



LESS IS MORE:
A biblical concept of humility

John 3:30 “He must become greater,
I must become less”

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Pride: The enemy of God

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

ἀντιτάσσομαι – “range in battle against”

Leviticus 26:19 I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.

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Pharisees: The Chief of Pride

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers-- or even like this tax collector.**12** I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

v. **13** "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'**14** "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Why does God hate pride so much?

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before
destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall

- The Devil (Isaiah 14:12-14)
- Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:5)

Pride defined: total self-dependence to
produce self-glory - “wants to be like God”

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Pride: the beginning of downfall

2 Chronicles 26:3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem,**4** He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. **5** He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success

v. **16** “**But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall**. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense

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Biblical concept of humility: a reversed paradigm

David

1 Samuel 17:28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? **I know your pride** and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

Caleb and Joshua

Numbers 14:10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

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Humility defined

Humility is an **absolute complete dependence on God** (David and Caleb)

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God.

ποτάσσω : to submit to one's control

LESS IS MORE !

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3 things that follow humility

1. God will dwell in you

Isaiah 57:15 "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

66:1 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? **2** Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

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3 things that follow humility

2. God will lift you up

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

ὑψόω to raise to the very top of opulence and prosperity,
to exalt, to raise to dignity, honour and happiness

3 things that follow humility

3. God will heal your land

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

God can heal your land – important things in your life that are in need of healing/recovery.

Conclusion

- Pride focuses on self-glory and is the beginning of downfall (King Uzziah)
- Humility is an absolute complete dependence on God which involves **total submission** (David and Caleb)
- God **dwells, lifts up, and heals** the humble but rejects the pride. **LESS of you is MORE of GOD!**