

Humility: The Freedom that Comes When Pride Goes

Part 1

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Healing Emphasis

We starting a communion emphasis in house church. I'm sick of sickness. We need to be careful that we don't concede ground to the enemy.

Many believers, when they get the word of what Jesus did on the Cross for our healing ("by His stripes you ARE healed." 1 Pe. 2:24), actually turn that faith process into a work. Watch yourself. Even the promises of God aren't meant to become a work.

Many believers do this. The young men that 1 John 2:12-14 talks about are often in that process. They are learning the words of faith and the promises of God, and yet, in a way, they are still not operating with the heart of the Father fully yet ... they've got a lot of it, but not fully yet. So they end up in something of a condemnation if they don't see someone healed. Don't do that, OK? I'm just speaking to you with the heart of the Father. Don't do that. Whether they're healed or whether they're not, whether you're healed or whether you're not, you don't need to get into works about faith. It's a subtlety, but it's a big deal.

People a lot of times worry "well if I really believe for healing and I don't see someone healed, what do you what should I ... what's the theology for that?" At the risk of oversimplifying something that's been discussed for 2000 year, let me share a few pillars of thought around that question:

1. Good only comes from God and ONLY good comes from God. That's James 1 and 1 John 1. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Sickness is not from God. Death came through sin and sickness is a precursor to death. That whole system came from sin and sin did not come from God. No one's ever sick because of God. Therefore no one is ever not healed because of God not being willing for them to be healed. You can't change your theology and the nature of God in order to fit your experience. To do so is not good.
2. If you have faith as a mustard seed, it *will* work. A lot of times we think "I had faith, I prayed, and nothing happened." You did *not* have faith. If you had faith as a mustard seed mountains

would move and I'm sure many of us have experienced that before ... where you know that you know that something is going to happen and you lay hands on someone and you pray and they are healed! You had faith even as a mustard seed and it WORKED. But if you doubt still in your heart, it's not going to work. You might think "well that's not encouraging." Actually, no, it's really liberating! Now we don't have to create complex systems of theology in order to explain why my faith didn't work this time. No, actually, your faith will always work if it's faith! A lot of times we don't realize we are in a process of faith going from our head to our heart. Once it's in your heart, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. So you just have to keep sowing the Word, and meditating on the Word and it will eventually germinate and sprout up in your heart and at some point your harvest will come! (see Mark 4)

3. (See above - about no condemnation b/c praying in faith is not meant to become a work :)

ASIDE: Happy St. Patrick's Day! St. Patrick was alive about 400AD. Do you know that he raised 33 people from the dead? So great a cloud of witnesses! This account was written by a monk in the 1100's: "For the blind and the lame, the deaf and the dumb, the palsied, the lunatic, the leprous, the epileptic, all who labored under any disease, did he in the Name of the Holy Trinity restore unto the power of their limbs and unto entire health; and in these good deeds was he daily practiced. Thirty and three dead men, some of whom had been many years buried, did this great reviver raise from the dead, as above we have more fully recorded." Welcome to St. Patrick!

The Daughters of the Lion ... are also Lions!

As I was driving to church to prepare this sermon, the Lord spoke to me about the women of the church. You all are powerful. He likes it.

Megan got a prophetic word in 2012 from a powerful prophetic couple we had not met before. I was just listening to that word recently because I am living that word right now which they spoke over me. One of the things they spoke over Megan was about the Lion one the Tribe of Judah. They said this "the daughter of the Lion is also a lion!"

The daughters of the Lion are also lions. We've been talking about "the righteous are as bold as a lion."

The power of women has on one hand had the knees cut out from it in society. And, on the other hand, it has been falsely propped up in a weird way that doesn't help.

So much of what we've seen of the rebellious spirit in the women's movement is actually in response to fear and control. 1 Samuel 15:23 says "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft." What's the essence of witchcraft? Manipulation and control. Manipulation means to "set your hand upon." When they are casting spells they are trying to control other people.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. Rebellion is as manipulation and control. If you want to find out why someone is rebellious you can trace their history and find fear, manipulation, and control that was at some point administered to them that they responded to with rebellion - which is also fear, manipulation, and control in a different way. It's the same spirit.

So this has happened to women.

The same enemy who was putting women under fear, manipulation, and control is now also empowering some women to use fear, manipulation, and control in the form of rebellion in order to try to "stake their claim." But men should have honored them to start with.

