

The Heart Beat

November 2008
Vol. 2, Issue 8

a publication of Renewed Hearts, Inc.

I Know, Lord..., by Gary and Tanya James

Have you ever met a person that seems like they have the knowledge to do just about anything, but yet they seem so humble? They can sing, preach, teach, draw, write, etc. and yet they never, ever talk about how good they are.



Humility is one of the hardest character traits to find in people today. We are told to be all that you can be and don't let anyone turn you around. While that is true in a sense, having that mindset can also be detrimental.

This attitude often leads us to not be quite as willing to learn from others. We sometimes forget that God speaks through people to help us learn and grow.

What is humility? According to Strong's Bible Concordance, it is condescension, human and

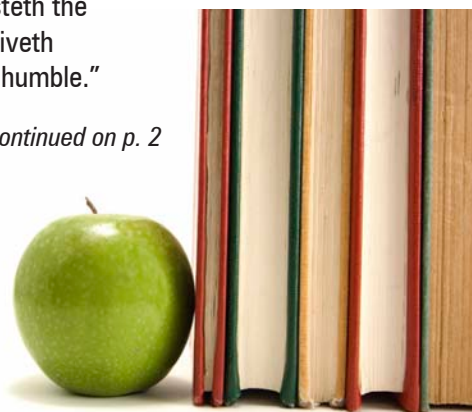
subjective (modesty), or divine and objective (clemency): - gentleness, meekness. Webster's Dictionary states that it is: "Freedom from pride and arrogance; lowliness of mind; a modest estimate of one's own worth; a sense of one's own unworthiness through imperfection and sinfulness; An act of submission or courtesy. Humility consists in rating our claims low, in being willing to waive our rights, and take a lower place than might be our due. It

does not require of us to underrate ourselves." *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

Jesus chose 'unlearned' men, "Passing by the self-righteous Jewish teachers, the Master Worker chose humble, unlearned men to proclaim the truths that were to move the world." *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 17. He chose men that had humble, teachable minds. Sometimes our 'education' can get in the way of us learning from someone who may be 'less educated', thus causing us to think we are 'experts' and therefore 'non-experts' can't possibly know as much. Even the wisest of people have room to learn something. Each time something is discovered, you are actually learning.

When you know so much, it is hard to tell you anything! The funny thing about it all is that we really don't know much. That is why we have to depend on God to give us what we need. The Bible says that wisdom comes from God. (*See Ecclesiastes 2:26, Luke 21:15, and James 1:5*) God looks for those who have a teachable spirit. There is so much that we don't know about God and He wants to reveal it to us so desperately. But we have to first be willing to learn by being teachable. 1Peter 5:5b says, "...Be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

See I Know, continued on p. 2



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I Know, continued from p. 1

Some of us have a false humility. We talk about ourselves and our accomplishments in a slick way. We code and manipulate conversation until it points in the direction of being able to talk about our accomplishments. So often we give men praise and not praise the One who makes it possible for us to even be able to accomplish anything. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with giving someone encouragement, but we must remember to always keep it in perspective - God gets the glory and praise, not us.

Others take opportunities to do their own thing instead of working for the overall good of those around them. Some will take testimony time to get on their soapbox about how displeased they are



with someone or with the church. Some take advantage of opportunities in church services to do and say what they please instead of what was asked. Some people force their testimony on others whenever they feel like it. Some will selfishly hold up the greeting line for the Pastor to make their request or give their complaints, not once considering the other people behind them that would like to also greet the Pastor. We have a long way to go!

Remaining humble requires a daily denial of self and a daily renewal of dependence on God. We have to have open minds. When we hear things that may seem strange or new, either in passing, from the pulpit, from a church member or

from a friend, we should check it out and consult God. It may be something that He wants to reveal to you. The disciples were presenting truth in a way that the people were not accustomed to. It was strange to them. Some fought against it because they didn't agree, while others checked it out and found new life. It is so hard for some of us to admit that what we believed may not be what is true. Jesus often said "Ye have heard..., but I say...." God says that "His thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways His ways." *Isaiah 55:8 (paraphrased).*

Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

James 4:6, 10



Gary and Tanya James are the Ministry Directors for Renewed Hearts, Inc.

Short Cutz.....

