

## **Walking on Water – A Study in Ephesians Humility 101 – Tapping into Our Power Source**

I wanted us this morning to jump right back into where we left off last week.

Look with me at **Ephesians 4:1-6**, “**Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility, and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit just as also you were called in one hope of your calling one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all in all.**”

This is one of the many passages that tells us that we are to be humble in the ways we interact with those around us.

Look with me at a few more.

**Philippians 2:3**, “**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves...**”

**Colossians 3:12-13**, “<sup>12</sup> **So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**”

In Ephesians and in these verses, we see how we are to treat others. As I said last week, I think the point Paul was making in chapter two of his letter to the Ephesians, he was challenging the Christians in Ephesus not to think too highly of themselves in comparison of the Jewish Christians.

Obviously, as we look at these passage we know this is a teaching for us today as well.

So how do we keep from thinking too highly of ourselves? Well last week I gave us some thoughts that I have listed in your bulletin again and that I think will help.

**Realize what God has done for you**  
**Realize who you now get to be**  
**Realize what to do and intentionally live it out**

I want us to develop these thoughts just a little bit more this morning but before we do this I wanted us to think through Ephesians 2:10 again.

Read it with me. **Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”**

As I have said before, **Good works is not what we can do for God but who we can be for God.**

Let me share a few of the exciting things that we have the potential to be for God before we get into what it means to be humble towards others.

After covering the position of who he gets to be in relationship with Christ and the church, Paul says the following.

**1. Who we have the potential of being:**

**Ephesians 3:10-12, “...the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.”**

What is the eternal purpose of God through Christ? That God's wisdom would be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places through you, the church.

**a. The vessels through which God's wisdom can flow onto the earth and over Satan.**

This means that you and I can boldly and confidently share with the world all about what Christ has done. His sacrifice, His forgiveness, the life He is offering here on earth, the life He is offering with Him for eternity. This is the manifold wisdom, the eternal purpose of God. The summing up of all things in heaven and earth and for all time in Christ.

As we share these truths we show God's power and authority over Satan and the rulers, authorities and lies he has put in place.

Look with me at a couple of other verses. In a prayer for the Christians in Ephesus Paul's prays the following. **Ephesians 3:16, "(I pray) that God would grant you...to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in the inner man (person)..."**

**Ephesians 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us..."**

**b. We have the potential to be God's power source on earth**

IF you have accepted Christ as your savior the power is already inside of you. There is power, power to do the good works God has for you to do. There is power to battle Satan and all the lies he has put in place. There is power raging inside of you to overcome the things you struggle with in this life. There is power for you to bring healing not only to yourself but to others. There is power...

This is good news. This is exciting isn't it? We have been given the power of God, the power of Jesus.

Later in Ephesians Paul writes, **Ephesians 6:10-11, "Finally brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."**

There is power but...always a but isn't there. There is power inside of us and available but it begins as we put on the whole armor of God.

Do you know what a good action word is for putting on the whole armor of God? Humility. Do you know why? Because it takes humility to realize that you do not have the power in and of yourself.

This verse in Ephesians says be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. It is not your strength, it is not your might, it is not your power, it is the Lord's and it is by us coming humbly before Him that we access His power that works mightily in us..

We like the idea of being warriors, doing battle with Satan but if we get ahead of God, the results might be kind of bad. Look with me at a story about some men this occurred to.

**FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE FOR POWERPOINT ONLY – not enough room on the outline**

**Acts 19:11-16, "<sup>11</sup> God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. <sup>13</sup> But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup> And the evil spirit answered and said**

**to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”<sup>16</sup> And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”**

The power of the evil within one man physically overpowered seven men to the point that they fled naked and wounded.

Some of you have tried to name Jesus over some of your circumstances but you have been subdued, overpowered and wounded. You have tried in your own strength to show tolerance for someone, to be victorious over sin, victorious over your depression, your anxiety or your circumstances. You have cried out to the Lord, asked for His power over these things but you have not seen much happen. You haven't experienced transformation and victory in your life.

