

# Humility: The Freedom that Comes when Pride Goes

Part 7: The Father's Blessing

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## Full Text (for reading on your own)

### *Testimony: 8 Year Old Prays & Receives Strength from God*

Peter (8) started swimming last year on the swim team at our pool. They just had their first swim meet of this season. The coaches had Peter anchoring the last leg of a 4x25m relay. Peter started the last leg probably 7m or so (about a 1/4 or 1/3 of the length of the pool) behind the person that was in the lead. He ended up overtaking them and winning in the end! He came up to me after the race and told me he had a testimony:

“When I ran out of strength, I prayed to God to power me up again and that’s how we won!”

Right at the end, it looked like Peter was maybe going to get close to the leader but he ended up swimming right past them at the end ... and he came up to me and told me how he had prayed to God “to power up my muscles again and then we won!”

The testimony for me as a father is that we have a group of children here who’s first instinct in the heat of battle is to pray! That’s awesome! We have a group of children here who’s first instinct is to give glory to God and share the testimony!

It’s so significant that we do testimonies - not just for the adults, but also for the kids - that we have the kids share testimonies. They don’t have a junior Holy Spirit. They have less experience, but they are not having less experiences.

We are storing up an inheritance for ourselves by being part of shepherding and stewarding the children of this church. They will accomplish great things in their lives for the Lord. We all are going to have some part of that inheritance in the Lord.

When we arrive in Heaven we will truly see the value of our ministry upon this earth. We will have led one person to the Lord and then arrive in Heaven and discover they then led 33 people to the Lord, 3 of whom became pastors, 4 of whom became CEOs who impacted many lives, etc. That’s going to be an exciting day!

When you love on the kids here. When you prophecy over the kids here. When you sometimes correct the kids here in love. When you encourage the kids here, do you realize that you're sowing into their lives ... and you will reap a reward for what you sow into children's lives. What a privilege that we have to disciple these children!

### *Special Announcement!*

Please listen the recording from 5:30 - 19:40!

### *Updated Logo & Descriptive Branding!*

Please listen the recording from 19:40 - 34:50

### *Plan for June 30th*

Please listen the recording from 34:50 - 37:20

### *Promotion Tests*

Promotion tests. *"The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise."* Prov. 27:21 (ESV)

It doesn't mean "don't praise people." It just means we will be tested by the praise afforded to us. So we have to govern our hearts about that.

Remember I shared from Proverbs 21:1-3 last time. Solomon said to put a knife to your throat when you eat with a ruler if you are a man given to appetite. Don't desire his delicacies for they are deceptive food. If you are a person given to appetite ... in other words, you are trying to get your identity in the access, influence, and the resources that someone else has, you will compromise your convictions in order to step into their resources. So, Solomon, the richest man that ever lived, is saying "put a knife to your throat ... you are dealing with a matter of life and death here - whether you are going to give your life over to these resources that you want. So instead, remind yourself of what a grave matter this is and govern your own heart when you come into access and influence."

Promotion tests you more than failure does.

Promotion, by nature, is simply a change of platform.

That's a very helpful revelation! Promotion (in the Lord) is simply a change of platform. He exalts the humble. Humility positions you for exaltation.

Most people in the world are engaged in self-promotion. Not from God! Self-promotion is exceptionally damaging because it puts the burden of proof upon you and keeps it upon you. When you self-promote, now in that place you must maintain what you claimed.

When God promotes you, nothing changes - aside from your platform.

Your identity will always come from words, or from works.

Over top of the gates of the Nazi concentration camps was a phrase written in German “Arbeit macht frei.” It translates as “work sets you free.” The devil has been saying the same thing for a long time.

When we believe the lies of the enemy and step therefore out of the Word of God, we step into toil.

Adam and Eve received the lie of the enemy. “Did God really say? Did God really say?” What’s the result? Genesis 3:19! “*By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread ...*” Do you understand what happened? In departing from the WORD of God, they entered the WORKS of man.

You will either get your identity from His Word, or from works.

The difference between pride and humility is pride is about performance. Humility is about His Word. This is another facet of pride and humility.

### ***Breaking the Condemnation-Entitlement Cycle***

Let’s look again at 1 Corinthians 4:7 “*For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*”

Entitlement and condemnation are two sides of pride. Pride + Success = Entitlement. Pride + Failure = Condemnation. Both are about focusing on your performance, your flesh, your ability.