Landline -vs- Mobile Phone

Technology has created many communication options that are available to the consumer. Not too long ago, I remember a time when only a few people could afford the luxury of a mobile phone. With affordable rates plans, along with the available number of cellular providers, mobile phone usage has grown to an all time high.

One option to consider is what is



known as Stand-alone DSL or Cable Internet. This is when you have DSL or cable service but not a conventional landline.

The use of the mobile phone as your primary number and long distance carrier is a growing option for many. By eliminating the bells and whistle charges, taxes and add on fees of a typical landline, you could save quite a bit of money per month. Of course this option is not for everyone as some are inclined to feel a little more secure knowing they have a landline as a backup

if needed. Some cellular carriers offer rollover minutes in which many users have a large surplus. These surplus minutes will more than suffice for normal landline usage as well as long distance calling. These rollover minutes will expire if they are not used in a certain amount of time.

If you really want to save money in these tough economic times, then I am sure you don't want to pay for minutes that you are not using. Do a little research, check it out and see what options are available to you.



It's My Money Isn't It?, by Karla Bliss

Humility in Finances

O.K., I've heard a lot about humility but how can you be humble in finances? I was puzzled when we were given this topic as the theme for this month but after some discussion, reading and studying, my questions began to find answers. It didn't take long to discover that the more I read and studied humility & the Christian, humility & relationships, humility & the church, humility & temptation, and humility with finances the more I saw that within the study of this simple word lies a treasure box with a hidden key to solving **most** of life's problems. The more I studied, the more I saw how far from the mark I am. If we truly exercised humility many of the issues we deal with at church, work, or home **would not** exist.

Many believe that after they return a faithful tithe, the rest of the money they earn is theirs to do with as they please, but humble people realize that all of the money is God's and that they are just stewards. They realize that, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1. Therefore, it's easier to give back because they know the money doesn't belong to them anyway.

One of the best definitions for humility was quoted by John in John 3:30 "He must increase but I must decrease." If we decrease at home, at school, at church and in our relationships what would happen financially? We



wouldn't spend so much time arguing about money because we would practice Romans 12:10 by being kind to each other, honoring each other above our own wishes.

We would not value our opinion on finances above that of other members of our family. We would not seek to satisfy our own desires at the expense of the family. A family who practices humility does not get into debt trying to keep up with others by buying the best homes, cars and clothing because they are more concerned with building up the Kingdom rather than building bigger homes.

Remember these signs from grade school? (<, >, =) They stood for less than,

greater than and equal to. A humble person signifies the less than sign because he thinks more and more of others and a lot less of self. He esteems others greater than himself. A humble person doesn't claim equality with others. He takes off the robe of self-righteousness and puts on the righteous robe of Christ.

How would a financially humble church look? It would not be struggling from month to month trying to pay the bills. If the youth needed to go on an outing it wouldn't be a problem. If someone needed help getting a child in church school they would be

helped rather than turned away. They wouldn't have to rely

on fundraisers to raise money. The members would spend less on wants and return tithe and offerings even if their funds are low and the debts are high because they would not trust in their own understanding above God's.

A financially humble Christian's persona should exemplify the words of the old hymn "Not I, But Christ, be honored, loved exalted; Not I, but Christ, be seen, be known, be heard; Not I, but Christ, in every look and action, Not I, but Christ, in every thought and word. Now that's true humility.



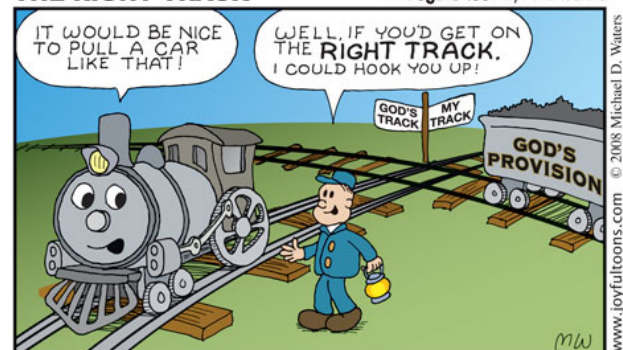
Quote of the Month

"Humility leads to strength and not to weakness. It is the highest form of self-respect to admit mistakes and to make amends for them."

by John J. McCloy

THE RIGHT TRACK

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- MATTHEW 6:33 KJV

Family First: Humility Begins at Home, by Marsha Peters

I believe humility begins at home. Humility is not something people are born with, it is a way of life that must be cultivated. How can we do that? 2Peter 5: 6 says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." If you look at the verse above that, it says, "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." So humility is being "subject" to one another; it's the opposite of being proud, and only God can give it to you.



