



Humility

by Andrew Murray

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When Jesus 'made himself nothing ... taking the nature of a servant', He modeled for all believers true humility. Andrew Murray calls this 'our true nobility' and 'the distinguishing feature of discipleship'. With insightful, penetrating clarity, Murray calls all Christians to turn from pride, empty themselves, and study the character of Christ to be filled with His grace. This book is widely considered the best work on humility ever written.

Andrew Murray (1828-1917) was an amazingly prolific Christian writer. He lived and ministered as both a pastor and author in South Africa. Most of Murray's works were written to provide nurture and guidance to Christians, whether young or old in the faith. He is the author of a number of classic books on the Christian life.

"As God is the ever living, ever present, ever acting One - who upholds all things by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3), and in whom all things exist (Colossians 1:17) - the relationship of man to God could only be one of unceasing, absolute, universal dependence. As truly as God by His power once created, so truly by that same power must God, every moment, maintain ... The life God bestows is imparted not once and for all, but each moment continuously, by the unceasing operation of His mighty power. Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is, from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of man. It is the root of every virtue. And so pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil." (15-16)

"Humility is the only soil in which the graces take root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure." (17)

"All the wretchedness in this world has its origin in what this cursed, hellish pride - either our own, or that of others - has brought us. All wars and bloodshed among the nations, all selfishness and suffering, all ambitions and jealousies, all broken hearts and embittered lives, with all the daily unhappiness, are a result of this same wicked pride. It is pride that made redemption necessary. It is from our pride we need, above everything, to be redeemed." (24)

"Pride has its root and strength in a terrible spiritual power, outside of us as well as within us. We must confess it, deplore it, and be aware of its satanic origin ... The life of God, which in the incarnation entered human nature, is the root in which we are to stand and grow ... It waits for our consent to gain possession and mastery of our entire being." (25)

"What is the incarnation but His heavenly humility, His emptying Himself and becoming man? What is His life on earth but humility, His taking the form of a servant? And what is His atonement but humility? ... Christ is the humility of God embodied in human nature." (26)

"If humility is the root of the tree, its nature must be seen in every branch, leaf, and fruit." (26)
"We must seek a humility that rests in nothing less than the end and death of self; that gives up all the honor of men, as Jesus did, to seek the honor that comes from God alone; that makes and considers itself nothing so that God may be all, so that the Lord alone may be exalted." (27)

Jesus took the place of entire subordination. "Christ was nothing, so that God might be all. He resigned Himself with His will and His powers entirely for the Father to work in Him ... Christ found this life of entire self-renunciation, of absolute submission and dependence upon the Father's will, to be one of perfect peace and joy." (33)

"He was able to be the servant of all. His humility was simply the surrender of Himself to God, to allow the Father to do in Him what He pleased, no matter what men around might say of Him or do to Him ... We are made partakers of Christ so that God might bring us to this disposition ... It is the being and doing nothing by ourselves so that God may be all. Here we have the root and nature of true humility ... our place is to yield to Him in perfect resignation and dependence, in full consent to be and to do nothing of ourselves. This is the life Christ came to reveal and to impart - a life in God that comes through death to sin and self ... The root of all virtue and grace--of all faith and acceptable worship--is that we know that we have nothing but what we receive, and we bow in deepest humility to wait upon God for it." (34-35)

"To the poor, who have nothing in themselves, the kingdom comes. For the meek, who seek nothing in themselves, theirs will be the earth. The blessings of heaven and earth are for the lowly." (Matthew 5:3, 5) (40)

"The chief glory of heaven, the true heavenly mindedness, the chief of the graces is humility. *'He that is least among you all, the same shall be great'* (Luke 9:48)." (41)

"*'Whoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.'* God wants us to believe that Jesus meant this! We all know what the character of a faithful servant or slave implies: devotion to the master's interests, thoughtful study and care to please him, delight in his prosperity and honor and happiness." (43)

"We have our pride from another, from Adam; we must have our humility from Another, too. Pride is ours, and it rules in us with such terrible power, because it is our self, our very nature. Humility must be ours in the same way; it must be our very self, our very nature." (52)

"Humility toward men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real." (57)

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3) (59) "The humble man feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him." (60)

"In man, humility is the one thing needed to allow God's holiness to dwell in him and shine through him ... The one infallible test of our holiness will be the humility before God and men that marks us. Humility is the bloom and the beauty of holiness." (67)

"There is none holy but God (1 Samuel 2:20). We have as much of holiness as we have of God. Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all." (70)

"Love *'vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ...seeketh not her own'* (1 Cor. 13:4-5)." (70)

"And where God has entered in His power and reveals Himself as all, man becomes nothing. And where man becomes nothing before God, he cannot be anything but humble toward his fellowmen." (71)

"It is the displacement of self by the enthronement of God where God is all, self is nothing ... Not preoccupied with your sin, but to be occupied with God, brings deliverance from self." (80)

"Faith is the sense organ by which we perceive and understand the heavenly world and its blessings ... Pride renders faith impossible ... Salvation is union with, delight and participation in, the humility of Jesus. Is it any wonder that our faith is so feeble when pride still reigns so much, and we have hardly learned to long for or pray for humility as the most necessary and blessed part of salvation?" (85)

"Jesus humbled Himself unto death and opened the path in which we, too, must walk ... Humility must lead us to die to self." (91) "If you want to enter into full fellowship with Christ in His death, and know the full deliverance from self, humble yourself. This is your one duty. Place yourself before God in your utter helplessness ... Accept every humiliation, look upon every person who tries your patience or irritates you as a means of grace to humble you. Use every opportunity of humbling yourself before your fellowmen as a help to remain humble before God ... In this manner, Christ, in His form of a servant, is truly formed in you and dwells in your heart." (93)

Paul was given a thorn in his flesh to keep him humble. He desired to have it removed, but God's answer was that the trial was a blessing in which the Lord's strength could be manifested. Paul learned that "the place of humiliation is the place of blessing, power, and joy." (99)

"Virtually every Christian ... fears and flees and seeks deliverance from all that can humble him ... To humble himself has not yet become the spontaneous expression of a life and a nature that are essentially humble." "Nothing but the presence of God can reveal and expel self." (100)

"Our humiliations lead us, in the experience of the presence and power of Jesus to choose humility as our highest blessing." (100)

"It is indeed blessed--it is the deep happiness of heaven--to be so free from self that whatever is said about us or done to us is lost and swallowed up in the thought that Jesus is all ... He watches over us with a jealous, loving care, lest we exalt ourselves ... He seeks to bring us low until we learn that His grace is all." (102)

"The danger of pride is greater and nearer than we think, and the grace for humility is also. The humility of Jesus is our salvation." (103)

"Trust Him to do what He says is His work; He will exalt you." (107) "Take every opportunity of humbling yourself before God and man." (108) "The highest glory of man is in being only a vessel, to receive and enjoy and show forth the glory of God. Man can do this only as he is willing to be nothing in himself so that God may be all." (110) "When God can again have His rightful place in us, He will lift us up." (111)