This is why people will boast as if they had not received it. When people have pride they have a need to get their identity in their performance. They have not yet received the love of the Father that has nothing to do with our performance and everything to do with HIS performance ... Therefore, they still have a need for an identity in their performance and almost like seeds that are just waiting for the right environment to sprout, those seeds of pride that are still in their heart because of the lack of the love of the Father that’s in their heart. Because of this, as soon as they get into the environment of success, entitlement blossoms. What’s that look like? They boast about their success as though it was not given to them.

I’ve shared with you transparently that I’ve bounced between condemnation and entitlement for years and I was finally like “Oh, that’s what that is!”

If you are struggling from that cycle, you get into condemnation so you seek the Lord and receive His grace and then you have success and you say “how’d I end up back in condemnation again?”

Sometimes in your place of greatest success - after you have a success in the Lord - you'll notice you get into a place of condemnation and I will tell you what happened —> you got into a place of entitlement first.

So if you give a sermon (I don't know anyone who's ever done this!) and it's really good and people give you praises for it ... and you are tested by the praises you receive from it ... and 3 hours later you feel bad about the sermon ... do you know what happened in between? Somewhere in between you thought "hey, that was good!"

The enemy says "you've given me a foothold; I'm now going to take advantage of it. You got into the flesh because you were thinking about your performance. And now that you are thinking about your performance, let me tell you about your performance ..." And he can lie to you all day about it.

Jesus didn't fall into this temptation.

Look, you will either live by words or by works.

In Matthew 3 Jesus has the Father say to Him "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" Jesus goes into the desert and satan says to Him in Matthew 4 "If You are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread." Do you notice what satan did? He questions the word of God that was just spoken over Jesus and says "do a work instead." "Prove it."

When we get into pride, we will either end up in condemnation because we didn't prove it, or entitlement, because we did (prove it). And just when you think you have proven it, satan will find something where you have not proven it and you will enter back into condemnation and the cycle repeats.

The issue is pride and the root of pride is not knowing that the love of the Father is TRULY unconditional.

Remember that 1 John 2:15-16 tells us that if we have pride (or lust by the way) it is because we've not yet experienced the love of the Father in that area of our lives. The love of the Father will drive pride out!

### *To Not Think Beyond What is Written*

That was 1 Corinthians 4:7. Let's go to the verse before that because there is a beautiful revelation here just one verse before in verse 6. Don't blink. This is like a little town on a country road and if you blink you are going to miss it. "*Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, **that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.***"

Jesus is called the beloved Son of God in Whom He is well pleased. He goes into the desert and what does satan do? “If you’re that, prove it! Do this ... do a work!” What’s Jesus’ answer?

“IT IS WRITTEN ...”

It will either be words or works that determine your identity. It will either be HIS words or our works that determine our identity. Part of humility is what I would call “identity dependency.” Humility is completely dependent upon the identity of who the Father has said that we are. Jesus has the Father speak over Him (1) Beloved, (2) Son, and (3) well pleased!

What is Jesus’ response? Isn’t that the moment for Him to be like “the ministry is starting! Hello! Everyone out of the way ... I’m about to show you a think or two!” The enemy tempts Him in that exact way. Jesus says “IT IS WRITTEN.”

Jesus says “it is written!” The word of His Father was His arrival point! He knew that words were going to determine His identity - not works!

*“that you may learn in us ...”* Paul knew this too. Careful you don’t blink and miss it! *“that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written.”* You can actually be a spot where what our Father has said about us empowers us to great exploits and the thing that we have our identity in is STILL what the Father has said about us!

Remember satan departed from tempting Jesus in the wilderness in order to wait for a “more opportune time.” What was the more opportune time? When satan says this (through people) to Jesus *“...If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”* (Mt. 27:40b)

This is after three years of miracles which John said you couldn’t get enough room in the world to write down in books. Jesus had done that much out of the word of the Father over His life, but His identity never transferred into the works! Such that satan, at that more opportune time, a time that was going to be harder for Jesus to not step into the temptation of getting identity from works but instead keeping an identity completely in the word of His Father ... satan says “if You’re the Son of God, prove it and come down from the cross.” In that moment Jesus stays on the cross. He had never transferred His identity from words into works.

