

Humility (VI): An Ear That Can Hear

I. Humility Is Shown by Having an Ear That Can Hear

1. King Uzziah, 2 Chronicles 26:4-5, 26:15-20

- ♦ What kind of a king was King Uzziah?

Verse 4: *“And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD,”* verse 5: *“He set himself to seek God, and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper,”* verse 15: *“And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.”* God was pleased with him and God helped him.

- ♦ Verse 16: *“But when he was strong, he grew proud,”* why?

Because he sought God, and God was with him, helping him and blessing him, he thought he could go into the temple and burn incense on the altar, and the priests came and admonished him and stopped him, saying, “It is not for you, go out of the sanctuary!” And he became angry, **thinking that God was with him, and that he could certainly do so, and that he would not listen to the advice given to him,** and would not take the priest’s words to heart.

- ♦ Uzziah had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and leprosy broke out on his forehead, when the priests rushed him out quickly, and Uzziah himself hurried to go out. **Wouldn't it have been better if he had listened to the priests earlier and gone out earlier? Why did he have to wait for the leprosy to grow before he listened?** Have you ever noticed that many Christians are like that? **They feel that the Lord has anointed me and filled me with the Holy Spirit, but they don't take the words of pastors, counselors, and parents seriously, thinking that God is with me and that God has given me gifts, so they do the same thing.**

You should not think that if you seek God and He blesses you in all things, you will have no problem doing anything, but always watch out for an ear that can hear.

- ♦ A person can be very active in doing things that please God, actively seeking God, but he cannot be advised, as King Uzziah was. Some Christians are very enthusiastic about giving, serving, sacrificing their sleep, spending a lot of labor in service, preaching the gospel, helping people, and being very loving, but they can't be spoken to, lacking an ear that can hear.
- ♦ All that we do is right in the eyes of God, and we seek God and long for Him, but if we do not have ears that can hear, we may end up being miserable, like King Uzziah, who grew leprosy and therefore lived in another palace until the day of his death, separated from the house of the Lord.

2. Pastor Hans Waldvogel felt that the most important thing for a person serving God is **“whether he has ears that can hear.”**

- ◆ When Pastor Hans Waldvogel arrived in Taiwan, Minister Pearl Young said to him, "This brother is resigning recently to serve the Lord full time." He did not ask the brother if he was familiar with the Bible or had any gifts, but simply asked, "Can you tell him anything?"(or whether he can be advised)
- ◆ Pastor Hans Waldvogel feels that the most important thing for a person serving God is to have ears that can hear and be corrected. Some people will say, "Yes, I can be advised!" But if you hear something uncomfortable, you will immediately look at him with a scowl.

3. Eli the priest and Samuel

- ◆ The family of Eli the priest was originally chosen to serve God, but Eli the priest did not teach his sons according to God's teaching, and they did not have ears that can hear, so God raised up Samuel.
- ◆ But when the boy Samuel heard a voice calling him (during sleep), he immediately said, "Here I am," and immediately ran to Eli three times. Samuel did not think that Eli the priest had shouted and forgotten so that he no longer wanted to get up. Samuel still said, "Here I am."
- ◆ Why do some people have ears that can hear? It is because of humility. People with humility has an ear that can hear. **Whom did the boy Samuel go to and hear again and again? He listened to the elder who was not worthy of honor.** Eli the priest was old, and the LORD had no longer revealed Himself to Eli the priest, and there was no presence, anointing, or word from God. Samuel was still listening to this spiritual elder, even in the middle of the night, so God put Samuel into an important position.
- ◆ God is always looking for ears that can hear. **Think about it, if you are not trained to hear when awake and respond "Yes, I am here," how can you hear when you are weakest and want to sleep?** Maybe you listened but did not hear in heart and act on it. How important it is to have an ear that can hear.
- ◆ We must always pray, "Lord! Open my ear." When the Lord Jesus was here on earth, and so many people were listening to His sermons, and so many people were seeing His miracles, but the Lord repeated the same words again and again: *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* But many people have ears that cannot hear. They are very good at watching the bustle and crowding around, and seeing the spiritual people when they come, but they fail to hear.

4. Naaman, 2 Kings 5:10-14

- ◆ Naaman thought that Elisha would come out and stand and call upon the name of the LORD, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. **Pride means that we often have our own ideas first, and we are very sure and confident of our ideas and opinions.**
- ◆ A messenger was sent to him, saying, *"Go and wash in the River of Jordan seven times, which was not what Naaman thought."* He was angry and said, *"Are the rivers*

of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean? Why did I have to come from Syria to Israel? It is so funny that I have to dip myself seven times.” That was how Naaman was proud of himself. He often refused to accept things if they were not as I thought they should be.

- ♦ **Naaman was not too proud because he came to his senses in time, so he could still be saved.** If he listened and did what he was told, he would be clean. Very often, because of our pride and stubbornness, we cannot listen to what people say, and thus we cannot be clean.
- ♦ The servants of Naaman were always humble, for they really saw that others were better than them. And the servants said, *“My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it?”* That’s how we are, we always want to do great things, but if we are told to wash seven times, we won’t do it because it’s so funny.

For example, I don’t want to get up and praise and be filled with the Holy Spirit, because that’s so easy. I don’t want to go to the front and kneel and be filled with the Holy Spirit, because that’s so easy.

