

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
America	774-03	<p><i>The average age of the world's greatest civilizations From the beginning of history, has been about two hundred years. During those two hundred years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:</i></p> <p><i>From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance; From abundance to complacency; From complacency to apathy; From apathy to dependence; From dependence back into bondage.</i></p>

—Commonly attributed to Alexander Fraser Tytler
p. 35

Judgment	774-04	<p>But there's more. Genesis 19 records the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities of the plain for their gross sin. <u>Ezekiel 16:49-50</u> gives the full reason for this divine judgment: "Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it." As you can see, homosexuality was not the only "abomination" for which God judged Sodom, but it was the final straw.</p>
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p. 90

- ① Pride
- ② Prosperity
- ③ Perversion

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
America	770-04	In 1947, forward-looking sociologist Dr. Carle Zimmerman wrote a text called <i>Family and Civilization</i> . He identified eleven “symptoms of final decay” observable in the fall of both the Greek and Roman civilizations. See how many characterize our society:

1. No-fault divorce
2. “Birth Dearth”; increased disrespect for parenthood and parents
3. Meaningless marriage rites/ceremonies
4. Defamation of past national heroes
5. Acceptance of alternative marriage forms
6. Widespread attitudes of feminism, narcissism, hedonism
7. Propagation of antifamily sentiment
8. Acceptance of most forms of adultery
9. Rebellious children
10. Increased juvenile delinquency
11. Common acceptance of all forms of sexual perversion³⁷

One cannot read lists such as these and doubt that America is throwing away its treasured position as the most blessed nation ever on the face of the earth. Remember, as we noted earlier, God blessed this country for a reason: our nation was founded on submission to Him. But now as the reasons for His blessings upon America are eroding, we can expect the blessings themselves to fade as well.

37. Adapted from Carle C. Zimmerman, *Family and Civilization* (Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2008), 255.
pp. 135-6

"Humility is the embarrassment we feel when we tell others how wonderful we are."

Daily Walk Bible

Jeremiah 2:17 (NLT)

And you have brought this upon yourselves by rebelling against the Lord your God, even though he was leading you on the way!

Ezekiel 14:4 (NLT)

Tell them, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: The people of Israel have set up idols in their hearts and fallen into sin, and then they go to a prophet asking for a message. So I, the Lord, will give them the kind of answer their great idolatry deserves."

- Proverbs 8:13 (NLT)

All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.

- Proverbs 11:2 (NLT)

Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

- Proverbs 13:10 (NLT)

Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.

- Proverbs 14:3 (NLT)

A fool's proud talk becomes a rod that beats him, but the words of the wise keep them safe.

- Proverbs 16:18 (NLT)

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

- Proverbs 29:23 (NLT)

Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.

Humility 027-175 God created the world out of nothing, and so long as we are
nothing, He can make something out of us.
—Martin Luther
p. 143

(1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking by Michael Hodgin) Grand Rapids, MI:
Zondervan Publishing House. Copyright - Michael Hodgin, 1994.

Humility 058-16 **Famous Humble Doctor**

Of course, one of the greatest sources of modern illustration is the delightful comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles Schultz. One of my favorites shows Linus and Charlie Brown sitting and talking about their plans when they grow up.

Linus says, "When I get big I'm going to be a humble little country doctor. I'll live in the city, see, and every morning I'll get up, climb into my sports car and zoom into the country! Then I'll start healing people. I'll heal everybody for miles around!" And he concludes this speech with "I'll be a world-famous humble little country doctor."

p. 185

Humility 058-17 **The Power Crowd**

Fuller Seminary recently celebrated its fortieth anniversary with the inauguration of the President's Lectureship in early November. The four speakers included such heavy hitters as Carl F. H. Henry, theologian; Samuel Hugh Moffett, professor emeritus of ecumenism and mission at Princeton; Mary Steward Van Leeuwen, professor interdisciplinary studies at Calvin College; and Carl Wisiger III, retired pastor.

In his opening address, Wisiger displayed characteristic humility in the company of such academic luminaries: I have been a pastor, by the grace of God. If I could do it all over again, I would be a pastor. I have never, frankly, regarded myself as a scholar. I have tried to be studious, and I want to thank Dr. David Hubbard for including me in this program today.