I didn't plan to tell you all this other than yesterday the Lord spoke this to me "the daughter of the Lion is also a lion!"

Just to be a little bit well-rounded: Yes, wives are supposed to submit to their own husbands and husbands are supposed to love their wife with a self-sacrificial love. Both. (Eph. 5:22, 25)

Yes, wives are told to submit to their husband before that part about husbands loving their wives because you're never going to find a husband that loves you perfectly - so you have to choose to submit because you can't wait until he loves you perfectly in order to choose to submit.

It's important that leaders in the body of Christ speak as though to the family of God. I'll correct my boys about things but if I don't correct the church about things and say "hey, I don't think some of us have thought correctly about this or that" then I am actually not doing my job.

Women are not supposed to submit to all men. You won't find that in the scripture. A wife is supposed to submit to her husband. Do you understand? Those are singular.

In Ephesians 5, right before we read "wives, submit to your own husbands" and "husbands love your wives" with a self-sacrifice, give-yourself-like-Christ-gave-Himself sort of love, we read verse 21 *"submitting to one another in the fear of God."*

We tend to only think of submission in terms of military hierarchy. Looking at the Greek word for submission, there is perhaps something of that to it because it means to "place yourself under" so there is perhaps something of that to it. But what does "submitting to one another" in the body of Christ mean?

I've actually seen this so beautifully in our board meetings. It's a mutual submission. It's almost like a "submission soup." When we are meeting as a board we all share ideas. Now I am the lead pastor of the church so I lead the board, but if I share an idea, but then Bryan shares an idea and Holy Spirit witnesses in us that what Bryan just shared is "it" ... although we've all shared ideas, we all get excited and say "that's it! Yes!"

You need the Holy Spirit to do mutual submission because you are submitting to one another being that you are all carriers of Holy Spirit - knowing that Holy Spirit will identify who's speaking the path forward in that particular instance.

Righteousness: The Launchpad to Bold Faith

2 Corinthians 5:21 says Jesus became sin for you that you might become the righteousness of God in Him! ““For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

Romans 5:17 says you've received the gift of righteousness. You may think “I know I've received the gift of salvation” but you actually also received righteousness (right standing before the Father) as part of the salvation gift package! “For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)”

2 Corinthians 3:7-11 shows us that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is called the “ministry of righteousness” - that's what Holy Spirit is ministering to you as a believer! In John 16:7-11 we see the Holy Spirit is convicting the world of sin because they have not believed in Jesus' work on the Cross but **He's convicting believers of RIGHTEOUSNESS!** Holy Spirit is not leading you into a sin consciousness; He's leading you into a righteousness consciousness.

Who's obedience made you righteous? Christ's! So you remind the devil of that because the accuser of the brethren is trying to get you to focus on your obedience so that he can condemn you. Romans 5:19 says that it was by One Man's obedience that you were made righteous. “*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also **by one Man's obedience** many will be made righteous.*” I'm not that One Man!

Romans 8:1 says there is “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*” Most believers are experiencing a lot of condemnation because they are not walking according to the Spirit but instead according to the flesh. Some will read what I just said and think “amen, brother, yes, stop sinning!” No, what that means is that those who are setting their mind on their flesh - on their performance, their ability, their obedience - will experience condemnation. Condemnation has a precursor - and it's to set your mind on your performance and your obedience. When we set our mind upon what He has done - His obedience - then we will walk in the reality of our no condemnation life which Jesus bought for us.

The last time I said “your flesh profits nothing!” Actually Jesus said it, I just repeated it! John 6:63 *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.”* “But I really want my flesh to profit something ...” We’ll work on that :)

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.” Galatians 2:16 says *“by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”* You can’t get righteous by your works. Remember, that’s what the Bible means by the “flesh” - your works, your efforts, your obedience, your might, your power.

You might say “but I want to walk rightly Peter, I don’t want to sin!” Earnest believer - wonderful; I love that! But how? Galatians 5:16 *“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* It’s by focusing on Jesus and setting your eyes on the author and perfecter of your faith that you walk into purity. The works of the flesh - from the mind that is set on the flesh - are self evident. But the fruit of the Spirit ...

Watch this: Galatians 5 uses this language “the works of the flesh” and the “fruit of the Spirit.” What a difference! The flesh - you have to WORK at it and then you get those sorts of results! With the Spirit, you produce fruit naturally through abiding in the Vine. “Apart from Me you can do nothing.”