II. The Cloak of Humility

- ♦ In *The Final Quest*, Pastor Rick Joyner ran up the hill and descended in the glorious armor of God, thinking that there were not many of the enemy left and that God’s army was now enough to destroy the remainder of the enemy, only to have Jesus say, “Not yet, look over there!” Joyner looked in the direction in which Jesus was pointing, but had to shield his eyes. He could not make out what he was seeing because the glory being emitted from his armor made it difficult to see into the darkness. Then the Lord gave him a very plain mantel to put on. “What is this?” Joyner inquired. “Humility,” said Jesus. “You will not be able to see very well without it.” **If we don’t put on the cloak of humility, we can’t see much darkness and how the enemy works in us. Without the cloak of humility, we are so blinded by our own blessings, by God’s grace, by His gifts.**
- ♦ Joyner was upset and reluctantly put on the plain mantel the Lord gave to him because it did not match with the glorious armor. As soon as he put it on, he immediately saw that the Lord was pointing in the direction of the valley, and there was an army of enemy advancing. He asked, “What army is that? And how did they escape the battle intact?” **“That is Pride,” explained Jesus. “That is the hardest enemy to see after you have been in the glory. Those who refuse to put on this cloak will suffer much at the hands of this most devious enemy.”** That is, **anyone who will not put on the humility of Jesus will suffer much under pride.**
- ♦ As Joyner looked back, he saw many of the glorious warriors were coming down in their shiny uniforms, but none of them were wearing the cloaks of humility and they had not seen the enemy that was ready to attack them from their rear. Joyner started

to run out to stop them, to tell them that there was an enemy behind them, but the Lord restrained him. "You cannot stop this," the Lord said. **"Only the soldiers who wear this cloak will recognize your authority." When one feels that he has many gifts, many blessings, and the presence of God, he often does not recognize the authority of others and will not listen to the words of advice.**

- ◆ When the arrows of pride struck the warriors they did not even notice, the warriors were getting weaker so that they were too weak to hold up their shields and swords, and cast them down, declaring that they did not need them anymore. Then they started taking off their armor, saying it was not needed anymore either. When one is shot, he thinks that he needs to take neither the sword of the Spirit, nor the shield of faith. He does not think it necessary to fight, but only needs to pray for the wonderful power to come immediately, and he finally does not even need the armor. This is pride.
- ◆ Then another enemy division appeared and moved up swiftly. It was called Strong Delusion. They released a hail of arrows that all hit their mark with every shot. The Strong Delusion took the great army of glorious warriors to prison camps, like many christians. **After we have won the battle, we have broken loose and not kept alert. We no longer ask the Lord to shine on us, nor to give us a broken and contrite heart. Now all is joy and rejoicing! We do not know that there are still many strongholds of the enemy within, and we enter into confusion, and are taken captive without knowing it.**
- ◆ Jesus then remarked, "You have taught that there was no armor for the backside, which meant that you were vulnerable if you ran from the enemy. When you ran, the enemy would shoot your backside. **However, you never saw how it made you vulnerable if you advanced in pride,** and little by little you will weaken, and surrender and be captured."
- ◆ Let us not go forward in pride, or we will be overwhelmed, that is why it is so important to have ears that can hear! God has given us members and churches to help us, to keep us, to admonish each other in the body, to speak the truth in love, so that we will not be confused to the point of being unaware. I know there are many people who do not want to tell you when you are a little confused, astrayed, proud, and in danger, but only talk behind your back. **Brothers and sisters must remember to speak the truth in love. We do not always want to accuse others, but we really speak the truth in love. It is not helpful to speak behind his back, and it will become a judgment.**

III. Complacency Leads to Losses; Humility Brings Benefits

- ◆ We need to pray for humility. Humility is very practical in our lives, not competing, not being jealous, always having ears that can hear, especially those very heavy words, those words are often from God. We have too many blinders that keep us from seeing

ourselves!

- ◆ We need to be criticized and corrected. Don't be nervous and defensive when you hear criticisms. Relax and listen. If the situation is not like this, you can explain. If we get nervous inside immediately, it means we are very proud and afraid of being criticized and corrected.
- ◆ If we are willing to have a listening ear, God can bless us through as many people as He wants.
- ◆ **Humility is not a vague thing that comes to us as soon as we pray and become humble, but needs practical exercise and repentance. Have I compared myself to others? Have I been competitive, jealous? Do I have ears that can hear? Have I been lowly?**
- ◆ With a hearing ear, we are less likely to be hurt, knowing that God speaks to me through others for my benefits. God is searching for such people, and that God will greatly reveal Himself to these people. **Unless we have a hearing ear outside, we cannot have a hearing ear inside**, and we cannot hear God's voice if we cannot hear people. God is watching a listening ear that hears a pulpit message, a brother's or sister's testimony, and truly acts on it, so He will speak more to these people.

IV. Conclusion

- ◆ **We are receiving God's word and listening to the sermon together. But you will find that after a few years, why do some people run fast? It's because they have ears that can hear.**
- ◆ **The thing that prevents us from having ears that can hear is when we are high-minded and arrogant.** A humble person is able to listen to everything anyone says. The humble person does not tend to suspect the worst, but accepts it as benefits for him.

Humility (VI) Assignment

1. Why did King Uzziah become arrogant?
2. Do you disregard the advice you receive from your pastor, counselor, or parents? If this has happened, what are the reasons?
3. What does Pastor Hans Waldvogel think is the most important thing for a person who serves God?
4. If you were Samuel, would you be willing to submit to Eli the priest?
5. Why was Naaman not willing to do what Elisha said at the beginning? What was the turning point for Naaman to be cured?
6. Are there things that you don't take for granted rationally, so you don't want to do them?
7. In *The Final Quest*, who is the hardest enemy to see after you have experienced glory?
8. We are pursuing God together with our brothers and sisters. Why are some people running fast on this heavenly path? What do you think is stopping you from progressing?