A farmer once put his mule in a horse race and his friends said to him, "Silly, that mule can't run with those thoroughbreds." The farmer said, "I know it, but you have no idea how good it makes him feel to be with all those horses!"

p. 186

PATTERN NUMBER TWELVE
THE WAY UP IS DOWN 5:5-14

KEY VERSES: 5:5,6

Likewise younger ones, be in subjection to the elders. Moreover, all of you, in your relations with each other clothe yourselves with humility because God is opposing the proud but is giving grace to the humble. Permit yourselves, therefore, to be humbled under the mighty hand of God in order that in due time He may exalt you.

MEMORY VERSES: 5:5,6

TEXT: 5:5-14

Likewise younger ones, be in subjection to the elders. Moreover, all of you in your ^{associating} relations with each other clothe yourselves with humility because God is opposing the proud, but is giving grace to the humble. Permit yourselves therefore to be humbled under the mighty hand of God in order that in due time he may exalt you. Throwing all your anxieties upon him because it is a care to about you. Be self-possessed, be watchful. Your adversary the devil as a roaring lion (in fierce hunger) is walking about seeking someone to devour (swallow up). Withstand (resist) him, firm (steadfast) in your faith. ^{knowing} Knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being laid upon your brotherhood who are in the world. But the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation. To him be the power, (the dominion) forever and forever, Amen. Through Silvanus, a faithful brother, as I am thinking of him, briefly I have written to you, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God, in which (grace) take your stand. The church in Babylon, chosen out with you sends greetings and Mark my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ.

EXPOSITION: Pattern Number Twelve says "The Way Up is Down." The Psalmist puts it in this way that "promotion comes neither from the east nor from the west, nor from the south, but God is the judge. He putteth down one and setteth up another."

* Humility can be seen as that which is recommended by the apostle in all of the previous patterns we have studied. Don't get shook, God has the controls, it doesn't depend on you. To get tough and start growing you've got to permit yourself to be humbled under his mighty hand. To realize you are a part of the establishment or a member of the team calls for the humility of dependence upon one another. To submit to authority over you also calls for humility. To follow the coach means in humble confidence you are trusting your life in the future to him. When one plus one equals one both partners have surrendered their right to bring about the beauty of this relationship. One of the ingredients of the beautiful life is to be humble-minded. If we are playing by the right game plan we have set apart Christ as Lord. In our hearts we have submitted ourselves to His Lordship. What you plant is what you pick if you live by the desires of the flesh you'll pick what you plant but if in humble brokenness you submit to the Will of God, life becomes life abundant. Keeping a good attitude in the midst of suffering when we humbly accept His plans and purposes for us as being good. The laws of leadership can be

29. The outlines on the book of First Peter are numerous, yet the big idea of First Peter is a God of grace providing grace for salvation and for submission and for suffering.
30. The key verse for the epistle is chapter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, (SALVATION) after you have suffered a little while (SUFFERING) shall Himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation. (SUBMISSION)."
31. The subject of salvation is seen in this section beginning with chapter 1:1 through chapter 2:12. The subject of submission is seen in the section beginning at chapter 2:13 and going through chapter 3:12 and the subject of suffering is seen in the section beginning with chapter 3:13 through 5:14.

OUTLINE OF THE STUDY: PATTERNS TO PRACTICE FROM PETER'S PLAY BOOK

Key verse: 5:10 "But the God of all grace who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ after you have suffered a little while, shall Himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you, as on a foundation."

1. Pattern Number One: Don't Get Shook, God Has the Controls 1:1 - 1:12
2. Pattern Number Two: Get Tough and Start Growing 1:13- 2:3
3. Pattern Number Three: You are Part of the Establishment 2:4 - 2:10
4. Pattern Number Four: Submit to Authority 2:11- 2:17
5. Pattern Number Five: Follow the Coach 2:18- 2:25
6. Pattern Number Six: When One Plus One Equals One 3:1 - 3:7
7. Pattern Number Seven: Life Can Be Beautiful 3:8 - 3:12
8. Pattern Number Eight: The Right Game Plan 3:13- 3:22
9. Pattern Number Nine: What You Plant is What You Pick 4:1 - 4:11
10. Pattern Number Ten: Keep A Good Attitude 4:12- 4:19
11. Pattern Number Eleven: There Are Laws For Leadership 5:1 - 5:4
12. Pattern Number Twelve: The Way Up is Down 5:5 - 5:14

CONCLUSION:

Paul in writing to Timothy shares with him in chapter three of the second Epistle, the whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone."

