
HOD – THE POWER OF HUMILITY

Greetings! Welcome to Bible Study. Today is day 34 of the Omer count, week 5 and day 6 as we count the Omer from Passover to Pentecost. The meditation guide on Day 34 is *Yesod of Hod: Bonding in Humility*. Among the seven shepherds of Israel was Aaron the high priest and older brother of Moses. Aaron is the patriarch who characterizes humility. During the fifth week of counting the Omer, we examine and refine the emotional attribute of *Hod* or humility. Humility – and the resulting yielding—should not be confused with weakness and lack of self-esteem. *Hod* or humility is modesty. It is acknowledgement (from the root of the Hebrew word “*hoda’ah*”). It is saying “thank you” to God. It is clearly recognizing your qualities and strengths and acknowledging that they are not your own; they were given to you by God for a higher purpose than just satisfying your own needs.

We were put here for a purpose and that is to serve, to glorify God and help other people and show them the way of life — truth and everlasting righteousness. Humility is recognizing how small you are which allows you to realize how large we can become, if we maintain the attitude of humility. This is what makes humility so formidable. We have the potential to become the very sons of God—spiritual son of God in the family of God and to help Him rule the universe.

“A full cup cannot be filled. When you’re filled with yourself and your needs, ‘I and nothing else’— there is no room for more. Humility is the key to transcendence; to reach beyond self. Only true humility gives you the power of total objectivity. Humility is sensitivity; it is healthy shame out of recognition that you can be better than you are and that you can expect more of yourself. Although humility is silent it is not a void. It is a dynamic expression of life that includes all seven qualities of love, discipline, compassion, endurance, humility, bonding and sovereignty.”

Philippians 2 is a wonderful chapter about unity through humility where we read about the example of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **Verses 5-11**—“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation (emptied himself), taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men (human flesh). And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This teaches us that we are not to be full of self, but humble as **James 4:6** says God “gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says, God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” **Verses 7-8, 10**—“Submit (humble) yourselves then, to God. Resist

the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.”

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” **1 Peter 5:5-7**—“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

Humility is a marvelous trait that I find often ignored and overlooked in life. People tend to be proud, arrogant and walk on this earth thinking how great they are. Human beings need to realize that Christ meant what he said in the beatitudes. **Matthew 5: 5** – “Blessed are the meek (humble) for they shall inherit the earth.” God wants his people to be meek and humble. There is strength in humility. It is not weakness. Meekness does not equal weakness. It is strength of character and willingness to endure trials and tests which can be very oppressive in themselves. Why do we endure? We endure because we have faith in God that He will intervene and that He will deliver us in due time in His sight. He cares for us and wants us to learn the lesson of humility.

When Jacob returned from the land of Laban and the Syrians, back into the Promised Land with his two wives and his children, he was very fearful of his brother Esau. He knew his brother Esau fiercely hated him and might attack him and all that were with him leaving him with nothing. **Genesis 32: 7-12**—“So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies. And he said, ‘If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it then the other company which is left will escape.’” Then Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you’: I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

Jacob selected a gift for his brother Esau: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty female camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. He put them in the care of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, “Go ahead of me, and keep some space between the herds.” He instructed the one in the lead: “When my brother Esau meets you and asks, ‘Who do you belong to, and where are you going, and who owns all these animals in front of you?’ Then you are to say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and he is coming behind us.’”

Jacob was left alone, and a Man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the Man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with the man. Then the Man said, “Let me go, for it is

daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” The man asked him, “What is your name?” Then the Man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” Christ appeared here as a Man to Jacob. Israel means champion of God—on who prevails. Jacob called the name of that place, Peniel and said, “it is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” Peniel means the face of God. The attitude of Jacob was very humble and meek.

Numbers 12:1-9—“Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman from the tribe of Cush whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.” This was not his wife, Ziporah. Josephus, Jewish historian, points out in his *Antiquities of the Jews* that Moses had been a great general of the Egyptian army—the only one who was really successful and a winner—who led the Egyptian army to attack Ethiopia. The princess of the Ethiopian king saw Moses and really admired and desired him, so she sent him a message saying that she would deliver the city into his hand if he would marry her. Moses agreed to marry her. Later Moses had to flee for his life because he killed an Egyptian man. Years later this princess came back into the life of Moses and met him in the desert as Israel was fleeing Egypt.

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married the Ethiopian woman. So they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it. Moses had not done anything wrong, the woman was his wife. “(Now the man Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone on the face of the earth.)” This is a very important key why God used Moses so much. Moses was the servant of God and the one God talked to face to face. Moses was also a great warrior.

David was a man of great courage. He was just a teenager, when he fought and killed the giant Goliath who stood about 12-15 tall. Not only did he kill Goliath, but killed a lion and a bear when he was a shepherding sheep. **2 Samuel 22:33-36**—“God is my strength and power, and he makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of your salvation; your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, so my feet did not slip.” God made David great. God gives and shares of Himself. He gives us his Holy Spirit which is the spirit of power and of love and a sound mind. **Galatians 5:22-23**—“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness (kindness), goodness, faithful, meekness, temperance (self-control).”

Luke 6:36-38—“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,

and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Do not be afraid to give out to others. You will get paid back many times over.

Humility is the key to transcendence—to reach beyond self. In **Romans 12:1** Paul says something similar to that: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Give up your own ambitions and desires to please God and do what he wants you to do. **Verse 2**—“And do not be conformed to this world (conformist), but be transformed (changed-transcendent) **by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Isaiah 55:2-4, 6-9—“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully, eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people. **Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.**” Seek God before he closes the door of salvation and time is no longer. God says in **verses 7-9**—“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord and to our God, and He will have mercy on him; for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” We need to transform our thoughts into God’s ways and thoughts to become like Him and follow Christ who did his Father’s will in all that he said, thought and did. **Galatians 4:19**—“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.” We are to have the mind of Christ in us –filled with meekness and humility.

