

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT

HUMILITY

The four categories listed herein focus on Scriptures related to HUMILITY. The Bible consistently tells us that God resists the proud, arrogant and haughty while showing favor upon those who exhibit a humble, grace-filled demeanor.

THE LORD CAUSES / EXPECTS HUMILITY

Job 22:29

When people are brought low and you say, 'Lift them up!' then he will save the downcast.

Psalms 149:4

For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

Proverbs 25:8-9

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore, he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

Proverbs 3:7

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

Proverbs 3:34

He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.

Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 16:19

Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

Isaiah 66:2

"Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the Lord. "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word."

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Matthew 23:12

For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Romans 12:16

Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

1 Peter 5:5-6

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

HUMILITY PROPHESED / EXHIBITED IN GOD / JESUS

1 Samuel 2:7

The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

Psalms 113:7

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 11:29-30

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Mark 10:45

"...For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Luke 1:52

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

James 4:6

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

EXAMPLES OF HUMILITY IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 18:27 (Abraham)

Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes..."

Genesis 41:15-16 (Joseph)

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "I cannot do it, but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

Exodus 3:11 (Moses)

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

1 Kings 21:28-29 (Ahab)

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: "Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

Mark 1:7 (John the Baptist)

And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie..."

Luke 1:43 (Elizabeth)

But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Luke 18:9-14 (The Tax Collector)

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

2 Corinthians 10:1 (Paul)

By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you – I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away!

2 Corinthians 11:30 (Paul)

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

RESULTS OF HUMILITY

2 Chronicles 7:14-15

...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

2 Chronicles 12:1-12

(verse 6) The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “The Lord is just.”

Job 5:11

The lowly he sets on high, and those who mourn are lifted to safety.

Psalms 18:28

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Matthew 23:12

For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted (see also Luke 14:11 & 18:14).

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.