

The Church of the Servant King

Review of the Spiritual Life of the Believer (Lesson SLR – 8C)

Christian Integrity: The Spiritual Power Sphere of the Mature Believer Component #3 – Humility

Introductory Verses: Psalm 25:8-9; Proverbs 3:33-35; 11:2; 15:33; 29:23; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6

Review of the Eight Components of The Spiritual Power Sphere of the Mature Believer

1. Yieldedness to God the Holy Spirit
2. Objectivity
3. Humility – Enforced and Genuine
4. Momentum – the metabolization of Truth
5. Personal love for God – motivational virtue
6. Impersonal or Unconditional Love for mankind – functional virtue
7. Momentum testing
8. Sharing God's happiness

Further Points of Review & Introduction

1. These components are related to the believer's spiritual integrity.
2. The Spiritual Power Sphere will only be a potential (not realized) for the believer who has not developed spiritual integrity.
3. There is a vast difference between Christian integrity and just being a nice person. Basically, the former (Christian integrity) results in a consideration for others motivated by something greater than oneself whereas the latter is motivated by a desire to be liked (approbation and/or the ascetic trend of the sin nature).
4. In previous lessons (SLR 1 & 2), we have studied the command contained in Ephesians 5:18 that we "be filled with the character of Christ by means of the Holy Spirit" based upon a better translation of that passage. We have seen that the means of accomplishing that command is yieldedness on the part of the believer based upon Paul's teaching in Romans 6 (especially verses 6, 11, & 13) and 12:1-3. The Spiritual Power Sphere of the Mature Believer is one way of examining what the character of Christ looks like when present in the believer.
5. I have labeled these eight characteristics "components" because in practical life there is a certain degree of overlap as the believer grows in his knowledge and application of truth. The categories are dynamic (thus the "dyna" in "dynasphere") and overlap and interrelate as the believer grows in spiritual knowledge and application. The result is Christian Integrity which means a life characterized by no deception, no artificiality, consistency based upon principle not expediency or relativity.
6. The mature believer who operates in this spiritual power sphere has developed capacity for life, love, and happiness that is a testimony to Christ. He/she approaches life from a paradigm of divine viewpoint that is manifested in discernment, thoughtfulness toward others, and the ability to astutely interpret current trends in history.
7. The third component – humility – refers to teachability. Only the humble believer is sensitive to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit in his soul and is objective (Component #2) enough to set aside personal biases and a self-centered nature in the interest of a spiritual cause greater than himself.
8. In our study of this component, we must distinguish between the humility possessed by the spiritually mature believer and that humility which the unbeliever is capable of developing in his life. The former (the believer's humility) is the character of Christ; whereas the latter (the

- unbeliever's humility) is personal integrity based upon divine establishment principles. The believer is capable of both and they interrelate; however, the unbeliever is only capable of one – divine establishment integrity. Many believers have mistaken the two forms of integrity and when combined with the desire for approbation (approval and acceptance) and an overemphasis upon Christian liberty (the believer's freedom to enjoy the things of the world), they have failed to reach their full potential in the spiritual life and be the witness for Christ that God desires. In other words, these believers have confused and commingled integrity based upon adherence to divine establishment principles with Christian integrity. Naturally, this is appealing since it doesn't demand the spiritual dynamic and widens the base of those with whom compatibility can be found.
9. Objectivity (component #2) and humility (component #3) go hand in hand. Objectivity and humility (teachability) are necessary to understand God's character and purposes.

Component #3 – Spiritual Humility Developed

Authority Orientation

1. Humility is described as submission to authority.
2. Enforced humility is submission to authority under the influence of external discipline.
3. Genuine humility is submission to authority as a voluntary (internal) act of volition, i.e. self discipline.
4. Enforced humility begins in the home where orientation to authority is taught and enforced. Parents discipline (establish rules, teach, and instruct) their children to teach them humility.
Note: discipline and punishment are two separate things.
 - a. Children who learn humility in the home have a chance to succeed in life once they leave home.
 - b. Arrogant children establish thought and behavior patterns that insure that suffering will be the norm for the rest of their lives.
 - c. Arrogance is destructive to the spiritual life of a child or an adult.
 - d. Parents exhibit their love and concern for the child through discipline that is reinforced as necessary by punishment.
5. Genuine humility is the result of Truth that is learned and applied in a three stage process:
 - a. Reception – understanding.
 - b. Retention – learning and committing Truth to the soul's frame of reference, vocabulary, categorical storage area, & conscience.
 - c. Recall: the application of doctrine to all experiences which results in wisdom.
1. Genuine humility is absolutely essential for advance in the plan of God because it provides the teachability that is necessary for the Holy Spirit to work in the believer's life. (Ps 25:8-9)
2. Without genuine humility, the ministry of the Holy Spirit will be nullified ever so subtly by arrogance. Remember the seven manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life that we have previously studied are:
 - a. The Holy Spirit produces Christian character
 - b. The Holy Spirit produces Christian service
 - c. The Holy Spirit teaches
 - d. The Holy Spirit promotes praise and thanksgiving
 - e. The Holy Spirit leads
 - f. The Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirit
 - g. The Holy Spirit makes intercession

3. Arrogant believers can have knowledge, but since they have never developed genuine humility, they never manifest the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, i.e. they never develop Christian character (1 Co 8:1)
4. Arrogant believers do not apply truth in all circumstances because they are not yielded to the Holy Spirit and there is anarchy in the soul (i.e. no orientation to the authority of God's Truth in their lives).
5. Arrogance and authority orientation are antithetical concepts.
6. Authority orientation and the preservation of freedom are related concepts. Freedom without authority becomes anarchy. Authority without freedom is tyranny. The believer who is spiritually humble can exercise authority over others or submit to the authority of others while viewing injustices in life through the perspective provided by the lens of such Biblical Truths as the Angelic Conflict and the faith rest technique.