“But I really want to be doing something apart from You ... so that I can boast.”

“Don’t say that, Peter, that got a little bit too honest.”

Romans 8:8 *“So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”* Those who are focusing on their ability, their effort, their performance, their obedience cannot please God. Why? Because being in the flesh is actually antithetical to walking in faith. Hebrews 11:6 says you can’t please God apart from walking in faith!

You can’t please God if you are in the flesh (Rom. 8:8) and you can’t please God apart from faith (Heb. 11:6). Put them together: if you are in the flesh you can’t walk in faith. Focusing on our flesh actually sabotages our faith.

What’s that look like practically? I’ll share a story I’ve shared before. I was in the PetsMart parking lot and someone clearly needed prayer for their shoulder. But right before that I was at Home Depot and I cut off someone in the check-out line! I sped up and got in the line in front of them. I realized I had done it and said “I’m so sorry; you can go first.” Little old ladies beware; Pastor Peter is in a hurry!

So then I go to PetsMart after that - not feeling like the greatest saint in the world. Not quite condemned but not necessarily feeling like I was having a 3rd Heaven experience right now! This lady at PetsMart has a shoulder problem and I’m thinking “you ought to pray for her.” Now, in the

past I might have very well considered what I had done at Home Depot while deciding if I was going to pray for the lady at PetsMart. But, to be honest with you, I didn't even let my mind go there (to what I had done at Home Depot), and that was some maturity.

I said to myself "you do not need to consider your own flesh and thereby become weak in faith!" (Romans 4) Abraham not being weak in faith did NOT consider his own flesh, but grew strong in faith believing that God was able to accomplish what it is that He had promised!

So by not considering my own flesh, I asked her what was going on with her shoulder. It had been hurt for a year. It was called "frozen shoulder." I prayed over her - not for long - and she's swinging her shoulder around "woo! woo!" totally healed! Running to her car "thanks!" as she drives away!

So she was healed because I was perfect in my flesh and I thought all about it.

WRONG! That will sabotage your faith!

Humility: The Freedom that Comes When Pride Goes

As I mentioned, it is my intention to speak to a number of the different facets of the grace-life. This message (which may consist of 3 or 4 Sundays) is called "Humility: The Freedom that Comes When Pride Goes." I guess it's good when you are starting a message on humility to be humble so I'll start with a little bit of my story ...

I got the gospel of grace in such a tremendous revelation over a 6 or so year period. About 5 or 6 years ago - after I really got the gospel of grace - I had so entered the rest of God (like Hebrews 4 talks about "labor to enter His rest") that I literally asked this question "what do I do now?"

Some of you don't catch the irony of that.

Now that I don't have to do works, what works shall I do? So I was walking in a great revelation of the grace of God, but something was missing. So, 2 years ago, I started to have a series of dramatic encounters with the Lord where He did a work in my heart - and that work was around humility.

This series is coming out of that place.

I'm always trying to teach out of what I have - not just what I see - because the Word has to become flesh. So that's how I at least try / purpose in my heart to teach in general, but this message, in particular, I'm carrying an impartation with this message. I really believe that people are going to be set free. What took me 2 years of process you could get in 2 months.

God has given me what I call a Hansel and Gretel anointing. Where He's taken me, I can bring people back there along a breadcrumb trail. You might say "well that's proud, Peter, to say that." No it's just accurate. That's how He's moved in my life. He's not given me a clerical / organizational

anointing. Praise God there are others who can help me organize our storage space! I know where I am good and I know where I am weak and it's OK to be both.

So I want to speak about humility: the freedom that comes when pride goes.

Why Humility?

Let's look at Matthew 11:28-30. *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

We've all read this for years. I remember reading that verse as a young believer and thinking "Jesus, yoke up with me YESTERDAY! I do have a heavy heart; I've got 'not rest' in my soul!"

The reality is most people in the world have a unhealthy heart. Depression is an absolute evidence point of something being unhealthy in our hearts. Please understand me that I am not being critical AT ALL. I'm just saying the heaviness of heart that so many people experience is absolute evidence that there is something wrong in their heart.