This is why satan had nothing in Him. It makes you untouchable. Remember that the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are all coming from this root thing - whether we know the love of the Father like this.

What are the Father’s terms of connection? “Just let Me love you.” “I just want you to invite Me in.” It has nothing to do with our performance. It has everything to do with what He is speaking over us.

## *The Blessing of the Lord Makes Rich ...*

We know what the Father is speaking ... we know what He has spoken in Proverbs, for instance. If we've received the true gospel we know what He's even spoken about who we are in Christ.

There is something the Father spoke to me about 5 months ago. There was no one at The Wave that morning. I put worship music on and for about 2 hours I had this encounter with the Lord where I received the Father's Blessing.

We know who we are in Christ but this is somehow a little different than that. Who we are in Christ positions us (Matt. 3:17) to know that we are beloved and that we are a son. "*This is My beloved Son ...*" But there is a final part of that phrasing: "in whom I am well pleased."

I want to share with you about the blessing of the Father God released to Jesus that day.

Let's look at Proverbs 10:22. It says "*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.*"

Now, on that day about 5 months ago I was having this encounter with the Lord. By the way, if you want to have more encounters with the Lord, can I give you a practical thing that will cause you to have more and deeper encounters with the Lord? Give Him more time.

There is something I get out of praying for 5 minutes or 5 seconds. There is something else I get out of praying for 50 minutes ... and if I give the Lord 2 hours or something like that there is something else that happens. It's not a "works thing" ... it's just the reality. You get something out of talking with your spouse for 5 minutes and you get something more out of going on a 5 day excursion with your spouse. There's a different level of connection that happens with time.

So on that morning I was having this conversation with the Lord where He was calling me into some new things in my life ... and they felt like a stretch and I was talking with Him and processing with Him and He said "why does that feel hard? Why does that feel like a stretch?" So I'm having a conversation with Him where I am saying things like "well I don't know if what I'll have to share in that environment of greater influence will be relevant." This was the conversation I was having with Him.

After about an hour and a half of this conversation I'm having with Him where He's just touching my heart - a beautiful time - I walked by a desk and I feel like He says "look at your phone." I looked and sure enough the time was 10:22. I knew what He was speaking to me: He wanted me to look up Proverbs 10:22. And the Lord said "look up the Hebrew for that (verse)."

Here's how I've always understood that scripture (and by the way, what I'm about to share is right). "*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.*" In other words, if a new job is

from God it will add wealth to you but it won't add a heavy burden to you. A lot people go from 40 hours a week for \$40,000 and they say "I got a promotion." You ask them "what is it" and they say "I now work 60 hours a week for \$60,000." You say "that ain't a promotion ... that's the same amount per hour and your quality of life just plummeted." So Joshua chapter 1 says if you'll keep His word in your mouth you will experience good success (not just success, but good success). Because sometimes success costs you more than it gives you and it's not good success. I've always understood "*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.*" in that way ... and I am saying that's scriptural; that's the concept of "good success" from Joshua 1. But the Lord asked me to look up the Hebrew ...

I look it up. The word blessing means "benediction." So the blessing can't be a job because the job is not speaking to you. I studied Latin in High School. "Bene" means good and "diction" means speech. A benediction means to speak good over something. The blessing of the Lord ... God speaking good words over you is what that is. This has nothing to do with a job. The Hebrew means "benediction." The good speech of your Father makes rich and He adds no sorrow with it.

What's the first use of the word "blessing" in the Bible? When God created in Genesis 1! Look at Genesis 1:22 "*And God **blessed** them, saying, "**Be fruitful** ... "*"

The blessing of the Lord - the good speech of the Father - makes rich! Do you know what the word "rich" is there? This blew me away! It means to increase and the root word means "a tenth or ten" - think of "increasing by factors of ten." Have you ever heard rap artists sing about adding zeros to the end of their income numbers? In science you call it increasing by orders of magnitude. It adds zeros to the end of the number. You know 1,000 turns into 10,000 which turns into 100,000 which turns into 1,000,000 praise God? You are adding zeros to it. The Hebrew word for "makes rich" in Proverbs 10:22 means to increase by factors of 10!