My prayer for you as a leader is that you will begin practicing these patterns that Peter gives us and that the living Christ will be seen in you this summer, in all of His glory.

Peter went through it all and eventually was laid
upside down. A Martyr for Jesus. Salvation Submission
And SUFFERING were his lot!

Holman N.T. Commentary David Walls + Max Anders

Verse 5

leadership. Be submissive is a command, an imperative, a directive which should be obeyed. Such a command is not to be debated. The verb means "to defer to the authority of." It indicates a spirit of cooperation as opposed to dissatisfaction with the leadership. It describes a willingness to support the pastors' directions.

Some church members believe they have a right to sabotage pastoral leadership, to speak critically of pastors, to slander them, to castigate them simply because they don't like them or their leadership. God has not given the members of the flock this responsibility. When they take this upon themselves, they allow Satan to use them as his tool for division and destruction in the church. The message here is clear: when pastor-shepherds lead their congregation with responsible and godly leadership and members of the flock resist this leadership, those members are in disobedience to the Lord and have opened the door for Satan.

The combination of godly leadership and submissive followership should flow into an attitude of humble respect for one another throughout the church body. Clothe yourselves with humility suggests that humility should be a part of the believer's wardrobe. "To clothe" refers to a slave or servant putting on an apron or towel to serve someone else. This image was forever ingrained in Peter's mind. He had firsthand knowledge of this kind of humility. The same night on which Peter denied Christ, Jesus took a towel and washed the feet of the disciples (see John 13).

summarized in the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 20:26-28. It shall not be so among you but whoever would be great among you ^{let him} must be your servant and whoever would be first among you must be your slave even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

The words of Watchman Nee are fitting "so let us humble ourselves under the hand of God that He may make us uncompromisingly faithful in all our ministry yet gentle in spirit and always swift to give way to other members of His household.

Verse Five: Likewise, younger ones, be in subjection to the elders. Moreover all of you, in your relations with each other clothe yourselves with humility, because God is opposing the proud but is giving grace to the humble. *Associations*

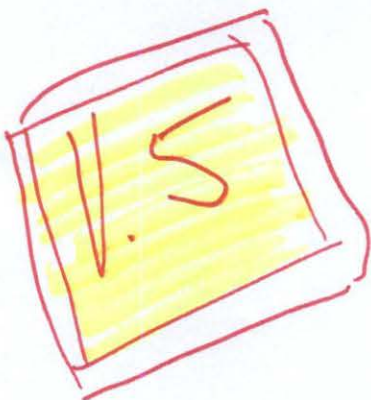
1. Peter returns once again to the subject of God's order in chain of command by commanding the younger ones to be in subjection to the elders who are charged with the responsibility before God of the care and leadership of the flock.
2. Then Peter expands the exhortation by saying "Moreover, all of you in your relations with each other clothe yourselves with humility", the reason being because "God is opposing the proud, but is giving grace to the humble".
3. This is someone has called the beautiful paradox of the Christian life. Everybody being subject to everybody else.
4. Ironside points out "to be clothed with humility means to let humility cover us like a garment. Humility is not so much to think of self in a lowly and mean way, but rather not to think of self at all". *Not degrading self*
5. Rees in commenting on this verse says "the word for 'clothe' describes a thing that is knotted and therefore may be applied to the tying on of a slave's apron. You see, what was probably in Peter's mind was that memorable night of the Last Supper when neither he nor any other apostle made a move to bath one another's feet. So peevish were they over the tiff of self-importance through which they had just passed and the Master had risen, laid aside His robe, donned a servants apron and had begun washing the feet of all of them. Memories that bless and burn; in other words, as they had done a thousand times before, ring like a distant chime through the apostles mind. I have given you this example that you should do as I have done. Truly, truly, I say to you a servant is not greater than his master, nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. Now says Peter to his scattered, troubled brethren, let it be understood once for all that the wearing of a slaves apron is to be your lot.
6. Peter quotes from Proverbs 3:34 when he says "God is opposing the proud but is giving grace to the humble."
7. God is an adversary to the proud because the proud are living for themselves and their own desires but He is advocate for the humble providing grace to meet his every need.
8. This verse and verse six are the key verses in this particular study The Way Up is Down.
9. John Newton has best expressed it in poetry:

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
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Humility

726-05

Speaker and author James Ryle makes sense of how feeling secure can produce a correlation of kindness and humility:
“Humility is the God-given self-assurance that eliminates the need to prove the worth of who you are and the rightness of what you do.”
p. 26



(Fénelon: Talking with God by François Fénelon) Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press. Copyright - The Community of Jesus, Inc., 1997. 142 pp.

Humility

126-03

Those who are truly humble will be surprised to hear anything exalted of themselves. They are calm and peaceful, of a contrite and humble heart, merciful and compassionate. They are quiet, cheerful, obedient, watchful, fervent in spirit, and incapable of strife. They always take the lowest place, rejoice when they are despised, and consider everyone better than themselves. They are lenient to the faults of others in view of their own and very far from preferring themselves before anyone. We may thus judge our progress in humility by the delight we have in humiliations and contempt.

p. 22

(Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals & Groups edited by Richard J. Foster & James Bryan Smith) San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins. Copyright - RENOVARÉ, Inc., 1990, 1991, 1993.

Humility

173-42

Learn to bear criticism patiently, knowing the harsh words of an enemy can be a greater motivator than the kind words of a friend.

—Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

p. 272

(That Cat Won't Flush: An Entertaining Country Dictionary by Wallace O. Chariton) Plano, TX: Wordware Publishing, Inc. Copyright - Wordware Publishing, Inc., 1991.

Humility

202-25

HUMILITY When you say grace before eatin' crow

p. 114

(Hustling God: Why We Work So Hard for What God Wants to Give by M. Craig Barnes) Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House. Copyright - M. Craig Barnes, 1999. 201 pp.

Humility

209-08

I had been in seminary for less than a month when one of my professors said, "Begin each morning in prayer thanking God that you are unnecessary."

p. 92

Humility

022-32

"Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

p. 165

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.) Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
Copyright - Albert M. Wells, Jr., 1988.

Humility

027-85

Should you ask me what is the first thing in religion, I should reply that the first, second, and third thing therein is humility.

—Augustine

What makes humility so desirable is the marvelous thing it does to us; it creates in us a capacity for the closest possible intimacy with God.

—Monica Baldwin

p. 91

Humility

027-86

If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a biggish step too.

—C. S. Lewis

p. 92

Humility

027-87

God created the world out of nothing, and so long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.

—Martin Luther

p. 92

Humility

027-88

Humility is like underwear—essential, but indecent if it shows.

—Helen Nielson

p. 92

Humility

027-89

If you are willing to admit you're all wrong, when you are, you're all right.

p. 92

Humility

01-32

Humility is the first virtue of the Christian, said Bernard. The second greatest virtue is also humility. The third greatest virtue is, likewise, humility. So is the fourth. Since the four greatest virtues of the faith are all humility, the subject ought to receive our full attention. Only when we have put our humility into practice will we learn our place before God and our ministry to our world.
p. 184

(Future Grace by John Piper) Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books. Copyright - John Piper, 1995.

Humility

019-16

Humility is not a popular human trait in the modern world. It's not touted in the talk shows or celebrated in valedictory speeches or commended in diversity seminars or listed with corporate core values. And if you go to the massive self-help section of your sprawling mall bookstore, you won't find many titles celebrating humility.

The basic reason for this is not hard to find: humility can only survive in the presence of God. When God goes, humility goes. In fact you might say that humility follows God like a shadow. We can expect to find humility applauded in our society about as often as we find God applauded.