Well, I believe there is a reason.

Look with me at a couple more verses.

**Proverbs 15:33, “The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.”**

**Proverbs 18:12b, “but humility comes before honor.”**

**Proverbs 22:4, “The reward of humility and fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.”**

**2. Before we experience honor and the power and victory the Lord offers comes humility.**

And as we tie this into our passage in Ephesians, that we are to be humble and gentle to others, the reality is you cannot give what you don't have.

The power for us to be humble in our thoughts and actions towards others flows from us being humble towards our God.

Look at these next passages.

**James 4:6, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**

**James 4:10, “Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you.”**

**1 Peter 5:6, “Therefore, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you at the proper time.”**

Humility is not only the starting point with God, it is the constant position that we must take with God.

When you first gave your life to Christ, you were humble in your approach to Him. You knew you needed Him for salvation for eternity and to help you with your life. So you approached Him softly, tenderly, maybe tearfully, crying out for the salvation He offered.

This attitude of humility probably lasted for a while, maybe even for a few years but what happens to most Christians is this... life gets in the way.

Marriage, family, work and society puts them in such a place that they get consumed by them. And pretty soon they begin going through the motions of life and even religion without giving much thought to it.

Before long they find themselves making decisions without consulting God, without humbly coming to Him.

It is our humility before God that opens the door and leads us into possession of greater wisdom in our choices, greater love, greater gentleness, patience and tolerance of others.

It is our humility before God that opens the door to receive grace upon grace from Him and to be exalted, to be elevated by Him.

I love this passage from the Psalms. **Psalms 37:4-6, “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in Him and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday.”**

Delight and commit to the Lord and your righteousness will shine and your judgments will be sure. Your judgments on how God would have you look at things, the decisions you need to make and how to treat others. They will be strong and sure.

This is what we want in this life isn't it? Well, this is what God is offering.

So, what does humility before the Lord look like?

### **3. Humility before the Lord looks like:**

#### **a. Asking for humility**

Kind of a dangerous thing isn't? Admitting that maybe you are not humble enough in your relationship with the Creator of the Universe. Asking for humility is probably the greatest act of humility. It is probably the starting point of becoming humble.

#### **b. Seek Jesus**

Jesus said of Himself in **Matthew 11:29, “Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly of heart.”**

It shows real humility for a person to carve out some of their daily time and spend it with Jesus, spend it in God's Word. But the payoff is tremendous.

### **c. Commit to church body**

A church body is one of the places where the teachings of Jesus are examined, celebrated and where we are challenged to live them out.

### **d. Tithe**

You want to show great humility before the Lord? Show Him He and His kingdom is more important than your desire for worldly goods and pleasures.

Do you know how much humility it takes to look at one's salary and determine that 1/10 will go to the Lord? Do you know what kind of sacrifice this takes?

God does and He sees and blesses the humble heart that gives.

There is probably no greater way to jump start your relationship with God than to humbly worship Him with your tithe and offerings.

As I mentioned last week, all of these thoughts are not do it or else teachings. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, your eternity with Him is secure.

But if it is your desire to be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit in the inner person... and to see God doing far more in your life, more victory, more love and even more humility for those around you, then humbling yourself before Him in some of these ways is a good place to start.



I don't know about you but this is where I want to be. How about you?

Amen

As we come to this time of communion, it is communing with Jesus and God in a special way. We remember Jesus' sacrifice and the love of God that asked Him to come as an offering.

As we come, receiving these emblems of blood and flesh, we come realizing that this is how He humbled Himself before His Father, His God.

Hebrews says that although He existed in the form of God He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but He emptied Himself out, taking on the form of a bond servant and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance of a man, He humbled Himself by being obedient to death, even death on a cross.

This was Jesus' great act of humility.

As we remember this maybe it is time for you to ask for God for help in your humility towards Him.