The Father's good speech over you causes you to increase by factors of 10!

Now, watch the scriptural precedent of what the word "blessing" means starting with the law of first mention in Genesis 1:22!

Gen. 1:22 "And God **blessed** them, saying, "**Be fruitful** and **multiply**, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

Gen. 1:28 "Then God **blessed** them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful** and **multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Gen. 9:1 "So God **blessed** Noah and his sons, and said to them: "**Be fruitful** and **multiply**, and fill the earth."

What does the blessing do? It causes you to be fruitful and to multiply ... to increase by factors of 10!

Speaking to Abraham, God says *“By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — **blessing** I will **bless** you, and **multiplying** I will **multiply** your descendants ...”* (Gen. 22:16-17a)

You can't get blessed without getting multiplied!

Jacob so understood the essential nature of the blessing that Jacob said *“Sell me your birthright as of this day.”* (Gen. 25:31) And Isaac knew how powerful the blessing was - that it was like an irrevocable contract that he tells Esau *“I have blessed him—**and indeed he shall be blessed.**”* (Gen. 27:33b) Isaac knew he had given the blessing to Jacob and that it could not be removed or revoked!

And if that wasn't enough for Jacob, later he wrestled with Jesus, with the Lord, and says *“I will not let You go unless You bless me!”* (Gen. 32:26b)

And then the Father as Jesus comes up out of the water of baptism says *“This is My beloved Son (IDENTITY), in whom I am well pleased (BLESSING).”* (Mt. 3:17, parentheses mine)

The blessing of the Father has been lacking in many believers' lives. In some way when you get the gospel of grace it will kind of communicate it to you because you realize that you are in right standing with the Father, you are in right relationship with the Father and He sees you as righteous ... But there is still something that can be a little bit more than that and many believers are struggling with opportunity aversion but the reason believers are struggling with opportunity aversion is the same reason that many are struggling with self-promotion. And both of these things are because they are lacking the blessing of the Father.

I've having this encounter and I am telling the Lord “You are calling me into higher levels and greater platforms and I'm nervous.” He says “Proverbs 10:22 ... look up the Hebrew.”

The good speech of the Father will cause you to increase by factors of 10.

Now, I look at the rest of the verse. It says *“and He adds no sorrow with it.”* Do you know what the word “sorrow” is in the Hebrew? “Earthen clay pots.” Huh?!? This was a surprise to me. The word “add” means to “add or augment.”

So if you just want to read what it literally says ... “The good speech of your Father over you causes you to increase and to multiply by factors of 10 and He's the potter and you're the clay. He's the One that formed you, no not you yourself and He's not augmenting what He formed in you!”

I don't know if you got it ...

In the Hebrew, “He adds no sorrow with it” literally is “augmenting a clay pot ... chaining this clay pot.” Isn’t He the potter? Aren’t we His clay? He made you, no not we ourselves (Ps. 100).

Here’s what He’s saying “My blessing over your life will cause you to multiply and increase by factors of 10 and I’m not trying to change how I made you.”

“I’m not trying to change how I formed you.”

“I’m the One that formed you in your mother’s womb.”

“I’m the One that gave you those giftings.”

“I’m the One that gave you those callings.”

“I’m the One that put that in your heart.”

“I’m the One that formed you like this.”

“I’m the One that made you look like that.”

“I’m the One that made you talk like that.”

“I’m the One that decided that you would be like that and I’m not trying to change who I made you to be.”

Then the Lord showed me this (and I had given a prophetic word like this about a month before I got this revelation so it was confirmation). In science, there is something called scientific notation and the way that works is you take a number like 44 or you can write it a different way. You can write it as  $(4.4 \times 10)$ . Likewise you can write 440 as  $(4.4 \times 10^2)$  or  $(4.4 \times 100)$ . You can write 4,400 as  $(4.4 \times 10^3)$  or  $(4.4 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10)$ . The essence of the number is 4.4. It never changes. It’s always a 4.4. But you can add zeros to the end of it!

What most believers are doing when we don’t know the blessing of the Father is we say “I’m a 4.4 but there a 6.3 and I just wish that I was a 6.3 ... let me contort myself into a 6.3” and the Father says “I’m the One that formed you. I’m not augmenting how I formed you as a potter forms a masterpiece.” You don’t need to become someone different in order to become someone great. What you need to become is one who is blessed by his or her Father because when you are blessed by your Father you will increase by multiples of 10.

