

THE POWER OF HUMILITY AND HUMBLING SELF BEFORE GOD

(Parua Bay CF - 2/4/95 – EKB revised 14/7/02)

1. **Reading:** *Phil 2:5-8, 9-11.*

In *Phil 2:5-8* we are given the series of steps Jesus took in **humbling Himself** from the position of equality with God to the death of hanging naked on a cross until He died. He did this in obedience to the Father's will so that He might achieve for us our eternal salvation with God.

In *Phil 2:9-11* we are shown the series of steps that the Father took in **exalting Jesus**, as a result of His humbling of self. The Father exalted Him to the highest place that Heaven can offer. It is His by right for all eternity.

This is the **power of humility** and humbling self before God.

2. To each of us God says: "**Humble yourself** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time," *1Pet 5:6*.

So then, **we do the humbling** and **God does the exalting**.

3. Now to the other end of the "scale," as it were, - from the Sinless Christ to the wicked King Manasseh.

Reading: *2Chr 33:1-13.*

Manasseh, King of Judah, lived an evil, wicked life, in total disregard for God and His Word. He worshipped the Baals and all the host of heaven, (astrology), he burnt up his sons in the fire as sacrifices to demons, he practised soothsaying, witchcraft, sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists, and did much evil to provoke the Lord to anger. In fact Manasseh seduced God's people to do more evil than all the Canaanite nations. Finally God brought severe judgment upon Manasseh. As a result Manasseh humbled himself greatly before God and prayed to Him, whereupon God forgave him, heard his cry and restored him back to Jerusalem and his kingdom. "Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God."

Such is the **power of humbling self** before God.

4. By humility we mean taking the place of an obedient servant before God.

5. Where there is **humility, it results in faith and obedience**, that is the faith, trust and obedience of a child, *Mat 18:4*.

6. **Becoming a Christian is an act of humility**, as we confess our sins, ask for forgiveness, repent and turn from our own sinful ways, and receive Jesus Christ as Lord, as No 1.

As a result God lifts us up and blesses us by forgiving our sins and accepting us as His sons and daughters. He gives us every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ, and every richness of His storehouse. **HALLELUJAH!**

Such is the **power of humbling self** before God.

7. **The opposite of humility is pride**. This is lifting ourselves up against God, against His Word, against His will and His way. God promises to resist the proud but give grace to the humble, *1Pet 5:5, Jam 4:6*. Pride produces unbelief, rebellion and disobedience. Unbelief is refusing to believe and accept His Word. "Unbelief" is wrong belief. It is believing the wrong thing. Wrong believing produces wrong doing, *Heb 3:12-19*. This is the main result of pride.

Read *Jer 13:15-17*.

Pride is centred on self. It is belief in self, in man, and not God. Pride is the lifting up of self against God and other people, and God in His mercy and grace promises that when we do this He will bring us down to reality, *Lk 18:14*, *1Pet 5:5*, *Pro 16:18*.

Pride is the source of arguments, contention and upsets, *Pro 13: 10(KJV)* as we lift ourselves up against one another.

Humility is displayed by Jesus Christ to us. He said, **“I did not come to be served but to serve,** and give My life a ransom for others,” *Mat20:28*.

He demonstrated servanthood to others hours before His arrest and trial. He took the place of a servant and washed His disciples’ feet, *Jn 13:4-17*.

He said, “If I then, your Lord and master, have washed your feet; **you also ought to wash one another’s feet,**” *Jn 13:14*. “I have given you an example, **that you should do as I have done unto you,**” *Jn 13:15*.

Gal 5:13b says, says, **“By love serve one another,”** (See *Lk 10:29-37*).

We are serving one another in love when we:

1. **Forgive one another** for hurt, loss, offence, *Mk 11:25,26*
2. **Release another from all judgment,** *Jam 4:11,12*, *Mat 7:1,2*, *Rom 14:4,10*, (that is from all judgment that condemns. Evaluative judgment is expected of us, as in *Ac 17:11*).
3. **Hand the problem over to God** to sort out and resolve, *Ps 55:22*, *1Pet 5:7*.
4. **Pray genuinely for the blessing of God** upon those who hurt us, *Lk 6:27,28*, with prayer such as in *Col 1:9-11*, when praying for other Christians, or with the points of *Ac 26:18*, when praying for non-Christians.

Refusal to obey Jesus Christ in this way results in *Mat 18:32-35* occurring in our lives, so that the consequent “torment”, KJV, will bring us unto obedience to God, and the salvation of our souls.

8. So God says: **“Today if you will hear His voice** do not harden your heart.” That is, get rid of pride, humble yourself before God and you will hear His voice, *Heb 3:7*, *3:15*, *4:7*.
9. **Seek humility** by faith in God’s promises, by praying: “Lord You are always at work in me to make me willing and able to obey Your purposes, *Phil 2:13 GNV*, to humble myself, deny myself and take up the cross daily and follow You, *Lk 9:23*. Also to humble myself, and pray and seek Your face, and to turn from every wicked way, in Christ’s Name. Amen.” *2Chr 7:14*.
10. *Mic 6:8* – “He has shown you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.”
11. *Is 66:2* - The Lord says, “but to this person will I look, even to him/her that is humble, (NIV/AMP), and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at My Word.”