

## Humble During the Highs and Lows

We have heard many times that we are supposed to be humble. God looks at humbleness differently than humans do. People who seem brash and “full of themselves” are not fun to be around. Their success seems to increase their brashness. It is really all about ego. We listen to post-game interviews of players on a winning sports team and wonder if they will gloat in victory or give credit to teammates and others.

Two important concepts come to mind. They complement each other well, although from different ends of the spectrum. One speaks to our ego, especially our need to be valued, while the other looks how we respond to a deflated self-image.

Pastor and Christian author Tim Keller talked about humbleness as “thinking about ourselves less.” That is far different than “thinking less about ourselves.” The humble person doesn’t base his ego on what other people think. Instead, the humble person “forgets himself” and thinks more about other people. Humility “means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself.” It doesn’t have to be all about me and my desire to compare favorably with other people. Every day is not a test of what others or I think about myself because what really matters is God’s acceptance of me. His validation comes at the end of life, not the daily affirmation that we subject ourselves to in our rat-race of a world.



At the opposite end of the spectrum, it is easy to get down on ourselves and think this is being humble. We know our weaknesses. We know what we have done wrong at times in our lives. Looking introspectively we could reach the conclusion that we are not suitable to be seen as holy or sanctified by God. If we reach that conclusion what is this saying to God? And, how does God receive our conclusion?

The Greek translation for sanctification is to “make holy,” or to be “set apart.” The sanctification of man is the highest goal for God’s work. He wants us to be one with Him, as much as humanly possible in this life. *It is God’s will that you should be sanctified... (1 Thessalonians 4:3)*. So, taking an attitude that we can’t be good enough to be saved may sound like it is being humble, but it is an “act of defiance to God,” says Oswald Chambers.

To say that we are saved and sanctified might sound arrogant to others but it is the conclusion that God wants us to make. Being sanctified means we are God’s own. Being sanctified is what God does to save us. We are led by the Spirit and seek to fulfil God’s purposes. This doesn’t mean we are pure or sinless, but that we are submitting more and more of our life to Him. Don’t pay attention to what other people think. Instead, say boldly that we are saved because this is what God wants for us. That is humbleness because we are placing our trust in God and having faith in the Savior. Take comfort in being the person God intended you to be. *By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain ... (1 Corinthians 15:10)*.

**The Bible Says:** “*Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy*” (Lev 19:2)

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. We are yours. We believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior. We believe you made us for a purpose and we carry out that purpose as we focus on others rather than ourselves. We believe that we are Saved because of your Grace. In humbleness we submit our lives to You. Amen.

Note: This devotion is based on quotes from [My Utmost for His Highest](#), by Oswald Chambers and from [The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness](#), by Tim Keller.