

SeekingHim

Experiencing the Joy
of Personal Revival

A 12-Week Study for Individual and Group Use

"You who seek God, let your hearts revive."

PSALM 69:32b

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Lesson

2



Humility:

Coming to God on His Terms

Humility is a virtue more often praised than sought. Who wants to think little of himself? The world admires the self-confident, the ambitious, yes, even the proud! Yet biblical humility—recognizing oneself as a sinner before the holy God—is a prerequisite for starting down the path to revival.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” **(Luke 14:11)**

Going Deeper
in the **Word**

Psalm 8

Proverbs 8:13; 11:2;

16:18; 29:23

Micah 6:6–8

Luke 18:9–14

John 13:1–17



Day 5: Making It Personal

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). The following list contrasts the heart of a proud person with the heart of a humble and contrite person.

Ask God to show you which characteristics of a proud heart are true of you. Circle the number next to each of those items in the left hand column.

Proud people...

1. focus on the failures of others
2. have a critical, fault-finding spirit; look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope
3. are self-righteous; look down on others
4. have an independent, self-sufficient spirit
5. have to prove they are right
6. claim rights; have a demanding spirit
7. are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation
8. desire to be served
9. desire to make a name for themselves
10. desire self-advancement
11. have a drive to be recognized and appreciated
12. are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked

Humble people...

1. are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need
2. are compassionate; can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven
3. esteem all others better than themselves
4. have a dependent spirit; recognize their need for others
5. are not argumentative
6. yield their rights; have a meek spirit
7. are self-denying
8. are motivated to serve others
9. are motivated to be faithful and to make others a success
10. desire to promote others
11. have a sense of their own unworthiness; are thrilled that God would use them at all
12. are eager for others to get the credit and rejoice when others are lifted up

“If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud.... If you think you're not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.”

—C. S. Lewis

"A truly humble man is sensible of his natural distance from God; of his dependence on Him; of the insufficiency of his own power and wisdom."

—Jonathan Edwards

13. have a subconscious feeling that says, "This organization is privileged to have me and my gifts"; think of what they can do for God

14. feel confident in how much they know

15. are self-conscious

16. keep others at arms' length

17. are quick to blame others

18. are unapproachable or defensive when criticized

19. are overly concerned with what others think; work to protect their own image and reputation

20. find it difficult to share their spiritual needs with others

21. want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; have instinct to cover up

22. have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?"

23. tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin

24. are concerned about the consequences of their sin

13. have a heart attitude that says, "I don't deserve to have any part in this work"; know that they have nothing to offer God except what He enables them to do

14. are humbled by how very much they have to learn

15. are not concerned with self at all

16. are willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately

17. accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation

18. receive criticism with a humble, open spirit

19. are concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; are willing to risk their own reputation

20. are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs

21. once broken, don't care who knows or who finds out; are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose

22. are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary

23. are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin

24. are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin

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| 25. are remorseful over their sin, sorry that they got found out or caught | 25. are truly repentant over their sin; forsake their sin |
| 26. wait for the other to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship | 26. take the initiative to be reconciled when there is a misunderstanding or a conflict in relationships, no matter how wrong the other may have been |
| 27. compare themselves with others and feel worthy of honor | 27. compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel desperate need for His mercy |
| 28. are blind to their true heart condition | 28. walk in the light |
| 29. don't think they have anything to repent of | 29. realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance |
| 30. don't think they need revival but are sure that everyone else does | 30. continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit ¹ |

"I am persuaded that love and humility are the highest attainments in the school of Christ and the brightest evidences that He is indeed our Master."

—John Newton

So what is your pride quotient? We should not wait for God to humble us. God says we must *humble ourselves*. When we do, God is always there with open arms of grace and love. Respond now to God in prayer.

- Agree with Him about each evidence of pride that He has shown you through this exercise.
- Ask His forgiveness for your pride, realizing that pride is really an attempt to be "as God."
- Ask Him to continue to reveal anything that indicates pride in your life.
- Ask Him to show you any practical steps you could take to humble yourself before Him and others.

¹ The "Proud/Humble" list in Lesson 2 is adapted from a message given by Nancy Leigh DeMoss, © 1995. Used by permission. To order a bookmark with the complete list, write: Revive Our Hearts, P.O. Box 2000, Niles, MI 49120 or visit ReviveOurHearts.com or email: info@lifecycle.org.