In my local newspaper recently a guest editorial captured the atmosphere of our time that asphyxiates humility:

There are some who naively cling to the nostalgic memory of God. The average churchgoer takes a few hours out of the week to experience the sacred . . . But the rest of the time, he is immersed in a society that no longer acknowledges God as an omniscient and omnipotent force to be loved and worshiped . . . Today we are too sophisticated for God. We can stand on our own; we are prepared and ready to choose and define our own existence.¹

In this atmosphere humility cannot survive. It disappears with God. When God is neglected, the runner-up god takes his place, namely man. And that, by definition, is the opposite of humility, namely, the haughty spirit called pride. So the atmosphere we breathe is hostile to humility.

1. Ralph Georgy, "If God Is Dead, Then the Late 20th Century Buried Him," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, September 12, 1994.
pp. 85-86

Humility

488-03

To cry out with a loud voice for help—with the unleashing of emotion that often comes with it—can be a humbling experience. That's why we often resist it. We tend to be proud; we want people to think we're competent and that we've "got it all together." We don't like to admit we have a problem, much less publicly acknowledge our need for outside help to resolve it. But such pride causes God to turn away His face—"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

God resists the proud because pride is our attempt to be equal with God, and it's in direct opposition to all He wants to do in and through our lives. Pride is reserving for ourselves the right to make final decisions.

Pride is building our life around ourselves . . . *with the cry of humility, we turn that right over to God with no strings attached.*

Pride is believing our accomplishments and successes are due to what *we achieve* . . . *with the cry of humility, we center our lives around God.*

Pride tries to project a polished image of competence and confidence . . . *with the cry of humility, we show our dependence on what God does for us and through us.*

pp. 67-68

Humility

488-04

On that evening when the wind and the waves so terrified the disciples in their boat, it's amazing that Jesus didn't rise up on his own and calm the storm at once, but instead waited until the disciples cried out for help. This is the Lord's pattern and program to keep us in close fellowship with Him and His power. He knows we don't do well with ease and prosperity. We try to become independent and live as if we don't need God.
p. 70

Humility

488-05

The deepest, most sincere cry is one of unconditional surrender to God and His will. By crying out, we give voice and greater power to our God-given commitments and convictions, and we allow them to triumph over any idols and secret indulgences in our lives. We say, "God You win. I surrender. I will live by Your rules, not by mine."

When we continue to cling to those idols and indulgences, God usually refuses to answer our attempted cries.
p. 71

Humility

415-01

“Humility is perfect quietness of heart,” Andrew Murray once wrote. “It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble.”
(Day 9)

Once upon a time a paper kite
 was mounted to a wondrous height.
 Where giddy with its elevation,
 it thus expressed self-admiration.
 See how yonder crowds of gazing people
 admire my flight above the steeple.
 How would they wonder if they knew
 all that a kite like me can do.
 Were I but free, I'd take a flight
 and pierce the clouds beyond their sight.
 But ah, like a poor prisoner bound,
 my string confines me near the ground.
 I'd brave the eagles towering wing,
 might I but fly without a strong.
 It tugged and pulled while thus it spoke
 to break the string - at last it broke.
 Deprived at once of all its stay,
 in vain it tried to soar away.
 Unable its own weight to bear,
 it fluttered downward through the air.
 Ah, foolish kite, thou hadst no wings,
 how could thou fly without a string.
 My heart replied, oh Lord I see,
 how much this kite resembles me.
 Forgetful that by thee I stand,
 impatient of thy ruling hand.
 How oft I've wished to break the lines,
 thy wisdom for my lot assigns.
 How oft I indulged a vain desire
 for something more, or something higher.
 And but for grace and love divine,
 a fall thus dreadful had been mine.

10. Keith Miller in his Habitation of Dragons says "Lord, help me to have the courage to look for the little inner walls and fortresses in my relationships behind which I protect my pride. Forgive me for camouflaging these defenses and calling them matters of principle when so often they are only means to keep from having to admit that I have been wrong and wanted to be number one. I guess this is what has always made you so threatening to me. When you expose my self-justifying defenses, I either have to confess them or put you down which is what I guess we tried to do on the Cross. And I still try to put you down when you get close to revealing the motives I have hidden. Help me Lord not to cling to my rights, but to unclinch my spiritual fist so that I can be free to follow you."

