

# YEAR OF GROWTH

## HUMILITY WEEK 1

### EXPLANATION

#### Definitions:

One Hebrew word for ‘humble’ comes from a root word that has to do with the eye and means, “To look, heed, or pay attention.” Thus, at its most basic, the idea of humility is looking down – to become low, to be bowed down, having downcast eyes. This is the opposite of a “proud look” and “lofty eyes” (cf. Prov. 6:17; 21:4; 30:13; Psa. 101:5; 131:1).

In fact, there are at least 10 Hebrew words that are translated or defines as “humble.” They have to do with bowing down, submission, lowliness, or modesty. Sometimes the word “humble” can refer to being oppressed or trampled upon – by others or by oneself.

The Greek word for “humble” means, “To bring low, make low, depress, or abase.” Thayer also gives these definitions: (1) “to have a modest opinion of one’s self” and (2) “to behave in an unassuming manner.” Zodhiates defines it this way: “Humility, lowliness of mind, the esteeming of ourselves small, inasmuch as we are so, the correct estimate of ourselves.”

There are two important uses of “humility” that must be remembered. One refers to a humble lot or condition – being poor or of low degree. The other refers to the mind or attitude – being modest or even timid. When this use of the word is directed toward God, it is the idea of piety and submission. Finally, for the sinner, “humility” “involves the confession of his sin and a deep realization of his unworthiness to receive God’s marvelous grace” (Zodhiates).

#### Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the previous lessons concerning faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, love, joy, hope, and meekness. Among all these characteristics we must add humility. The Bible has much to teach about being humble. Pray for wisdom in understanding this characteristic. Pray for strength as you prepare for this study.

#### Day Two – Monday

##### Leviticus 26:40-42

Humility involves being willing to admit one’s sins and mistakes. The children of Israel were warned that if they rebelled against God they would be punished. Rebellion comes from a heart filled with pride – that thinks it knows better than God. The cure for their sin and its punishment was a humble heart – one that understood that God was right, and man must submit to Him. Humility produces submission.

Day Three – Tuesday**Deuteronomy 8:1-6**

Humility involves recognizing one's dependence upon God. The children of Israel were made to stay in the wilderness for 40 years so that God might humble them. This meant that they would come to understand how deeply they relied upon Him and His provision (cf. vs. 11-20). Furthermore, in their humility they would come to know that the spiritual is far more important and necessary than the physical. Humility acknowledges dependence.

Day Four – Wednesday**Psalm 9:9-12**

Humility requires trust in God. He is an unfailing refuge for those who trust in Him. Their trust is demonstrated by their crying out to the Lord in times of need. They know that they cannot overcome without God. And they also know that God is faithful and will come to their aid. Humility manifests trust.

Day Five – Thursday**Psalm 35:13-16**

Humility displays true love. Because he was humble, David loved his enemies. When they were in need, he mourned and prayed for them. He treated them as though they were his friends or brothers. A humble heart will seek what is best for others. Humility perfects love.

Day Six – Friday**Matthew 23:1-12**

Humility causes one to know his place. The humble person does not seek undue honor or titles. Rather, he seeks to serve. One of the greatest honors in this life is to be able to serve others. Humility produces service.

Day Seven – Saturday**Colossians 2:18-23**

Humility demonstrates submission to God. The false humility in this passage saw men willingly humbling themselves in worship of angels. Instead of humility, they actually displayed pride and rebellion! God is the only being worthy of worship. To worship angels is to reject the Word of God. In fact, it was “will worship” – worshipping after the will of man, not the will of God. Humility causes obedience.