

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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HUMILITY

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Subject and Outline Suggested by F. A. Marsh
in "1001 Bible Readings"

"Humility is the queen of graces. It does not seek the throne of eminence, but the throne is adorned by it." The excellence of humility can not be over-expressed. In the Word we find that above all things there must be humility and obedience.

Webster defines humility as "Humbledness; thinking lowly of one's self; claiming little as one's deserve; not proud or assertive in spirit, manner or seeming; lowly; meek; near the ground; not high or lofty; not pretentious or magnificent; unassuming; modest; mild."

Washington said, "Without a humble imitation of the divine Author of our faith religion, we can never hope to be a happy nation."

This brings us to the fact that humility is the "soul of contentment." The "soul of contentment" is the soul in which humility is ever abounding. Humility feels it deserves nothing; therefore it takes with gratitude whatever may come. In Phil. 4:11, 12 we read, "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content," or as the original, "For I learned in what (inferring circumstances) I am to be content," that is to say, "satisfied." The word "therewith" should be left out. Paul did not mean that he drew contentment from his surroundings or state; but in whatsoever state he was, he had learned to be content. His contentment was drawn, not from his outward circumstances when they were adverse, but from the principle of the Gospel, by the faith of which he could trust that God would make even the present an instrument of subsequent good. A murmuring and complaining habit is unchristian and is not like the Master, but is enervating to one's moral powers, and productive of evil.

Paul said, "I know both how to be abased (brought low), and I know how to abound; everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full, and to be hungry; to abound and to suffer need,"—to be in need.

Whether we have much or little, still we can praise His name, whether it be a "Benjamin's mess" or only bread and water.

Paul said to Timothy in 1 Tim. 6:6-8, "But godliness with contentment is great gain, * * * and having food and raiment, let us therewith be content," or, with sustenance and covering we shall be satisfied. And in Heb. 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Let us praise Him who shall supply all our need.

Not only is the heart of humility contented with such as God shall give, and has given, but humility is also "a flower and a fruit of grace." "Humility walks consistently, loves generously, serves willingly, acts meekly, forgives heartily, forbears thoughtfully, and responds obediently." (F. A. Marsh). "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the

vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness (humility), and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." (Eph. 4:1, 2) "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering." (Col. 3:12).

"Humility walks consistently"—whether people praise, or abase and talk about you. When you are judged aright, or in the wrong, still you walk in that manner of humility. When the people are talking, you are meek and lowly in your manner of walk, in conversation, and actions.

"Loves generously"—loves liberally; has abundant love for those around about; has ample supply of love for those who are less fortunate; has freedom from prejudice or narrowness toward other races. Love is so abounding that the globe is encircled with love.

"Serves well." "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, (lowliness of mind) and with many tears, and temptations, (trials) which befell me (or happened unto me) by the lying in wait of the Jews (or through the plot of the Jews)." (Acts 20:19). Though the Jews plotted to kill Paul yet he served the Lord with all humility of mind, and he served well in humility. "To serve the Lord with all humility of mind is to have the bloom of consecration, yea, the aroma of grace, the unction of love, the warmth of zeal, the ardor of faith, the walk of obedience, and the beauty of holiness."

"Acts meekly." In all actions it is meek, gentle. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Gal. 6:1). "What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?" (1 Cor. 4:21). "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves." (II Tim. 2:25). "But gentle, showing all meekness unto all men." (Titus 3:2).

"Forgives heartily." ("Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." (Luke 6:37). "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph. 4:32). "Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." (Col. 3:13). "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matt. 6:15). "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." When those around you do you wrong, and fault is found with them, yet you forgive them heartily, and the forgiveness you speak from your mouth is from the heart.

"Forbears thoughtfully." This means to endure; to do without; exercise of patience; longsuffering. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; * * * beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." (1 Cor. 13:4, 7). "By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned." (II Cor. 6:6). Humility endures all things. It flickers at nothing. It remembers that Christ bore the cross until He fell under the strain, and then the strong Cyrenian

relieved Him. So we will bear the cross, and when we give way under the strain, God will bear us up in His arms. Though those around us may laugh and make fun, yet humility "forbears thoughtfully."

"Responds obediently." Christ responded to the plan of God in giving up the riches of heaven and coming as a babe to dwell among men for some thirty years. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." (Heb. 5:8). "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Rom. 5:19). "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." (I Pet. 1:2). Not only was it required of Christ to obey, but, humility prompts man to obey. "And they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient." (Exod. 24:7). Joshua said, "The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey." "If thou shalt keep all these commandments to do them, which I command thee this day, to love the Lord thy God and to walk in his ways." (Deut. 10:1). "Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and shall serve him, and cleave unto him." (Deut. 10:1). In whatsoever way the Lord shall lead, we will say "Amen." Where He leads, we will follow; in any path or way, He knows the best and we shall be blessed of Him if we will submit ourselves unto Him. "We ought to obey God rather than men."

The Results of Humility

We all desire the upward trend; but oh, how men and devils deceive us! God's ways are the opposite of man's ways. Man says, "Climb." God says, "Humble yourselves." In God's vocabulary, to go up is to go down, and to go down is to go up.

Pride lifts you up, to let you fall to destruction. "Humility brings you down to the dust where God's angels encircle you in a halo of light, and favor you with a balloon ride to heaven." "Whosoever therefore will humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:4). Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up. "But honor shall uphold the humble spirit." (Prov. 29:23). "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." (1 Peter 5:6). "And he shall save the humble person." (Job 22:29). "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." "Before honor is humility." (Prov. 15:33). "He giveth grace to the humble," (greater graces). "Be clothed with humility." (1 Peter 5:5).

"This suit is always in fashion; it never wears out; it is always becoming. Whether an excellent grace or more of the grace that excels, humility is its own reward, and is recognized by men, admired by angels, and is appreciated and rewarded by the Lord's rewards and commendation."