

Settle in Your Hearts to be My Disciples “Humble Yourself Under the Mighty Hand of God”

by Elder Bill Jones

Our theme for the month is: HUMBLE YOURSELVES UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD. It has been our intent this year, as a congregation, to consider being the disciples of Christ and what that might mean. If we are to make the decision to serve Him and be His disciples we must consider who He is and what He has done for us.

We know He came to die for us—to make the sacrifice that would pay the debt of our sinful nature. We know His payment provides us with the opportunity for immortality and eternal life. We know these things but the question is, do we understand?

Arthur Oakman, in his book He Who Is, suggests, “CHRIST’S SACRIFICE IS BEYOND OUR POWER TO COMPREHEND. If we were to comprehend Christ’s sacrifice we would have to be able to imagine ourselves being as Christ who volunteered to change his life, his nature, his position, and translate himself into a lower form of life whose abilities were limited by their human condition.”

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves
therefore under the
mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt
you in due time:
Casting all your care
upon him; for he careth
for you.

Jesus demonstrated humility by taking on the form of one who was willing to be a servant. He was willing to be born as a human and give up His glory that He might serve others, that He might serve us and ultimately die on the cross, that we might have eternal life. To give one's own life for another—to put another's life before yours—is the height of being humble. **In the Bible, Paul called it AN UNSPEAKABLE GIFT.** True greatness in God's kingdom is found in humble service to others. The humbleness taught by Jesus was free from pride and arrogance. It placed others' lives ahead of Christ's own needs.

Why did Jesus say that those who shall humble themselves as a little child are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? **(read Matthew 18:1-5)** The answer is: If we can be as a little child, if we can cultivate a humble heart, **IT WILL TRANSFORM OUR PERSPECTIVE.** A small child accepts that there are limits to his knowledge; and, if he understands the limitations, then he is teachable because his self-awareness is not inflated with self-importance.



Those who accept that they are little children (in terms of their spirituality) will have a desire to draw closer to their teacher, Jesus Christ, and be redeemed. If they are willing to accept this redemption, yield to the Holy Spirit and put off the natural man; if they are born again, becoming as little children—submissive, meek, humble, patient and full of love—their nature is changed. They each become a child of God and an heir of God's kingdom.

The benefits of a humble heart is that it leads to a desire to render service. Jesus demonstrated this when as Teacher and Lord He washed His disciples' feet and urged them to do likewise. It was Jesus' way of saying, "I am among you; I am He who serves." In the Gospels, Jesus contrasted our prideful weaknesses with His genuine humility and showed that true greatness in God's kingdom does not come from any self-promotion or personal status we might seek. True greatness comes from our humble service to others.

God opposes those who are proud. He bestows blessings upon those who humbly acknowledge their need for Him and demonstrate their desire to obey. By our humility we are showing we have a proper understanding of the relationship we are to have with God. When we humble ourselves before God we give Him the power and the opportunity to work in our lives. We recognize Him as the ultimate authority. We prioritize God's will in our lives and follow His commands rather than follow our desires and ambitions.



It has been Christ's intent to get us to recognize our dependence on God by humbling ourselves, acknowledging our personal limitations, and relying on God's guidance and grace. An example of this is found in the Book of Mormon (Ether 5:27-28). The Lord is speaking to Moroni. . . . **if men come unto me, I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness, that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.** In other words, those things in our life in which we are deficient, God will provide the blessings that help in overcoming those limitations.

Peter adds to Moroni's counsel with these words of assurance. **Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.** (1 Peter 5:6-7)

From these words of encouragement, we recognize God will respond to us if we respond to Him. To humble ourselves before Him is not a sign of weakness; it is our recognition of God's greatness and our dependence on Him. It is a choice we make to submit to His will. It proclaims our trust that He will lift us up and support us and bless us at the appropriate times. We can cast our cares and worries on Him because He loves us.

**If we choose to humble ourselves
under the mighty hand of God
and remain faithful,
it will lead to our spiritual growth
and
our ultimate joy in eternity.**