Ephesians 3:14-21—“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be *filled with all the fullness of God.*”

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” How can we be filled with the fullness of God’s Spirit? We can be full of God’s Holy Spirit by emptying out the human carnal self - centered selfish thoughts and desires and then fill our empty cup with the fruits of God’s Holy Spirit and his attitude of humility. That surpasses human knowledge and experience. Now that is power!

Corinthians 10:3-6—“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down *arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*” We are fighting a spiritual war. This is the pathway of humility. The power of humility is the transformation of character. Observe what happens to a room when a light switch is turned on, the light fills all the space around the room.

Only true humility gives you the power of total objectivity and a balanced approach. Humility is a dynamic expression of life that includes all seven qualities of love, discipline, compassion, endurance, humility, bonding and sovereignty. The recent riots in Ferguson and Baltimore were missing these qualities and showed great disrespect for law and order. Power was given to a mob. If I lived in Baltimore, I would pack up and leave.

Humility is true sensitivity to the needs of others including those who have invested in your community and its safety. Humility is not a void. It is a dynamic expression of life that includes all seven qualities of God’s character – love, discipline, compassion, endurance, humility, bonding and sovereignty. Humility brings love because it gives you the ability to rise above yourself and love another.

Day 33 was **Hod of Hod: Humility in Humility**. Everyone has humility and modesty in their hearts, the question is the measure and manner in which one consciously feels it. Humility must also be examined for its genuineness. Is it self-serving? **Colossians 2:1-5, 18, 28**—Paul said, “I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and **knit together in love**, so that they may have the full assurance of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ (spiritual fullness in Christ). So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, according to human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Him who is the head over every power (principality) and authority. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with

him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.” **Verse 18**—Paul picks up this theme again. “Let no one cheat (swindle) you of your reward (kingdom of God), taking delight in *false humility* and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.” Some people are not holding fast to God and Christ and are off on their own tangent. They are proud of their humility but it is not true humility.

There was a man who used to be over me as head of the editorial and publishing division of the old WWCG who previously had been head of the Art Department. His name was Arthur Ferdig. He was placed in the position as head of the Press over all publishing including the magazines: Plain Truth, Good News, and The World Tomorrow. They gave him a beautiful, swanky office right next to Mr. Armstrong’s office in the Hall of Administration. He and I had a few issues and problems. We did not see things eye to eye. At one point he had all personnel in the Editorial Department take a short scale standardized test to evaluate their abilities. After the test, he did not give out the test results to anyone. But he said very imperiously that the tests results showed him exactly what he already knew and who had the abilities to be leaders in the department and that everybody was right where they belonged. He said “the cream rises to the top,” inferring that is the way it happened at the college and in the work.

Although I said nothing to him, I thought to myself, think about that—“the cream always rises to the top”. You have a bottle of milk. The milk is protein. Protein is needed to build strong bodies and bones to build and maintain good health, especially babies and children. But the cream rises to the top because it is lighter. It’s the fluff and fat. You don’t need the fat, but you need the protein. Fat is skimmed off and churned to make butter (fat). What he was really saying is that the fat (of less worth) goes to the top. There is a saying in this world that people rise up to the level where they are incompetent and unqualified for their job. Well, this particular man later became a minister in the WWCG and was later paid off and went out of the church. He tried to sell people investments and monetary arbitrage but somehow escaped prosecution. Then, this past year I saw his obituary which said he was the head of a ministry teaching the worship of angels. He had fallen into the worship of angels—“how to communicate with your angel and gain success.” If this man had even been a believer, he forsook the faith. Yet at one time he had been high up in the church, a so-called lofty pillar in the eyes of men.

Just as the Apostle Paul said concerning men worshiping angels. What are fallen angels, but demon spirits. That is what it is all about. Satan and his demons are the base elements of the world. Nowhere does God say you are to talk with “your angel”. It is a corrupted pagan teaching..

1 Peter 5:5-6—“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

We know from Isaiah and Ezekiel, that Lucifer was an archangel was created by God beautiful and perfect in all his ways and a producer of beautiful music. He was one of the covering cherubs covering the throne of God. **Ezekiel 28:11-17**—God says take up a lamentation (a sad song) for Tyre. The king of Tyre here is a type of Satan. He was king of Babylon, king of the earth and the merchandizing system of this world which comes from the devil. “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God.” No human king was ever in Eden. Only Adam and Eve were in Eden and they were kicked out. This is talking about a spiritual king—an angel. “Every precious stone was your covering: The Sardis, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers (God’s throne); I established you. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, *till iniquity was found in you*” Something happened and things went badly wrong.

Verses 16-19—“By the abundance of your trading you became *filled with violence within* and you sinned. Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading. Therefore I brought fire from your midst. It devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who knew you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.” This is what is going to happen to the devil—Lucifer, the fallen angel. He corrupted his humility and became proud and arrogant.

Proverbs 16:5, 18—“Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord. Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.” “Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

2 Corinthians 2:9, 17—Paul says, “For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” God is testing us daily. Are we being obedient to Him? Satan appeal to our pride and is striving to get us to fall for his lies and deception.

2 Corinthians 4:2, 7, 16—“But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels **that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us**. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of

the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being *renewed day by day*. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. Put on the whole armor of God. In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation.”