Humility is a must in family relationships. There are times in a marriage when things are so strained that if one of the partners does not humble themselves and say, "I'm sorry", or "Can we talk?", things will continue to spiral out of control. It could be that you both desperately need some time alone, or a break from everything, but you both can't do it at the same time. One of you looks at both sides and says' "Honey, take the car and go do something for yourself, I think you need it more than I do." Maybe you committed an offense that hurt the other very deeply,

such as, infidelity. It takes a lot of Jesus and a truly humble spirit to be able to say, "I will take you back", or "I forgive you". That's humility or being subject one to another.

Humility is also needed in our relationships with our children. There have been times when I have talked harshly to my son because of his behavior, and the reprimand may have been deserved, but the harshness wasn't. I could see that my hasty words wounded his spirit. I had to go back and apologize to him. That's hard to do when you are the parent, but I'd rather go back and make it right than to have a wall go up between us. They say things are caught rather than taught. When children see us exemplifying humility, they imitate us.

Sometimes family members or friends fall out with each other. It takes a humble spirit to make things smooth again, especially when you think you are right. Jesus said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3.

Children have humble, forgiving spirits. They might be upset with each other for a few minutes, but then all is forgiven and forgotten. When was the last time you humbled "yourself under the mighty hand of God?"



Inspiration

Not I, But Christ

Melody by Albert Benjamin Simpson
Lyrics by Mrs. A. A. Whiddington

Not I, but Christ,
be honored loved exalted;
Not I, but Christ,
be seen, be known, be heard;
Not I, but Christ,
in every look and action,
Not I, but Christ,
in every thought and word.

Not I, but Christ,
to gently soothe in sorrow,
Not I, but Christ,
to wipe the falling tear;
Not I, but Christ,
to lift the weary burden,
Not I, but Christ,
to hush away all fear.
Christ only Christ!
No idle word e'er falling,
Christ only Christ;
no needless bustling sound;
Christ only Christ;
to self important bearing;
Christ only Christ;
no trace of "I" be found.

Not I, but Christ,
my every need supplying,
Not I, but Christ,
my strength and
health to be;
Christ only
Christ,
for body, soul,
and spirit.
Christ, only
Christ,
here and
eternally.



Thank You!, submitted by Lorraine Calliste (author unknown)

Dear God:

I want to thank You for what You have already done. I am not going to wait until I see results or receive rewards; **I am thanking You right now.** I am not going to wait until I feel better or things look better; **I am thanking You right now.**

I am not going to wait until people say they are sorry or until they stop talking about me: **I am thanking You right now.** I am not going to wait until the pain in my body disappears; **I am thanking You right now.**

I am not going to wait until my financial situation improves; **I am going to thank You right now.** I am not going to wait until the children are asleep and the house is quiet; **I am thanking You right now.** I am not going to wait until I get promoted at work or until I get the job; **I am going to thank You right now.**

I am not going to wait until I understand every experience in my life that caused me pain or grief; **I am thanking You right now.** I am not going to wait until the journey gets easier or the challenges are removed;

I am thanking You right now.

I am thanking You because I am alive. **I am thanking You** because I made it though the day's difficulties. **I am thanking You** because I have walked around the obstacles.

I am thanking You because I have the ability and the opportunity to do more and do better. **I am thanking You** because FATHER, **YOU** haven't given up on me.



"I Believe I'll Testify", by Derek Peters

He has showed you, O' man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NIV)

What does God require of us? He requires humility; Christ-like humility. If we would be humble, we must put no confidence in self. Daily we must know and understand that self is not to be trusted.

Humility is the attitude of heart, mind and life that prepares the way for sanctification. Humility is often mentioned by New Testament writers as a cardinal Christian



virtue. In fact, humility is a quality highly prized by God Himself (1Peter 3:4). Humility toward God means that we will accept His will and His dealings with us as good, and that we submit to Him in all things without hesitation.

A humble man has self under complete control. He has learned the grace of humility as exemplified by Christ Himself. He will in no wise allow himself to become proud if rewarded, or angry if slighted, because he recognizes his total unworthiness and standing with God.

