



# IN PURSUIT OF HUMILITY

GOD OPPOSES  
THE PROUD  
BUT GIVES  
GRACE  
TO THE  
HUMBLE.

JAMES 4:6



BOOK STUDY USING  
**HUMILITY**  
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## **Humility - Chapter #1 [The Promise of Humility]**

Humility is certainly an excellent trait – however, few of us give much attention to what being humble actually means. Most men offer a sort of façade of merely ‘acting’ humble. It is so very important that we diligently pursue humility by the grace of God.

**1]** Explore how pride is rewarded by the world.

**2]** Does the contemporary culture appreciate humility? [Offer examples cited in book] Discuss the limitations of contemporary culture’s appreciation of humility.

**3]** Read: **Isaiah 66:2** Analyze how God loves humility.

**4]** Read: **2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 16:9** Consider how God delights in humility.

**5]** Read: **James 4:6** Deliberate about God’s promise regarding humility.

**6]** Read: *John Calvin’s quote* [pg. 21] How does this assist in defining the true nature of humility?

**7]** Why is humility so important? Converse about the examples the author uses to drive home his point.

## **Humility - Chapter #2 [The Perils of Pride]**

**1]** Explain where your *pride* is most often on display? Consider – our common greatest enemy is pride

**2]** Discuss why *pride* is the earliest sin and the core of all sin.

Read: **Isaiah 14:12-15**

**3]** Why does God hate *pride* with such intensity? How does He respond to *pride*? Read: **Proverbs 6:16-17; 8:13; 16:5; James 4:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5**

**4]** Review the definitions of *pride*. [pages 31–32]

**5]** What is on your ‘hate list’? Analyze *John Calvin*’s quote [page 33].

**6]** How is *pride* the most difficult sin to root out?

## **Humility - Chapter #3 [Greatness Redefined]**

'Full-Serve' vs. 'Self-Serve'

**1]** Why/how did the '*Ali Syndrome*' [I am the greatest] continually plague Jesus' interns? Read: **Mark 9:33-37** Why were their eyes on the '*depth chart*'?

**2]** Read: **Mark 10:35-45** What is at the crux of James & John's request [ambition, selfishness, parental pressure, desire to serve Jesus]?

**3]** Who has been an example of a Christlike servant in your life?

**4]** How does Jesus redefine *greatness*? How does the author define it?

**5]** What does it mean to be a 'slave to all'?

**6]** How are you serving your family? Friends? Neighbors? Co-workers? Community?

## Humility - Chapter #4 [Greatness Demonstrated]

1] What is important about the word *ransom* with regard to Christ and us?

2] Read: **Mark 10:17-34** Examine the attitude of the disciples of Jesus on the long journey to Jerusalem. How does this match our attitude in following Him along life's journey? Where do you identify yourself in **Mark 10**?

3] Discuss the message that Jesus is seeking to impress on us due to our pride and selfishness.

4] What happened to James between **Mark 10** and **Acts 12**?

5] Read: **1<sup>st</sup> John 3:16** What should our *service* look like?

## **Humility - Chapter #5 [As Each Day Begins]**

**1]** The author offers practical strategies to fight sin - - why is following such strategies not legalism?

**2]** Analyze the first practical step that we can take to fight pride and grow in humility. Why is this a vital step?

**3]** Discuss the basic disciplines that must mark the beginning of each day for us.

**4]** Read: **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5-6** How does this scriptural prescription alleviate anxiousness and pride?

## **Humility - Chapter #6 [As Each Day Ends]**

**1]** Discuss '*cosmic plagiarism*'. How can it be avoided?

**2]** Read: **Psalm 127:2; Psalm 4:8; Proverbs 3:21-24; Ecclesiastes 5:12**  
Examine God's gift of sleep.

**3]** Read: **Proverbs 6:6-11** Analyze how sleep can be misused?

**4]** How can things left undone or items necessary to be completed the next day  
urn into sinful anxiety [which robs you of sleep]. **Matthew 6:25-34**