You're Going to be Met by Love

Again, the title of this series is "Humility: the Freedom that Comes When Pride Goes." Let me just give you a Cliff Notes version ... If you have pride in your life, first of all, unfortunately, welcome to the club. Second of all, God is faithful to finish what He's started in removing that. Finally, third of all, if you look at 1 John 2:15-16 you will see that antidote to pride is: the love of the Father.

So, if you find that you have pride in your life at some point during this sermon series, I have some terrible news for you: that means you have to receive more of the love of the Father.

That's as bad as the message of this sermon can get for you. The most it can hurt is that there is more of the Father's love that He wants to express to you.

Let me say that again: the worst this message series will hurt is that there is more of the Father's love that He wants to express to you.

That is not me speaking in euphemisms. I am telling you straight from the Word of God that if the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the PRIDE of life is in someone, the love of the Father is not yet in them in that area. The love of the Father drives pride out.

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the enemy, but he wasn't given to that temptaotin. How?

Later on, Jesus, referring to the enemy, said "He has nothing in Me." How is that?

What did Jesus hear directly before going into the wilderness to be tempted by the enemy?

“This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased!”

Our identity in Christ, the love of the Father, makes us absolutely immune to pride.

So to the extent that I have pride in my life is the extent to which I haven't experienced the love of the Father. I'm just telling you that this is as bad as this message gets!

Godly sorrow produces a repentance - a change of heart - about things. So when the Lord shows you something it is actually meant to bring you more joy. But sometimes *we can be so afraid to walk up to the caution tape in our life because we think that it is going to be some sort of terrible experience yet the only thing we're going to find in that place is the love of the Father waiting to meet us there.*

“Oh no, I have Pride in my Life!”

I was once speaking somewhere and I mentioned pride to someone. I was not talking about them. Later on, they were offended because they thought I was saying that they were full of pride. It was both sad and humorous.

Do you see what was happening?

I wasn't talking to them about pride in them. But, whatever pride was in them made it about them, and then that same pride made them offended that I talked to them about pride - which I wasn't talking to THEM about. Whoops!

I've got bad news for them: the love of the Father wants to meet them there!

It's THAT simple.

If I were actually talking to THEM about pride, from my end it still would have been like “what's the big deal; it just means that God's love wants to meet you in that place.”

With some of these things in our life we are standing far off because we don't want to approach them but God is saying “you're only going to be met by love.”

I'll say it again “you're only going to be met by Love.”

I've been starting to learn how to talk about pride. I've been crying out to the Lord “how do I talk about pride in the body of Christ” because sometimes people's response is like “PRIDE! Oh no, the sin that you can't have!” That's funny.

“I'm just having a BIG problem because I feel like I have ~whispers now~ pride in my life.”

Well let me just make this clear for you: you are having a big problem about having pride in your life because of pride in your life.

I know it sounds like circular logic, but I am telling you the honest to God truth about what's going on.

You freaking out about THE FACT that there IS sin in your life - is rooted in pride. The love of the Father will drive your need for perfection away from you.

“What if everything is OK right now?”

For years in my walk with God He has answered my questions. You know, you can't just read the Word and you can't just pray. You have to do both.

For years, that combo of being in the Word but also being in communication with Him has yielded so much revelation and personal breakthrough.

For my entire walk with God, I have often had this sort of conversation with God ... I will notice something in my heart that is off and I will say “Father, what was that?” “Something was off there ... what was that?” He will talk with me about it. I will know what it is. I will change my mind about it - and I will have a breakthrough. Praise God.

Well, during this time where the Lord was teaching me about humility, I had one of those things going on in my heart.

“God, what's that?”

Crickets.

“God, what's that?”

Crickets.

Huh.

“God, what's that?”

Crickets.

Then I hear Him clear as day “what if everything is OK right now?”

“Huh? There's a thing. It needs addressed. You answer my questions about these things and then I address them.”

“What if everything is OK right now?”

“But it’s not. There’s a thing and it needs addressed. You answer my questions and then I address them.”

“But what if everything is OK right now?”

“But it’s not.”

Well, I had that conversation with Him for a whole week. No solution. Just conversation - to the point that I forgot about it.

About a week or so later, I was on a long drive with plenty of time to think. I started thinking “God, there’s a problem. I’m talking to You about it. Tell me what’s going on and I will address it.”

All of a sudden I remember His phrase. Sometimes if you think God has gone silent on you, remember the last thing He said. Have you ever told a child one thing and they come back 10 minutes later for a different thing? You’re thinking “I already told you what to do.”