In society today, humility is viewed with scorn, and we are extolled to be aggressive and competitive to achieve

success, even if it means sacrificing our integrity, or riding roughshod over other people with little regard for the consequences of our actions. Sadly, we often witness the definite lack of humility in church meetings, as members rip into each other over "perceived slights or infringements on their authority." Let us remember, my friends, that it was through pride of self that our first parents lost the kingdom entrusted to them. We don't want to lose out on eternal life because we lack Christ-like humility.

The humble are to "inherit the earth." It is evident that they do not inherit it right now, but rather the proud. Nevertheless, in due time, the kingdoms of this world will "become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever." Humbly, I want to be there! Don't you?

Top lessons a consumer should learn, submitted by Tanya James

Article By VICKI LEE PARKER,
McClatchy Newspapers

Just as we look for ways to save and maintain our household budgets, we should also evaluate our skills and talents and make sure we are using them to their fullest earning capacity. I want share the top lessons I've learned in the past three years.



- **Haggle** - I have used it whenever possible with plumbers, movers,

store clerks, car dealers, banks and credit card companies. I've learned that most things and services are way overpriced and negotiable.

- **Check for discounts** - There are hundreds of discounts out there, and you're bound to qualify for one or more (because of your age, where you work, that you're in school or in the military, or you belong to organizations like AAA).
- **Complain more** - Don't let it slide when businesses mistreat you and fail to deliver what

they've promised. Take names and numbers. There are Web sites where you can vent, www.consumeraffairs.com and www.ripoffreport.com.

- **Read the fine print** - Stop blindly signing agreements. Take time to familiarize yourself with the terms you are agreeing to.
- **Do your homework and get second opinions** - Check references and make calls. It can be time-consuming, but the cost of not doing it is high.

see Lesson, continued on p. 7

In Case You Didn't Know, story modified by Todde Bliss, Sr.

A story was told about an Emperor who had a secret garden. In this secret garden was his prize possession, a bamboo tree. The tree started out as a young bamboo shoot being barely noticeable at first. As time went by, the bamboo began to grow into a big beautiful plant. The Emperor would go into his garden to admire it. The bamboo felt the presence of the Emperor.



With each passing day, the bamboo tree got bigger and stronger and the Emperor admired it that much more. One day the Emperor said to the bamboo tree, "Because of your strength, power, and beauty, I have to cut you down, strip you of your leaves, hack off your branches, split you in half and tear your heart out!"

The bamboo tree said to the Emperor, "Do I not please you?" The Emperor said, "Yes, of course. I'm doing this because you please me so." With that the Emperor cut the bamboo tree down, stripped off the leaves, hacked off its branches and tore out its heart. What was left was the shell of that once beautiful, and much admired bamboo tree. You see, all was not lost. The Master gently carried the bamboo tree to a spring of fresh sparkling water, laid down its broken mangled body into a running stream and the other end into a water channel in the middle of his dry fields. As the sparkling water joyously cascaded down the bamboo's torn body, it watered the dry thirsty fields. Then the rice was planted, and the days went by, and the shoots grew and the harvest came.

In that day Bamboo, once so glorious

in his stately beauty, was yet more glorious in his brokenness and humility. For in his beauty he was life abundant, but in his brokenness he became a channel of abundant life to his Master's world.

In Case You Didn't Know...

The needs of the many outweighs the need of the one. Christ sacrificed His life for us in that while we were yet sinners he died for us. We are all familiar with one of the greatest quotes in the Bible...

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16*

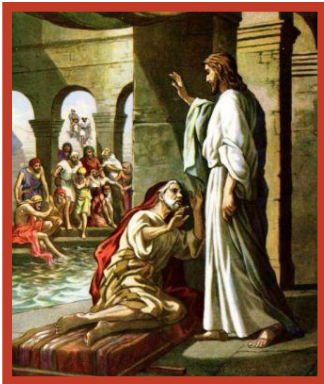
Are you willing to sacrifice your life for the cause of God so that

others can LIVE! In your brokenness, can the Lord use you as His instrument in this messed up world?



Health: Lean on Me, by Karla Bliss

I want to draw your attention to St. John chapter five. A narrative takes place around a pool called Bethesda. And around this pool lay many who had ailments and waited patiently for the moving



of the water because an angel went down at a certain season to this pool and troubled the water. The first one in the water after the troubling of the water would be healed.

