



# APPNOTES

**Date:** July 13-17 , 2020

**Series:** James: Faith That Works

**Philippians 2:3-11** Humility is: The owner of a company cleans his business' restrooms. A star basketball player, who could score many baskets, instead passes to other teammates to give them the opportunity to score. A mom spends years making meals, doing laundry, and serving her family daily. A husband foregoes Saturday on the golf course to help his wife with chores. A busy twenty-something opts to spend time every week with her grandmother. Humility is forgetting yourself in order to serve someone else. It's helping others get ahead, rather than trying to get the advantage over them. It's putting yourself aside to consider another person first. Humility is Jesus—who did not consider His equality with God something to be used to His own advantage, but He took on the nature of a servant and became a sacrifice for us. Considering others before ourselves, serving—this is the mindset of Christ, the mindset He asks of us.

**Proverbs 6:16-19 and Proverbs 8:13** Humility is birthed in motives. Why did you volunteer to lead the homeless shelter fund drive? At a party, why did you dominate the conversation with stories of your family or latest trip? Why were you the first in line at the buffet? What are the motives behind what we say and do? Our culture has groomed us to look out for #1. The world says, whatever we do should make us look good, even superior, and should satisfy our pleasures and desires. God's heart is repulsed by such pride. He longs for us to cultivate a humble heart—one that thinks of others and their well-being before our own. Are we willing to let others have the limelight, because we're confident of our standing in Christ? Can we take joy in another's success? Lay selfish motives at the foot of the cross. Crucify pride. Walk humbly with God—and with others.

**Philippians 3:17-21** A Ben Franklin aphorism: "He who spits against the wind, spits in his own face." Our conversation filled with complaining and gossip, choosing the world's way over God's, following our own emotions and impulses, scoffing at His desire for our sexual morality—we might as well be spitting in the face of God. Living in opposition to His standard is enmity against Him. We weaken our characters, our fruit, our witness, and subvert God's will for our lives. So, our spitting in the wind comes right back at us. What do we do when we place ourselves on the wrong side of something God opposes? Simply humble yourself and repent. Recognize God's Lordship, grace, and sufficiency. Today's Scripture makes the way back to God clear: choose Christ, and

in your humility, He will lift you up, bring you back into fellowship with Him and transform you.

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10** One of the paradigms of the Christian faith is the relationship of weakness and strength. Our culture touts strength and power ... from those who hold position and control finances, influence, and authority to those with the loudest voices who sway opinions. But God's definition of strength is the polar opposite of our culture's. When we realize our need of God and turn to Him, we demonstrate God's sufficiency and our inadequacy without Him. Realizing God's way is best and the importance of knowing His will open His floodgates of blessing. Of course, we can always choose to do life OUR way, but the high cost to relationships and circumstances is magnified. God goes against the proud who follow their own desires but gives grace to the humble who submit to Him. Depending on God in our weakness is the road to strength, grace, and humility. Can you afford to do life in your own wisdom and strength?

**Isaiah 58:9** Is the main point of life to indulge our desires for things, relationships, or status? Is the pull of a lake house, a cruise, a husband, or a managerial job driving you? These may not be wrong desires, but are they *God's* desires for you? Choosing to live God's way means we take our longings to Him. Do they align with *His* will? The only way to determine if they do is to draw near to Him. When we call on the Lord for help, He will say, "Here am I. What can I do for you? I am waiting to bless you." How can we avoid drawing near when He longs to lead us to the right desires and the best paths? Other people may weary of us, but God will continue to come near as we fellowship with Him. Let's aim to make the main point of our lives – to draw near to God.

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