Verse Six: Permit yourselves, therefore, to be humbled under the mighty hand of God in order that in due time He may exalt you.

1. Since the previous is true, that God is opposing the proud but is giving grace to the humble, permit yourselves therefore to be humbled under the mighty hand of God. The purpose for doing this is in order that in due time He may exalt you.

Pride

Peter knew from experience what he was talking about. For a part of his earlier life, Peter operated from a base of pride. He said something along these lines: "Lord, everybody else may bail out on you, but when the fur flies, you can count on me. I'll be right at your shoulder. These other wimps will walk, but not me. You can count on it!" (see Matt. 26:33; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34).

People who dance with pride trust only in themselves, in their own opinions, in their own ideas. Inevitably, they seek attention and glory for themselves. God stands opposed to this attitude. God applauds the model that resists or fights off the arrogance of Satan through the attitude of humility. Is it possible that Peter remembered his own self-glorifying behavior and Jesus' words of rebuke to him? (See Matt. 16:23.)

"less than qualified" rating, which would take me off the flying schedule until I was retrained. For a flyer, that would be devastating.

I walked to the airplane, looked at the tail number, and froze. This plane was modified with the newest configuration. *Now what were the chances I'd get this jet to fly?* I thought with dismay. I went through the flight, fumbling around as I tried to familiarize myself with the knobs, dials, and switches. After the flight was over, I knew I'd blown it. I was ruled "less than qualified."

I left the debrief in shock thinking my career was over. The other officers looked at me as if I were a leper. There was personal disappointment and, yes, shame over my performance. I read the Bible for comfort and discovered the verse, "who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame . . ."

How was it possible that Jesus could despise the shame, when I was overwhelmed with it? He was dragged from His friends, ridiculed, and railroaded by the religious leaders, brutalized by the Romans, derided by the crowds, and *still* He despised the shame. Then I saw it. He was looking *beyond the moment* to the joy of what was before Him—the salvation of His people. Suddenly, I realized that the circumstances of my failure were temporary while my *future* was secure in Him. Why should I be ashamed of that? I was both comforted and re-motivated.

About a month later the evaluator who had disqualified me said, "I'm really impressed by your attitude and your effort. Clearly, this was a problem of training, not your competence." I kept my head up, finished my re-training and was put back on qualified status again. The end of this story is equally remarkable. I discovered the evaluator was a believer and we developed a friendship that has lasted to this day. Some fifteen years after that check-ride, while he was commanding a flying squadron, he called and asked me to be his second in command—his operations officer! now, isn't that just like the Lord?
pp. 180-81

(Live Long and Die Laughing by Mark Lowry) Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group. Copyright – W Publishing Group, 2000.

Humility

411-05

God doesn't *need* any of us; He chooses to work through us. And when Bill Gaither goes to glory, God will raise someone else up. When Billy Graham takes his flight, God will raise someone else up. And when I'm gone . . . there'll be a moment of silence. My family and friends have earned it.
p. 80

(God Is Closer Than You Think by John Ortberg) Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Copyright – John Ortberg, 2005.

Humility

674-14

Actor Clint Eastwood once put it like this: "A man's gotta know his limitations."
p. 107

(Morning and Evening by Charles H. Spurgeon) Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson. Copyright – Unknown.

Humility

683-49

HUMILIATION of soul always *brings a positive blessing with it*. If we empty our hearts of self God will fill them with His love.
p. 193

Humility

683-79

Patience, then, believer, eternity will right the wrongs of time. Let us not fall into the error of letting our passions and carnal appetites ride in triumph, while our nobler powers walk in the dust. Grace must reign as a prince, and make the members of the body instruments of righteousness. The Holy Spirit loves order, and He therefore sets our powers and faculties in due rank and place, giving the highest room to those spiritual faculties which link us with the great King; let us not disturb the divine arrangement, but ask for grace that we may keep under our body and bring it into subjection. We were not new created to allow our passions to rule over us, but that we, as kings, may reign in Christ Jesus over the triple kingdom of our spirit, soul, and body, to the glory of God the Father.
p. 280

(The Life You've Always Wanted by John Ortberg) Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. Copyright – John Ortberg, 1997, 2002.