Many in need of healing could not get to the water because they were **weak**. Some I'm sure even died being trampled upon by others who also needed healing but were **stronger than the weak**. It would take weeks for many to get to the waters edge because they had to go a little at time. One particular man caught Christ's attention. He was very sick and much of his sickness was as a result of his own lifestyle. He was alone and friendless feeling that he was cut off from God's mercy forever. Christ asked, "Wilt thou be made whole?" He said, "I want to be whole, but when I try to get to the water the multitude of people push me out of the way, walk over me, walk on me and get in the water before me." In other words when the time came for healing he had no one to help him to the water.

Now fast forward to 2008. There are a large number of people who are in need of healing who come

to the pool of Bethesda (the church) every week for healing. Some seek physical healing from things such as HIV, AIDS or Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Some seek healing from mental, spiritual, emotional or relational problems such as depression, unforgiveness, addictions, or family problems.

Feeling unworthy, alone, and cut off from God they physically or figuratively try to make it to the moving of the waters at the altar of God for healing. There are many who don't make it and some struggle because they keep getting trampled by others through gossip and disapproval. With their cries being heard, a voice echoes from heaven, "Wilt thou be made whole?" "We want to be made whole," they reply, "But there is no one to take us to the altar – through prayer, encouragement, friendship and discipleship. We're at Bethesda; we're at the pool, but the saints are walking over us, on us, and around us, and we can't get through."

There are two lessons on humility here, one for the sick in need of healing, and one for the multitude. For the one who is weaker and keeps trying to make it to the edge of the pool, don't be too proud to say, "Hey God, Hey somebody, I need help!" It takes humility to take your worn out, tired, weak and unworthy self to the altar, **alone**, and fall on your face to God. It takes humility to share your brokenness with others so they can grow.



The lesson for the multitude or church is that, as you come to Jesus for restoration and healing, don't forget your brother or sister who is down on the side of the road. The only time you should look down on someone is when you're picking them up. Sometimes the "Great Physician" uses humble people like you or me to help restore those who may be weaker. Maybe, if you help each other, you both can get to the pool. Someone is at the side of the pool NOW! **Can they lean on you?**

Lesson, continued from p.6

- **Get help.** - Give up the notion that you can do everything yourself (taxes, financial planning, etc.). Don't get me wrong, I still advocate doing some things yourself (Internet resources and software make it possible) but we can't do it all. It's important to know when to get a professional.
- **Plan for retirement.** - It's coming.
- **Shop online more.** - A number of readers have bragged about the great deals and bargains they have found online, especially eBay and Craigslist.
- **Maintain your car.** - I used to tease my sister for taking her car in for maintenance checkups. I thought greedy mechanics were taking her for a ride. But when she drove her Honda for nearly a decade after it was paid for and was still able to trade it in, I thought differently.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com>

Check out our website!

www.renewedheartsinc.org

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If you would like to submit an article, a poem, or share a testimony, email:

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Please pray for the following families:
(Initials are used for confidentiality reasons)

- EL
- J & S
- KU
- DF
- N & J
- G & T

Also, please pray for:

- Our finances and the economy
- Those who have lost their jobs
- Those who are abused
- Our families
- Our Churches and Pastors
- The youth and young adults
- A grant writer - to help raise funds in order to provide needed services.
- A facility for this ministry

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Conversations With God..., by Gary D. James, Sr.

How often have you heard about the importance of prayer? I have read many books that were devoted on the importance of prayer. Prayer has been defined by many authors as a conversation with God.

When I think about a conversation, what comes to mind is at least two people who are listening and responding to each other. I wonder how much we talk as opposed to listening when it comes to our conversations with God. When you are finished saying all that you have to say, do you take the time to listen to what He has to say? Are you then ready and willing to respond to His will?

The scripture tells us that even though prayer is the breath of the soul and the key



to spiritual power, it is just as vital for us to come to God with humility and be willing to submit ourselves to His will in spite of how we may want things to turn out. This may often times conflict with our feelings, which can change like the ups and downs of a roller coaster. God places emphasis on the **spirit of humility** in His word. Notice where God places this character attribute of humility in relation to prayer...

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Before you pray, be sure that you first humble yourself, so that your conversations with God will be meaningful.