## **Humility - Chapter #7 [For Special Focus]**

**1]** Explore 'how God is different from us'. Discuss: the *incommunicable attributes* of God. Read: **Psalm 102:25-27; Psalm 139:7-10; Ecclesiastes 3:11; Isaiah 46:9-11; 55:8-9**

**2]** Why study the '*doctrines of grace*' [election, calling, justification, perseverance]? Read: **Psalm 103:8; Romans 11:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:29; 15:10; Ephesians 2:8-9**

**3]** Examine the '*doctrine of sin*'. Define sin. [What is true? What is right? Who am I?] All sin is ultimately irrational. Read: **Hebrews 3:12-13; Job 34:10-12; James 1:13-15; Proverbs 10:23; 12:15; Romans 3:23**

## **Humility - Chapter #8 [Identifying Evidences of Grace]**

**1]** Discuss why we tend to be ethnocentric [excusing ourselves for the very flaws that we use to condemn others / the beliefs for one's group are correct for all people, all the time]. Read: **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:1-9** [check Paul's attitude toward and sincere affection for these believers]

**2]** Read: **Galatians 5:22-26** Examine carefully the fruit of the Spirit. What is significant about the fact that they are called 'fruit' - - in contrast with the 'acts' of the sinful nature?

**3]** Read: **Romans 12:6-8; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-11; 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-13** Analyze the lists of the Spirit's gifting [not exhaustive] - - as evidences of God's activity.

**4]** Consider the use of the word 'called' [**1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:1-9**] as we understand God's initiative in our lives.

**5]** Explore how God is *active* and *faithful*. Read: **Philippians 2:12-13;** and **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:8**

***Humility* - Chapter #9 [Encouraging Others]**

**1]** Analyze the primary purpose of our speech. Read & Memorize: **Ephesians 4:29** Examine your speech based upon: **Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:25; 4:31; 5:4**

**2]** Read: **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:14** Discuss the use of '*appropriate words*'

**3]** Read: **Hebrews 3:12-13** Consider '*accountability*'

**4]** Explore how correction can afford grace.

## **Humility - Chapter #10 [Inviting & Pursuing Correctness]**

**1]** Discuss the *need for others* in our daily walk. Consider the purpose/need for: discipleship groups, mentorship groups, and accountability groups.

**2]** Explore the statements: 'Sin lives in a costume; that's why it's so hard to recognize.' 'The DNA of sin is deception.' Read: **Psalm 51:3**

**3]** Read: **Hebrews 3:12-13; Proverbs 12:15** Analyze how we must pursue 'care' and 'correction'. [Pgs. 128-129]

**4]** Read: **James 1:22-24; John 13:12-17** Examine why knowledge isn't enough – we need active faith and obedience.

**5]** Assess how we live our lives in a constant 'war zone'. Read: **Galatians 5:17**

## **Humility - Chapter #11 [Responding Humbly to Trials]**

**1]** Read: **Habakkuk 1:2; 1:13** Why do we [like Habakkuk in Chapters 1 & 2] constantly complain and question?

**2]** Examine the huge change that occurs in Habakkuk's disposition ['Why doesn't God do something?']. [Pgs. 141-144] Read: **Habakkuk 2:20; 3:2-4; 3:13** What constitutes '*God-centered prayer*'?

**3]** What is it that affords the ability to *wait quietly and patiently*? Read: **Habakkuk 3:17-18** [Pgs. 144-148]

**4]** Read: **Hebrews 2:3; Habakkuk 3:19** Analyze the prescription for dealing with suffering [In what ways do we re-focus?]. [pages 148-154]

***Humility* - Chapter #12 [A Legacy of Greatness]**

**1]** Discuss the statement: parenting/mentoring is about preparation.

**2]** What are your greatest ambitions for those that you are called to mentor? Analyze the tension between 'temporal recognition' and 'eternal reward'. Read:

**Matthew 20:20-21**

**3]** Define – *true greatness*. Read: **Mark 10:35-45** Who are your heroes? Why? [how has this changed since you were younger]

**4]** Analyze how we can do a better job of discerning greatness. [What specific things can we do to pass on the legacy of *true greatness*?]

**5]** Examine: **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:26-31; 4:6-7; James 4:13-17; Colossians 3:12-13; Philippians 2:3-8**