

Humility Is The Doorway Out Of The Pyramid

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Some of you may be wondering why we continue to write about the pyramid in Hinds' Feet On High Places. It's because our Father commanded us in 1994 to ***"Free the captives!"*** His goal has been at the heart of every *rhema* the Holy Spirit has given the two of us. The Spirit then gave us three objectives to help us fulfill our Father's goal:

1. ***"Share this message."***
2. ***"Lead."***
3. ***"Contend for My Son, Jesus."***

We realize that a number of you who are reading this email have already gone through the pyramid and have been sent back to the valley by our Lord to help others. We believe that this is the backdrop to the Mrs. Valiant character who was back in the Valley of the Fearings to serve the Shepherd's purposes there.

But there are others reading this who are reluctant to demolish the strongholds whose demonic voices they've grown so accustomed to hearing in their minds. They've refused to seek or to receive the help they need to confront the toxic memories and motivations which are holding them captive. These agitating memories and motives negatively influence their perception of certain people and events in their lives. That makes them unavailable to the Spirit to use them the way He would if they were free. Our Lord Jesus would deliver and heal them if they *humbled themselves* to seek the help of a trusted brother or sister and follow through in renouncing these spirits of bondage.

In this email we want to draw attention to two more hindrances which keep Christians trapped in the pyramid.

First, far too many people in religious systems have a deceived view about their responsibility in Christ to resolutely pursue sanctification. (If you recall, the sanctification process is the ongoing work of the indwelling Spirit to conform you to the character of Jesus as one who has been set apart to do our Father's will.) The primary cause for personal *irresponsibility* of individual followers of Jesus to walk in obedient trust in all areas of their lives is the appearance of **pietistic perfection** in their clergy. If their clergy person is "holier" than they are, then the pewsitting "lay person" doesn't have to be. But this distorted misrepresentation of the biblical viewpoint is a deceit which isn't of Jesus. Rather, it represents everything He spoke against regarding the "religious professionals" of His day.

All it takes for a clergy person to exude *pietistic perfection* is an academic understanding of Scripture and the ability to convey Bible knowledge to others. A veneer of pietistic perfection enables them to appear more religious or deserving of reverence no matter what's going on in their personal lives. Evaluating a person as being more spiritual or worthy of reverence than another by virtue of his role in the pulpit is a deception.

This centuries'-old stratagem of deceit has produced a class of spectator "laity". These spiritual bystanders most often regard themselves as never being able to measure up to the perceived piety of their professional "holy person", nor are they as biblically knowledgeable. The "laity" then settle for nothing more than to hear a sermon every week to instruct them in additional Bible facts.

You've most likely never heard a sermon about our Lord's warning against the type of religious leaders who allow or even encourage a misperception of themselves as "holier than thou." Please read Matthew 23. In this chapter our Lord Jesus sharply contrasts this

misperception as He defines the character of those He uses to lead His followers: “*The greatest among you will be your servant*” (Matthew 23:11).

You can readily recognize that the leaders our Lord uses have gone through the pyramid of transformation several times in their lives. And with each passage, the humility of *acceptance with joy* has been magnified. Free of the veneer of pietistic perfection, it’s these leaders who can humbly help others acquire the humility of heart that’s required to walk out of their own pyramid with acceptance and joy.

Our Father Seeks A Perfected Heart

Our heavenly Father never evaluates His children by what they accomplish. He looks for a perfect *heart*. And a perfect heart is characterized by these qualities:

- 1. His child loves and trusts and obeys Him.**
- 2. His child quickly repents when they violate their relationship with Him through sin.**
- 3. His child lives resolutely determined by grace to bring Him glory through serving Jesus as Lord of their life.**

A perfect heart is an inner quality of humility that’s encompassed by these three characteristics. You’ve most likely noticed that people who are commended in the Bible for their faith also had a perfect heart toward God. A perfect heart doesn’t mean that they didn’t sin or even struggle with sin at times. Rather, like them, your love is so devoted that your heart breaks when you sin, and you’re quick to restore fellowship with your Father through repentance. The humility that prompts your repentance also compels you to bring Him glory out of gratefulness.

