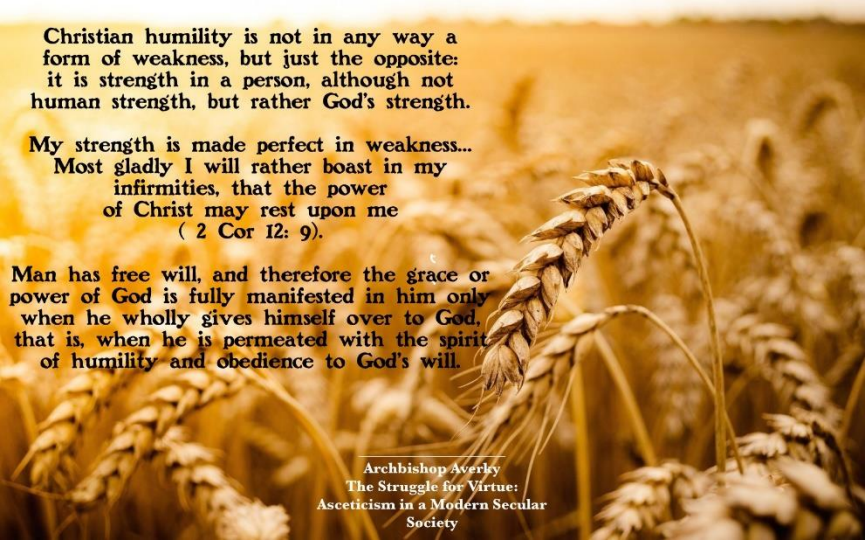


The Power of Humility



Christian humility is not in any way a form of weakness, but just the opposite: it is strength in a person, although not human strength, but rather God's strength.

My strength is made perfect in weakness...
Most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me
(2 Cor 12: 9).

Man has free will, and therefore the grace or power of God is fully manifested in him only when he wholly gives himself over to God, that is, when he is permeated with the spirit of humility and obedience to God's will.

Archbishop Avery
The Struggle for Virtue:
Asceticism in a Modern Secular
Society

By

William E. Thrasher, Jr.

The Power of Humility

*...My strength is made perfect in weakness...
Most gladly will I rather boast in my infirmities, that the
power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:19*

*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he
that shall humble himself shall be exalted. Matthew 23:12*

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man
that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than
he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God
hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Romans 12:3*

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

In preparation for today's sermon, **The Power of Humility**, I came across some quotes that I thought would help set the stage for my message. This first quote is from an unknown source: "Christian humility is not in any way a form of weakness, but just the opposite: it is strength in a person, although not human strength, but rather God's strength." As a young person growing up in the midst of the racial tensions of the 50's and 60's, I found myself often wondering where GREAT LEADERS like Dr. Martin Luther King found the courage and the strength to utilize non-violence as a means to protest the mistreatment and social injustice of people of color in America. As I have grown and matured, I now see that what he was doing was using **The Power of Humility** as his weapon of choice. His strength was not his, but the power of God working through him.

Ken Blanchard, author of **Lead like Jesus**, provides further insight about humility as it relates to people in leadership:

“When leaders choose to stand on the principles of love, compassion and integrity, many quietly label them as soft and spineless. Why? Because our modern-day ideas of strength have nothing to do with biblical principles. Too often, we commend so-called “success” that was achieved through a lack of empathy, greed, and self-centered attitudes.”

Blanchard again, takes the same concept and expounds on **The Power of Humility**. What he says about lack of empathy, greed and self-centered attitudes is the attitude of our primary occupant in the Whitehouse. His leadership is drawn solely from the well of fear and intimidation. He preys on those whom he considers to be weak and fearful. He uses their fears to control their actions, thinking that this approach will keep him in power. He is not ill-

informed, misinformed, but rather, he is willfully and deliberately uninformed, which makes him so insidious. He is totally insensitive to how the impact of his decisions affect other people. Those of us who are true followers of Christ must begin to see him as he truly is and understand that we have more going for us than he thinks. We have **The Power of Humility!** We as a nation, as well as the world, stand at a critical juncture in our life and time. We cannot afford to make any mistakes that will interrupt or stymie in any way the evolution of change that has been brought about by those men and women who have paid the ultimate price for justice and equality to prevail. To fight fire with fire is quite tempting, but that is painstakingly the fastest course to defeat. We must **Lead like Jesus!** By thinking out of the box we can use **The Power of Humility** to insure our victory.

How do we will **The Power of Humility?** Arch Bishop Avery in his treatise *The Struggle for Virtue: Asceticism in a Modern Secular Society* reminds us of an often forgotten premise “Man has free will and therefore the grace or the power of God is fully manifested in him **only** when he wholly gives himself over to God, that is, when he is permeated with the spirit of humility to obedience to God’s will.” Paul further clarifies it this way: “...*My strength is made perfect in weakness...Most gladly will I rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* 2 Corinthians 12:19

In other words, it is unwise for us to rely on our own strength or power as we struggle to restore peace, order and integrity to our nation, but rather we must trust in God and His prevailing power. We must recognize that it is only when we are weak that we can see how God intervenes on our behalf. We want the victory “like the hart that panteth after the water brooks” we thirst for the victory and this is how we can achieve it: Jesus says “*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*”

Matthew 23:12. We cannot nor should not concern ourselves with who gets credit for the good that must be done, for that type of attitude diminishes the efforts of the hard work achieved. We must be willing to take a low profile, and insure that the work gets done. This is what we can expect when we utilize **The Power of Humility**.

The problem in the Whitehouse is that its primary occupant only thinks of himself and his personal agenda. He has proven time and time again that he will sacrifice anyone to get what he wants regardless of who has to suffer. He has not heard what Paul has taught: *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*Romans 12:3

It is obvious that there is no faith in the Whitehouse. The leadership there suffers from inflated ideas of his own importance and as such is doomed to make the same mistakes over and over again leaving America the victims of his ill-fated arrogance.

We don't have to settle for this my brothers and sisters. We can be more than conquerors. We can show the White House's primary occupant and other wanna-be tyrants that **The Power**

of Humility is greater than any ill-conceived agenda. All that remains for us to do is hear the word of God and obey it: *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* 2 Chronicles 7:14

America stands in the disparate need of healing. Our sins as a nation have hidden God’s face from us, but we can change this by humbling ourselves by using The Power of Humility to pray for forgiveness for how we have turned from Him and how terribly we have treated one another. Then we *should seek the Lord while He may be found and Call upon Him while He is near*. Then and only then will God heal our land. Then will He restore the integrity to America that has sorely been squandered. Then we can realize that justice and equality are truly the hallmarks of this great land and that there is no longer room in this country for the intolerance of bigotry and racism that has plagued us for generations. **The Power of Humility** is our pathway to victory! Jesus, in his famous sermon on the mount teaches us that the Power of Humility is our greatest asset as well as ally:

1And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

13Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:1-16

The Power of Humility is our sword and shield that is ours as followers and believers of Christ to utilize for not only defense but to vanquish ignorance and evil intent. The **Power of Humility** will lead to restoration of America's greatness!