humility and Exaltation

As we come to the end of our review of *Humility* ~ *The Beauty of Holiness* by Andrew Murray, there are certain things that are evident. These remain ever and always throughout this life, and concern not only the whole of this life but the next.

1. **Pride must be slain; it is our worst enemy.**
2. **We must die to self.**
3. **We must humble ourselves before God and men.**

We have found these to be necessary for holiness, for a real relationship with God, and worthwhile relationships with others. These are also beyond our doing. The supernatural things required in this life by our Creator and Redeemer are realized only by His own power working in and through us as His creation.

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As vessels created and redeemed for His glory, we must be emptied so that He has His rightful place in us to do His work. A vessel filled with pride has no room for God. We have as much power to die to self as we do to create ourselves. When we know the power of the heavenly Father working through His Spirit and His Word, in our hearts, minds, and our circumstances, we are brought to see the humility that is still needed.

When we realize that we need the humility of Christ, desire it, pray for it, and seek it with all our hearts ~ even as we seek Christ with all our hearts ~ He will work it in us. Though we would want it to happen overnight, we see that it is a lifetime process. We may lose count of how many times we are knocked off our pedestal of pride, broken, chastised, and humiliated by others, but if we are God's children, He will shake us loose from the grip of pride, bring us to deny self, to humble ourselves and follow Christ in His humility.

**"He must increase; I decrease."** John 3:30

Exaltation happens from the ground up. Until we are low enough we are too heavy to be raised. Until we are empty we have no room for the love that fills and lifts us by His grace. We have nothing of our own worth keeping. A vessel held up on its own continues to fall and remains unfilled, hungry, and desolate for what He gives.

It is not until God has everything  
that we have anything.

## *Humility and Exaltation*

In His mighty power He raises us to fulfill in us all for which He created and redeemed us ~ that He would show forth His glory through us for His service, His praise and exaltation; that we may “glorify Him and enjoy Him forever.” (Shorter Catechism)

**"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15**

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us through this study again. You have shown that it must be a continual study, accompanied by your Word and the Spirit of Christ in us. Thank you for pressing upon our hearts the need and fulfillment that you are able to provide. Keep us ever seeking Christ and His humility so that nothing prevents the work of your praise and service through us for your names' sake and for your glory. I ask a special blessing for those who have been with us for this review.

**"Of your great goodness make known to me and take from my heart every kind and form and degree of pride; and awaken in me the deepest depth and truth of that humility which can make me capable of your light and your Holy Spirit." In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**





## *From the Author*

A seventy-seven-year-old great-grandmother, I have been writing for twenty-five years. Since 2011, my blog *God's Grace ~ God's Glory* has been a means of sharing some of what He has been doing in my life. Writing and gardening have both been work and joy, intermittent with my role in caring for grandchildren, my father with cancer, my mother with Alzheimer's disease, and Jerry, my husband of 55 years who is an amputee with heart disease. God has proven His presence and His power during much adversity and has given me the witness to others of His grace.

In publishing my work, we will receive none of the profit. Proceeds are designated for missions and charity. Hopefully, with the technology that is available, we shall see the witness of Christ extend *to the end of the earth* (Acts 1:8). We are not looking for followers but for those who will come alongside us and join us **as we continue to learn** and proclaim the legacy of God's kingdom where it may not yet be known.

When you purchase a book, you will be giving an opportunity for others to know of Christ and His gift of eternal life to all His followers.

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***"For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;  
He will beautify the humble with salvation."***

***- Psalm 149:6***

*"The truth is this --- pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you. Do not look at pride as only an unbecoming temper, or at humility as only a decent virtue. The one is death, and the other is life; the one is all hell, the other is all heaven. As much as you have of pride within you, so you have of the fallen angel alive in you. As much as you have of true humility, so you have of the Lamb of God within you." Andrew Murray*

*Fran Rogers lives in Buford, Ga. with Jerry, her husband of 55 years. When she is not writing and gardening, they spend time with their son Andy, their daughter Lee, and their families.*