Humility – Is Not Self-Centered or Self-Focused

1. Arrogant believers have not died to self (Ro 12:1-2) and a self-centered interest is the opposite of humility.
2. The humble believer seeks Truth; the arrogant believer thinks he already has the Truth.
3. The myth of self-sufficiency is a delusion introduced by Satan that complicates the believer's life by blinding him/her to grace. Humility precludes inordinate competition, self-advancement, and the arrogance of achievement.
4. Humility is necessary to possess the divine viewpoint of life and be oriented to reality. A genuinely humble man acknowledges his weaknesses and depends upon a strength greater than his own. Orientation to reality means the believer is not deluded into thinking that his own abilities and achievements are sufficient to satisfy God's righteousness. An arrogant person places himself in a position of weakness by overestimating his own strengths. He overemphasizes his self-importance.
5. Because of self-centeredness, the believer who is not spiritually humble has not developed a capacity for personal or impersonal love.
6. The thoughtfulness of impersonal love cannot exist in the believer who is not humble and has an exaggerated opinion of himself.
7. The humble person does not depend upon others for his happiness. Selfish believers demand unconditional love from everyone (such as that received from parents) and if not received, the selfish believer seeks to control or manipulate others. This behavior may be called the demand syndrome.
8. The spiritually humble believer does not demand equality with others; however, he exploits his opportunity under the principle of volitional responsibility. The humble believer recognizes the principle that freedom and equality can never coexist. The spiritually humble believer rejects jealousy and has an appreciation for the self-discipline, character and integrity that it takes to achieve excellence in any field. The cry for equality is many times nothing more than the political expression of the word envy.
9. The humble believer does not succumb to flattery or the approbation of others – rather he evaluates all things in light of God's character and purposes.
10. The spiritually humble believer is distinguished from the pseudo-humble person. The pseudo-humble person that frequently gets the attention of the masses will be the person who lives for the approbation of others and cultivates their pity or sentimentality as a means of control.

Humility Relates to Balance In One's Soul

1. The humble believer takes full responsibility for his own soul before the Lord. He does not allow **strongholds** to continue to exist that blind him to his own responsibilities. He does not blame others for his shortcomings, failures, insecurities, and frustrations. The humble believer is not a complainer. Strongholds are norms and standards in the conscience that are not based upon supportable evidence from Scripture and that favor selfish interest or personal bias influenced by the trends of the individual's sin nature.

2. The spiritually humble believer has a soul in which each soul attribute is in proper relationship to the other:
 - a. Self-consciousness – not self-centered, but Christ-centered; not ego-centric, but Christ centric; possesses a spiritually oriented self-esteem
 - b. Conscience – norms and standards in proper alignment with the grace principles of the Church Age
 - c. Mentality – a properly developed frame of reference, vocabulary, categorical & systematic theology
 - d. Volition – yielded to God
 - e. Emotion – responsive to the mentality and the conscience
3. The courtesy and generosity of a spiritually humble believer who respects the freedom of others makes him vulnerable to manipulation by the spiritually immature and selfish believer. Therefore, the humble believer must be as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove. While the young believer may have a humble attitude, it is only the mature believer insulated by the Divine Power Sphere who will have the ability to discern such motives. A humble believer may therefore appear insensitive to the spiritually immature, when in fact the opposite is the truth. This is why evil men sometimes consider the righteous to be unjust.
4. True courage and poise in the face of life's adversities only results when the believer possesses humility.
5. The believer who possesses spiritual objectivity will be able to evaluate him/herself in light of these truths, repent of subjective thinking, and allow God to cast down the "strongholds" (2 Co 10:4-5) of self serving and justifying thought that permeates the soul of the immature believer.

Examples of Spiritual Humility

There are numerous examples of spiritual humility demonstrated by incredible believers in the Bible. One thinks of Moses who is perhaps the greatest type of Christ in the dispensation of the Age of Israel. He forsook all the world had to offer to become a shepherd leader of the most insignificant group of people (from the world's view) on earth. Of course, Jesus is the anti-type of Moses and Jesus humbled himself to the Father's plan as described in **Philippians 2**, became a man and set aside the function of His divine attributes to die a criminal's death. Then, Paul in the Church Age, gave up all of the prestige of a Jewish religious leader to become despised and persecuted by his own.

The humility found in the Spiritual Power Sphere of the mature believer will protect the believer from spiritual anarchy, misery, and a life lived apart from God's plan for all believers of this age – to become conformed to the image of Christ (**Ro 8:29**).