So I am driving and talking with the Lord and He reminds me “what if everything is OK right now?”

I’m like “this is kind of a hard one. You keep telling me this.” Over a 2 hour period ... it only took me 2 hours ... I’m quick witted and all that sort of thing. Over that 2 hour period, I came to this realization “the voice of my Father is the most secure place in the world.”

In other words, the place I came to was this “my Father says ‘everything is OK right now.’” I know He was asking me a question, but He was making a point. So I came to this point where I was thinking “that issue, it’s not addressed. I don’t even know what’s causing it so I can’t address it. I keep asking and He keeps not telling me. He just keeps asking ‘what if everything is OK right now?’”

So I came to the realization that “the voice of my Father is the most secure place in the universe for me.” And my Father is saying “everything is OK right now, isn’t it?”

What then happened that week is God gave me a revelation of sonship. He spoke to me and pointed out a verse to me from Hebrews 1 “I will be to you a Father and you will be to me a son.”

A part of sonship is to place your name upon someone. The Father placed His Name upon you when you were called a Christian - when you became a child of God. John 1 says that to everyone who believes He gives the right to be called children of God. When you became a Christian, He placed His name upon you.

What He said in doing that is He will never disassociate from His association with you. He will never separate Himself from you. He will never separate Himself from you. He will not cast you away. He doesn’t need you to be put together for you to be next to Him. He’s not ashamed of you.

He's not sending you off. With Him, everything is OK. I am telling you right now - with Him, everything is OK right now.

With Him - with your Father - as it relates to your life and any other issue you might have - everything is OK right now.

“What if everything is OK right now?”

What I found is that once I started believing that I was a son and that everything was OK right now areas of my life that I had never been able to touch all of a sudden became much more accessible to the love of the Father - to encounter the love of the Father in that exact place.

You can't see transformation of the hardest places of your life until you are in the safety of true love.

Spirit of Adoption

I was in Idaho ministering at a men's retreat. One night, before getting up to speak, I saw / had the impression of an angel in the room and this angel leaned over and kissed the foreheads of all these men. You know - like adult grown men who shoot guns and ski off cliffs.

(Jesus wept, men. Jesus wept. Some men become uncomfortable with this message, but know this - your discomfort is because you're uncomfortable with intimacy with the Father. Women are much more powerful than we know and actually men are much more sensitive than we realize. Both are necessary. Jesus wept.)

So anyway, I see this angel and kiss these guys on the forehead. I've gotten in the habit when I sense an angel to ask it its name.

Instantly, when I asked “what's your name” I hear “spirit of adoption.” Then the Lord spoke to me and said “you're going to get to minister with the spirit of adoption.”

Romans 8:14-15 tells us about the spirit of adoption *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”*

I am going to pray for you right now and I believe the spirit of adoption is going to minister to you. You don't have to feel anything, but you might.

I release the spirit of adoption to minister to you right now in Jesus' Name. That you would cry out “Abba, Father!”

“What if everything is OK right now?”

I pray that every place of fear would be replaced by your Father's love. Just receive it by faith: that every place of fear would be replaced by His love. Every place of fear will be replaced by His love!

The caution tape in our lives is going to meet bold faith. The areas that have been cautioned off for fear are going to be met by the spirit of adoption which says "I will be to you as a Father. You will be to Me as a son. There's nothing wrong in our relationship. There is no issue right now. What if everything is OK right now?"

Breakthrough comes from that place. It's perfect LOVE that casts out fear.

Get Ready!

So get ready - you might have some terrible news in this message series. You might find a place of pride in your life! You might have to encounter more of the love of God!

You might be touched in such a beautiful and precious way by Him that you had no idea that you could live in this sort of freedom.

This is how you step into humility.

Humility is the freedom that comes when pride goes.

Or, humility is the freedom that comes when the love of the Father rushes in.

Embrace His Process with You

Let me pastor you for a second: Some of you are going to have some encounters with the Lord that are going to be brand new already. Just embrace them. I shared my process with you where I was saying "God this is how we do that ... there's an issue, You tell me what's going on and I fix it." And the Father was saying "nope, not that way this time."

Sometimes God has to do something in you a new way in order to get you into a new place. So follow the lead of Holy Spirit because He will lead you into all truth.