

2018 Blog entries:

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Humility involves three categories:

1. Teachability. When we are not teachable we have pride.
2. Willing to get one's hands dirty. Getting our hands dirty means, we care enough to help bless other people.
3. Shown by how we treat others. When we respect people, cherish them, value them, and honor them, then we lose our sense of superiority, and we lose our conceit and arrogance.

Lord I have failed miserably in each of these categories for much of my life.

Friday, February 16, 2018

When I indulge in self-pity because something is not going my way. Then what makes it so unbearable is the self-pity. In getting rid of the self-pity we are able to tolerate not getting our way. This is done by speaking to the "sin nature" saying: "I accept you, but I don't need you right now" and through strategically praying to God. Often asking the Holy Spirit to heal my mind brings much healing and relief.

Sunday, February 18, 2018

A mature person refrains from speaking and acting out of a place of self-pity. When they feel self-pity coming on, they master it, process it, and jettison it.

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Both the OT and the NT say: "God opposes the proud and gives His grace to the humble". But what does it mean to oppose the proud? I think to oppose the proud means that God visits the intrinsic consequences of a proud person's sin onto the proud person. Sin always goes against love. Sin pushes God away. So, when we are proud, and we get in touch with the consequences from our sins. The consequences are used by God to convince us of sin's wrongfulness, emptiness, and burdensome cost. One consequence is that we get in touch with our thirst for life and this can draw us (sometimes with us pushing and screaming all the way) to God through Jesus Christ. Those who are convinced by God about the consequences of their pride, start to search for real peace, love, joy, and grace in more honest and healthy ways and places.

So, do we see this in Scripture? Yes, we see it in the Parable of the Prodigal child (Cf. Luke 15:11-32) that Jesus shared in His teachings. The father in the Parable does not show anger, bitterness, self-pity, meanness, wanting vengeance or desiring to rain down hell fire on his child, or be a dark controlling disciplinarian with his youngest child as he asks for his inheritance. The Father

does not threaten, coerce, manipulate, or throw a guilt trip at his child to get him to stay and tow the family line. Instead he gives his child the opportunity and ability to experience the world, so he will hopefully get to see the consequences of his misguided loyalties, beliefs, decisions, and actions.

Sin and jettisoning spiritual healthiness (holiness) creates distance between us and God just like it does between the Prodigal child and his father. It's this distance that turns out to be very unpleasant for the Prodigal child. The father visits the intrinsic consequences of his child's sin on his child by allowing the child to hit rock bottom. When he does hit rock bottom, the child remembers his father's house, and he begins to miss, long, thirst, and hunger for what he once had, and it is this burden (this vacuum) that motivates him to search for and make his way back to his father's house in a humble fashion.