Humility

494-15

One of the hardest things in the world is to stop being the prodigal son without turning into the elder brother. So how can humility be pursued?
p. 113

(Age Doesn't Matter Unless You're a Cheese by Kathryn & Ross Petras) New York, NY: Workman Publishing. Copyright – Kathryn & Ross Petras, 2002.

Humility

563-09

Young man, the secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered I was not God.
JURIST OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES JR.
p. 223

(So, You Want To Be Like Christ? by Charles Swindoll) Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group. Copyright – Charles R. Swindoll, 2005.

Humility

641-11

When grace changes the heart, submission out of fear changes to submission out of love, and true humility is born.¹
—WILLIAM HENDRIKSEN

1. William Hendriksen, *Philippians* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: 1962), 100.
p. 78

Humility

641-18

Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends.
—dWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
p. 122

Humility

641-20

Douglas Southall Freeman ends his four-volume work on Robert E. Lee with a touching scene. General Lee was wrinkled and gray and stooped over—very close to death—when a young mother came to see him with her infant cradled in her arms. When Lee reached out for her baby, she responded by placing the infant in Lee still-strong arms. The great general looked deeply into the child's eyes and then slowly turned to the mother and said, "Teach him he must deny himself."
The path to greatness in the kingdom of God will lead you through the valley of selflessness. Christlike humility will emerge on its own. Let it be. Let it be.
p. 144

(Empowered to Pray by Woodrow Kroll) Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. Copyright - Woodrow Kroll, 1995. 175 pp.

Humility

216-02

Jonathan Edwards said, "Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility." If you want Satan to be at your elbow when you pray, pray like the Pharisee. If you want him to keep his distance, pray like the tax collector. Prayer without humility is like bidding at an auction without money. It's all talk. pp. 74-75

(Illustrations Unlimited by James S. Hewett, editor) Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House. Copyright - James S. Hewett, 1988.

Humility

291-34

COMMENCEMENT

I remember when I got my diploma several years ago—it was an exciting day, with all the processionalists, the ceremony, the talks by the speakers who told us about our responsibility to save the world. I remember after I got my diploma in my hand, as the crowd began to disperse, I looked around me past the stadium to the city beyond and then began to think of the size of the world that lay even beyond the city. I looked down at my diploma again, then back at the city and the world, and as I turned again to the diploma, from out of nowhere, those famous words by Tallulah Bankhead suddenly came into my mind, "Truly, there is less here than meets the eye."

From a baccalaureate address given by the Rev. Peter Gomes at the Stanford Chapel in 1977
p. 296

(God's Little Treasury of Virtues by Honor Books) Tulsa, OK: Honor Books. Copyright - Honor Books, Inc., 1996.

Humility

298-10

Be Humble

There is no true and constant gentleness without humility. While we are so fond of ourselves, we are easily offended with others. Let us be persuaded that nothing is due to us, and then nothing will disturb us. Let us often think of our own infirmities, as we shall become indulgent toward those of others.

—*Fenelon*

Daily Strength for Daily Needs

Mary Tileston
p. 139

Humility

354-05

The great weakness in the North American church at large, and certainly in my life, is our refusal to accept our brokenness. We hide it, evade it, gloss over it. We grab for the cosmetic kit and put on our virtuous face to make ourselves admirable to the public. Thus, we present to others a self that is spiritually together, superficially happy, and lacquered with a sense of self-deprecating humor that passes for humility. The irony is that while I do not want anyone to know that I am judgmental, lazy, vulnerable, screwed up, and afraid, for fear of losing face, the face that I fear losing is the mask of the impostor, not my own!

p. 122

Humility

354-06

Whenever I heard the words, "Blessed are those who know they are broken" (Matt. 5:3), I thought, *Hell, that blessing was for publicans and prostitutes who did not have my track record of unstinting service to the Kingdom of God!* My resident inner Pharisee was clearly alive and well.

