*THE PRACTICE of GODLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Six– “Humility” – Luke 18:14**

*“Devotion to God is the first aspect of godliness; Godlike character is the second…Not only does God commend humility in His people, our Lord displayed it in His humanity (Philippians 2:3-8). Jesus Christ exemplified humility in its utmost through His death for us. But He also exemplified humility throughout His life. He was born in the very humblest of circumstances; He was obedient to His earthly parents; He called people to Himself as one who was “gentle and humble in heart”; He said, “I am among you as one who serves”; He washed the disciples’ feet on the very night of His betrayal; and He taught, “He who humbles himself will be exalted.”(pg.68)*

We are called to be imitators of our Lord Jesus Christ who is by far the greatest example of someone who not only displayed humility toward His Father in heaven but also toward every relationship and every circumstance that He faced while He walked upon this earth.

**“…for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:14bNASB)**

**H** umility manifests itself in our relationships ---to God, to ourselves, to others. We are to be

**U** nceasingly humble toward God and His Word, humbly receive trials and blessings from His

**M**  erciful hand, humbled by our abilities and achievements with which we are blessed and

**I** nfinitely humble toward other people. Humility must be displayed in all of these areas of life.

**L**  ike love, it can be described and understood only as it is applied in every relationship and

**I** n every circumstancethat we come face to face with in our day to day living. Humility must be

**T** ethered to a right concept of God as the One who is Mighty and Majestic and High and Holy.

**Y** ou and I must come to the realization that we cannot even begin to experience humility in any other relationship until we ourselves are daily experiencing a deep and profound humility in our attitude toward God Himself (pg.’s 69-70)

**How can you and I prayerfully cultivate and put on a biblical attitude of humility:**

***Toward God:*** *Ascribe* the glory due to His name. (Psalm 29:1-2)

***Toward His Word:*** *Allow* the Scriptures to teach you and to search you. (Psalm 139:23-24)

***Toward my Salvation:*** *Attribute* your faith in Christ solely to the grace of God. (Eph.2:8-9)

***Toward my abilities and achievements:*** *Acknowledge* ALL comes from Him. (Acts 15:10)

***Toward myself:*** *Adjust* your thinking towards Christ every day. (John 3:30; 1 Timothy 1:15)

***Toward fellow believers:*** *Always* consider others more important than yourself. (Phil.2:3)

***Toward my enemies:*** *Act* in love by overcoming evil with good. (Luke 6:27-36; Rom. 12:14-21)

May we never forget God’s powerful and breathtaking promises toward the truly humble. “The infinitely high and lofty One who lives forever promises *to dwell with them* (Isaiah 57:15), *to esteem them* (Isaiah 66:2), *to give them grace* (James 4:6), *to lift them up* (1 Peter 5:6), *and to* *exalt them* (John 18:14). Humility opens the way to all other godly character traits. It is the soil in which the other traits of the fruit of the Spirit grow.” (pg. 69)

Ladies, “Humility is a fruit of the Spirit, the result of His ministry in our heart. But this ministry does not occur without deliberate, conscious effort on our part. The Spirit does not make us humble, but He enables us to humble ourselves before Him in prayer as we seek to practice humility… Whatever the area of humility we need to work on, it is important that we do so in dependence upon Him who is at work in us to conform us more into the image of Christ.” (pg.79)

Let’s together by God’s empowering grace learn from Jesus Christ our Lord and lean upon Him to help us be as He was…a truly humble servant who joyfully, willingly and obediently submitted to the will of His Father in and through all things.

Christyn