If this doesn’t describe your life yet, or if you’ve lived under the false impression that your clergy are “more

spiritual” than you are, then don’t be surprised if it takes you a little longer to get through the pyramid of transformation. And be aware that if you *exalt yourself* by some unChrist-like evaluation, you too will remain in the pyramid until our Lord determines you have sufficient humility to serve Him.

You demonstrate a perfect heart in your love-based, obedient way of life. Your trust in your Father can be seen by your willingness to take just one step of faith at a time. A perfect heart is also shown in your humble willingness to forgive others and to have compassion on people who hate you and say all kinds of evil things about you (Matthew 5:10,11; Luke 6:35).

Several of our recent materials have emphasized the core attitudes of someone who follows Jesus as their Lord: **loving, forgiving** and **compassionate**. These characterize a person who has been humbled to pass through the pyramid of transformation. Paul does a wonderful job of encapsulating these character qualities as a way of life for anyone who is useful in the hands of our Lord Jesus:

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.** And over all these virtues **put on love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity”* (Colossians 3:12-14).

For us who serve our Lord Jesus, the character qualities Paul commends must be at the core of who we are and why we do what we do for Him. If they are lacking or need to be amplified for our Lord’s next use of us, we’ll be sent into the pyramid until a deeper humility is produced in us so that we flower with **“acceptance with joy.”**

“My name is ‘Bearing the Cost.’”

Partway through her journey (Chapter 10) Much-Afraid was given the opportunity to consider the truth of bearing the cost of trusting in the Shepherd’s plan for her life. The little flower she encountered, “Bearing the Cost”, had no choice about the place in which it had been left. Rather than giving in to despondency, it humbly accepted that a divine hand had placed it there. It flowered and produced seeds that went forth to blossom elsewhere.

We cite this because **bitter people refuse to bear the cost, and humility never blossoms in them.** Bitter people, those who refuse to forgive others, will never have the humility to get out of the pyramid and be “acceptance with joy.” As we’ve shared many times before, bitterness is *pride* in our Father’s sight (see Matthew 18:34,35; James 4:6).

If there are painful situations from your past in which you refused to bear the cost and instead became bitter, your transformation and your usefulness to our Lord Jesus will be impeded. These bitterness-infused memories will cause you to emotionally safeguard yourself, providing you an emotional exit out of trusting and serving Him. You’ll go on in life as a “Christian,” but you’ll never be transformed into what our Lord wants of you.

In a recent video of Mutually Serving Jesus Your Lord (#75), Mike specified two common sources of bitterness that block out humility and hinder all transformation by the Spirit of our Lord.

1. A person who can’t accept that our heavenly Father saw and allowed the emotional hurts they received in their past. He was saddened by their pain, but He didn’t stop the circumstance.

2. If a person's childhood was painful or harsh, they can't accept that most parents do the best they can with what they have going for themselves when they're raising their kids.



If either of these two obstacles to your transformation and service to our Lord plague you, then you are going to remain in the pyramid going round and round. This is crucial! Until you humble yourself and ask forgiveness for your unforgiving attitude, your heart will never experience "acceptance with joy." You'll remain in your own *self-incarceration of suffering* in the pyramid.

In light of what our Lord Jesus accomplished for you in paying the penalty for your sins, your bitter pride is stiff-necked, foolhardy rebellion both now and for eternity. If you claim to be "Christian" and live this way, you defile our Lord Jesus and the preciousness of His Name.

We encourage you to join all who've gone to the High Places and now serve our Lord Jesus with grace and glory. Look for such people to lead you in humility so you can experience acceptance with joy because you bore the cost. If you've been to the High Places, help someone else press on through the pyramid of transformation.

Mike & Sue