

Sunday Celebration (February 21, 2010)  
"Humility...the Great Reset Button"

Personal Idols (Pt. 6)

## The Pathway to Restoration

### THE PROGRESSION OF JAMES' THOUGHT:

#### DISORDERLY LIFE

**Jam 3:16** ... Jealousy, selfish ambition, and every vile practice (here associated with the wisdom that has not come from God)

**Jam 4:1-2** ... Quarrels, fights, and murder

#### → HEART IDOLATRY

**Jam 4:1-2** ... Problems arising out of Personal Desires & Passions

**Jam 4:4-5** ... God finds these Passions & Cravings IDOLATROUS (something else is being put before Him in our lives)

#### → THE SOLUTION TO IDOLATRY

**Jam 4:6** ... God's Grace

**Jam 4:6** ... Man's Humility

*"It needs to be made clear that it is not sin that humbles but grace. ...grace deals with and takes away sin. The more abundant the experience of grace the more intense the consciousness of being a sinner. I'm afraid that there are many who by strong expressions of self-condemnation and self-denunciation have sought to humble themselves, but who have to confess with sorrow that a humble spirit with its accompanying kindness and compassion, meekness and forbearance, is still as far off as ever. ...Being occupied with self, even having the deepest of self-abhorrence, can never free us from self. ...It is the soul that finds God to be everything that is so filled with His presence there is no place for self. ...Not to be occupied with your sin but to be fully occupied with God brings deliverance from self."*

**Andrew Murray**, "Humility", p. 11

***Consider the effect of the "Nearness of God" on Men of God:***

**Is 6** ... Isaiah is deeply humbled before the presence of God, resulting in a conviction that is NOT Paralyzing but rather motivating.

**Ez 1-2:3** .... Ezekiel is **UNDONE** then Mobilized

- Some People Want to ELIMINATE OUR AWARENESS OF SIN – We feel condemned, like a failure, like there's too much of my mess! ... Yet **this passage (Jam 4) does not IGNORE OUR SIN** – (v. 8-9)—It **SWALLOWS** it!!

.... Paul's Comments on sin & Grace

1 Cor 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.

1 Tim 1:13-15 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

**Rev 1:17-19** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. 19 Write therefore the things that you have seen...

*"It is the appropriate sense of awe in the presence of One wholly other than ourselves. ...Not until we have compared ourselves to God's majesty are we sufficiently aware of our lowly state." Derek Thomas, "Let's Study Revelation", p. 15*

## Humility... the Great Reset Button

*"When God created the universe, it was with the objective of making those he created partakers of His perfection and blessedness, thus showing forth the glory of His love and wisdom and power. ...God as the ever-living, ever-present, ever-acting One, who upholds all things by the word of His power, and in whom all things exist, meant that the relationship of His creatures to Himself would be one of unceasing, absolute dependence. ... Humility, the place of entire dependence upon God, is from the very nature of things the first duty and the highest virtue of His creatures. ...And so pride—the loss of humility—is the root of every sin and evil. ...a lack of humility is the explanation of every defect and failure." Andrew Murray, "Humility", p. 15, 16*

*...Humility is a Word of ORDER. It exists where things are in their Proper Place. When God is at the CENTER and all of creation is in Orbit Around Him - FOR HIS GLORY*

*What do we find when we trace the origin of sin?*

**The Garden of Eden** ... Man is being tempted to live a life of independence (The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil)

*- What Was the FUSE that Set Off the Explosion of Sin?*

**Gen 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate

...The TREE was a SHORT-CUT

**"to make one wise"** .... **"That's going to make me something!"**

- This was not the first time this "INIQUITY" rose up in the heart of a creature:

**Ez 28:11ff**

**Is 14:12-14**

***PRIDE = the Fuse that Sets Off the Explosion of Sin***

*...Pride is at the heart of idolatry—because it is the force that "DISPLACES GOD" (Ex 20:1-2). We put other gods in place, because we no longer want God's creation to be about HIM, we want it to be about US!!*

*... My Success ... My Comfort ... My Acceptance ... My Reputation ... My Thrills ... My Pleasure ...*

***... Pride is that Iniquity in Me that Wants Life to be Oriented Around ME!!***

*"And so pride—the loss of humility—is the root of every sin and evil. ... [Humility] is not something that we bring to God, or that He bestows; it is simply the sense of entire nothingness that comes when we see how truly God is everything. When the creature realizes that this is a place of honor, and consents to be the vessel in which the life and glory of God are to work and manifest themselves, he sees that humility is simply acknowledging the truth of his position as creature and yielding to God His place." Andrew Murray, "Humility", p. 16, 17*

*" 'Me' is a most exacting person, requiring the best seat and the highest place for itself, and feeling grievously wounded if its claim is not recognized. Most of the quarrels among Christian workers arise from the clamoring of this gigantic 'me'. How few of us understand the true secret of taking our seats in the lowest rooms." (Mrs. Smith, quoted in "Humility", p. 63)*

*...It is the soul occupied with God in His wonderful glory as Creator and Redeemer that will truly take the lowest place before Him." Andrew Murray, "Humility", p. 11*

***Pressing the RESET Button of Humility means me being eager to find my place and to desire God to have His place in my life.***