

Humility

In the Prayer “Our Father”

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

What One Adjective Describes the Character of Jesus Christ?

- Loving?
- Compassionate?
- Obedient (to the Father)?
- What adjective(s) did Jesus Christ Himself use to describe His character?

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for **I am gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. **Mat 11.28-30**

The only time Our Lord described His own character, He said He is gentle and humble (ταπεινός) of heart.



Love

**Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

The Importance of Humility

Clothe yourselves, all of you,
with humility toward one
another, for “God opposes the
proud, but gives grace to the
humble.” **1 Peter 5.5**

What is Pride per the Oxford Learner's Dictionary?

1. A feeling of being pleased or satisfied that you get when you or people who are connected with you have done something well or own something that other people admire.
2. The feeling of respect that you have for yourself.
3. The feeling that you are better or more important than other people.

What is Humility per the Oxford Learner's Dictionary?

1. Showing you do not think that you are as important as other people.
2. Having a low rank or social position.

Humility as defined by St. Paul

Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves.

Philippians 2.3

Humility as defined by St. Paul

The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God.

Philippians 2.6

Humility as defined by St. Paul

Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness.

Philippians 2.7

Humility as defined by St. Paul

He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death— his death on the cross

Philippians 2.8

Humility as defined by St. Paul

For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

Philippians 2.9

Humility as defined by St. Paul

And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2.10-11

Humility as defined by St. Paul

So then, dear friends, as you always obeyed me when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey me now while I am away from you. Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation, because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose.

Philippians 2.12-13

Why did Lucifer fall and become Satan?

The Sovereign Lord says: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. **Your heart became proud** on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth;

Ezekiel 28.12-19 (excerpts)

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann on the Fall of Lucifer

Excerpts from *Of Water and the Spirit*, pp. 21-30

There must exist a personal world of those who have chosen to hate God, to hate light, to be *against*.

...there exists a demonic *reality*: evil as a dark power...

...we know nothing about that initial catastrophe in the spiritual world—about that **hatred against God ignited by pride** and that bringing into existence of a strange and evil reality not willed, not created by God. Or rather, we know about it only through our own experience of that reality, through our own experience of evil.

Satan is Behind Pride

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4.7

Satan is Behind Pride

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built **by my mighty power** as a royal residence and **for the glory of my majesty?**”

Daniel 4.28-30

As Illustrated by Nebuchadnezzar, Pride Can Be Defined Using Three Parameters

1. My will. (The building of the city of Babylon)
2. By my power.
3. To my glory.

The “Our Father”
Translation by +Fr. Ephrem Lash

Our Father, in heaven, may your name be sanctified, your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6.9-12

What is the word “for” for?

- (old fashioned or literary) used to introduce the reason for something mentioned in the previous statement (OLED)
- *We listened eagerly, for he brought news of our families.*
- *I believed her—for surely she would not lie to me.*

The “Our Father”

Our Father, in heaven, may your name be sanctified, your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. **For** yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory...

What is Pride?

- My will
- Done by my power (might, knowledge, skill, resources)
- To my glory

What is Humility?

- Not my will, but Yours, God!
- Not done by my power, but by Yours, God!
- Not done to my glory, but to Yours, God!

For Yours is...

the Kingdom

ἡ βασιλεία

and the power,

ἡ δύναμις

and the glory.

ἡ δόξα

Jesus said about Himself...

I seek not my own will but the will of
him who sent me. **John 5.30, 4.34**

I can of myself do nothing. **John 5.30**
...the Father who dwells in me does
his works. **John 14.10**

I am not seeking glory for myself... **John 8.50**
I glorified you on earth by finishing the work
that you gave me to do. **John 17.4**

The Insidiousness of Pride

The heart is deceitful above all things,
and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can
know it?

Jeremiah 17.9

Pride in Our Hearts is Not Hidden From God

I, Yahweh, search the mind, I try the heart, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 17.10

How Can We Be Freed from Pride?

By...

1. Considering the humility of Christ
2. Recognizing God as the source of all
3. Prayer
4. God's grace

How Can We Be Freed from Pride? Considering the Humility of Christ

1. The humility of His incarnation.
2. The humble circumstances of His birth.
3. The humble circumstances of His life.
4. The humble circumstances of His death.

How Can We Be Freed from Pride? Recognizing God as the Source of All

...who makes you different? And what do you have that you didn't receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

1 Corinthians 4.7

How Can We Be Freed from Pride? Recognizing God as the Source of All

...knowing God, they didn't glorify him as God, neither gave thanks, but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened.

Romans 1.21

How Can We Be Freed from Pride?

Daily Prayer

1. Reveal and remove from our hearts every form and degree of pride.
2. Reveal and impart to us the depths of the humility of the Lamb of God

How Can We Be Freed from Pride?

God's Grace

1. The inner divine spot light in our hearts.
2. Circumstances that teach us about ourselves.

How Can We Be Freed from Pride?

God's Grace

...the righteous man who has no consciousness of his own weakness walks on a razor's edge, and is never far from falling, nor from the ravening lion — I mean the demon of pride. And again, a man who does not know his own weakness falls short of humility.

Truly, O Lord, if we do not humble ourselves, You do not cease to humble us. Real humility is the fruit of knowledge; and true knowledge, the fruit of trials.

St. Isaac of Syria, The Ascetical Homilies

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for **I am gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Jesus Christ, Matthew 11.28-30

**I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by
the mercies of God, to present your
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
acceptable to God, which is your
spiritual worship.**

St. Paul, Romans 12.1



If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.

Jesus Christ, Matthew 16.24-25

...deliver us from the evil one, *for*
Yours is the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory...

Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! May all we desire, will, think, say and do today be done in You, by You, and for You! We pray these things because You are the One in charge, not us. And all we have and all we are able to do comes from You, not from ourselves. And all the glory is Yours, not ours! Which is just the way we want it, unto the ages of ages!

Questions?
Comments?