It’s the good speech of the Father over who you are ... over how He made you ... it’s the benediction of the Father that causes you to multiply and to increase by factors of 10. He’s not changing the essence of who you are. You’re still a 4.4 but He will add zeros to that so far as you allow Him to

bless you. For blessing I will bless you and for multiplying I will multiply you! Multiplied, multiplied, multiplied - not changed in who you are but with zeros added to the end of it.

The blessing of the Lord, which is His good speech over you ... the speech over you that says "I see how I made you. I'm well pleased with how I made you. I'm well pleased with how I made you."

We know we're sons. We know we're beloved. But there's something different to know that we're pleasing.

And when we know we're pleasing, this whole thing of comparing ourselves amongst ourselves (to figure out ... "if there a 6.3 and I'm a 4.4" ...) We start to realize God is the One who formed us as a clay pot, He's not augmenting what He formed. He's speaking good words of blessing over what He formed saying "I'm well pleased with you."

As that sinks into our heart, many things start happening and the result is there's an explosion of growth that doesn't change who we are but just adds zero and magnitude to everything that we do.

It's the blessing of the Father that makes you rich - that causes you to increase. He's not augmenting how He made you. He loves how He made you. He loves how He made you. He's so pleased with His creation in you.

### *His name was changed ...*

Jabez prayed a famous prayer (a very powerful prayer). "*Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!*" (from 1 Chron. 4:10)

Do you know what the word Jabez means - what his name means - in the Hebrew?

It means "one who causes pain." His momma named him that because of a painful birth.

Notice, Jabez is saying "*Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me,*" and then oddly switches to "*keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!*"

Do you realize that his name was still haunting him?

Some of you have received names that are not your name.

Notice that when Jacob was blessed his name was changed.

You are not one who causes pain.

There have been things that have been holding some of us back from stepping into the magnitude of blessing that God has for us because we are focusing on a past precedent instead of receiving who He said we are.

There are prophetic words in our lives that are going to be activated by the blessing of the Father. Notice how many prophetic words Jesus fulfilled in His ministry and notice how many of them happened after His father blessed Him.

### *A Closing Prayer*

Spirit of adoption, we welcome you to minister now and as this word goes forth to everyone who hears it, reads it, or reflects on it. Spirit of adoption I pray that you would attach yourself to this word. “*you have received the **Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”* (Rom. 8:15b) It’s by the Spirit of adoption that we cry out “Abba! Father!”

I pray Father, right now, that You would speak your blessing into each person’s heart.

### *The Blessing is GENERAL*

I felt I needed to say this ... Some people will say “God blessed me to be a musician.” His blessing is SO GENERAL upon the very DNA of how He made you ... do not put His blessing into a box. He blessed a 4.4732 when He blessed you ... do you understand me? He didn’t bless “a musician;” He blessed YOU.

The blessing is going to permeate your DNA. Every ounce of who you are and how He’s made you ... His blessing will permeate ALL of it.

He *wants* you to be fruitful. He wants who He made YOU to be to multiply.

When He blesses and says He’s well pleased, what He’s saying is “I want to see MORE of that.”

He wants to see more of YOU.

That’s how pleased He is with you.

### *Receiving God’s Blessing is Part of Humility*

Part of humility is receiving the blessing of the Father - being dependent on the blessing of the Father. It’s not our works that we have identity in ... it’s His words!

It’s not prideful to ask Him to bless you. It’s actually humble to wrestle with Him to receive the blessing.

We're dependent upon Your blessing, Lord. We need you to bless us indeed in order to enlarge our territory. We know Your hand is with us. We receive your blessing.

Humility is not permission to avoid influence. Humility is position to be exalted.

### *Final Prayer*

I pray Father this very message would be powerful in the life of EVERY person that hears or reads this message in Jesus' Name! Even where necessary people would have a grace to come back to it again and again that they would receive Your blessing. Father I pray that what you've done for me you would double for me and all that read and hear this message. I pray that everyone who receives this message would have ears to hear and eyes to see Your blessing manifest in their life.

It's His blessing that causes you to increase. He loves how He made you.

Amen.