Defense mechanisms are useful ploys to warp our perception of self and protect us from rejection, loss, and emotional pain. Through the smokescreen of rationalization, projection, and insulation, we remain on the merry-go-round of denial and dishonesty. Unable to accept our brokenness, we wear a thousand masks to disguise the face of fear.

p. 124

Humility

354-07

Following Jesus, the humble in heart waste little time in introspection, navel-gazing, looking in the mirror, and being anxious about their spiritual growth. Their self-acceptance without self-concern is anchored in the acceptance of Jesus in their struggle to be faithful. They fasten their attention on God.

pp. 125-6

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Humility	754-05	<p>In the same vein, think about the particular challenge that churches often face when it comes to passion and humility. Seemingly an endangered species, humble people rightly reflect the spirit of Christ in so many ways. Humility was portrayed clearly in the Gospels, and was such a defining characteristic that the New Testament writers were still recounting its virtues in Philippians and beyond. Humility puts us in right relationship to both God and to others; it sets the tone for our biblical community and allows us to serve and releases us from the need to compare and measure. In many ways, humility frees us up to be the best followers, the best leaders, and the most content children of God.</p> <p>However (and that is a key word in the world of tensions), I have encountered people in churches who use this very wonderful word as a shield to hide behind as they work to avoid change, steer clear of truth, and relentlessly maintain the status quo, even when it renders them and the message of the gospel completely irrelevant to those who need it most. Humility can become a “get out of jail free” card that protects against accountability and honesty. I have seen it used as a shameless defense for protecting a personal viewpoint and as a weapon for destroying any sign of pride in a job well done.</p> <p>pp. 76–77</p>
Leadership	754-06	<p>One leader I worked with recently said, “I think if you have great people and a great environment, you will do great work.”</p> <p>p. 121</p>
Leadership	754-07	<p>Leadership, done well, will continually be a force that drives you back into the center of yourself to find out what you are really made of.</p> <p>p. 124</p>
Leadership	754-08	<p>My husband, John, once asked this question: Is the life you’re inviting others into, the life you’re leading?</p> <p>I love that line because it speaks to authenticity and truth.</p> <p>p. 126</p>
Leadership	754-09	<p>“IT IS THE HARDEST thing in the world to frighten a mongoose, because he is eaten up from nose to tail with curiosity.” That’s from <i>Rikki-Tikki-Tavi</i> in case you need to credit the source the next time you use that quote.</p> <p>p. 149</p>

April 4
Saturday

HUMILITY AND GREATNESS

READ:
Matthew 20:20-28

Whoever desires to
become great among
you, let him be your
servant.
—Matthew 20:26

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

■ Ruth 1-4

■ Luke 8:1-25

demonstrated and taught by Jesus Christ, who told His ambitious disciples: "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:26-28).

When God Himself walked on earth as a man, He washed feet, welcomed children, and willingly gave His life to deliver us from the self-centered tyranny of sin. His example gives credence to His command. —David McCasland

*True greatness does not lie with those
Who strive for worldly fame,
It lies instead with those who choose
To serve in Jesus' name.* —D. De Haan

**We can do great things for the Lord
if we are willing to do little things for others.**

As a 7-year-old, Richard Bernstein admired Jackie Robinson's athletic ability and courage as the first African-American man to play Major League baseball in the modern era. A few years later, while working at a small-town golf course, Bernstein was astonished to find himself carrying the bag of his hero, Jackie Robinson. When rain postponed the game, Robinson held an umbrella over the two of them and shared his chocolate bar with the young caddy. Writing in *The International Herald Tribune*, Bernstein cited that humble act of kindness as a mark of greatness he has never forgotten.

True greatness is shown by humility, not pride. This was powerfully

5:7. Satan and his attacks have not been mentioned overtly, but another resistance method for believers appears here. As we trust God and his mighty power, we follow a God who cares deeply for us. Peter may have had in mind the words of Jesus (Matt. 6:25–34). If so, he borrowed them and placed them in the context and crucible of suffering and persecution.

Cast means "to throw something upon someone or something else." This word suggests a deliberate decision of trust. We are to trust God with our anxiety, the things we worry about. The term (*merimnan*) means "to be drawn in different directions, to be divided or distracted." Whatever we are anxious about tends to distract us from trusting God. It tends to pull us in different directions so that we do not depend on him. When we limp in this direction, we do not resist Satan, but play into his hand. He wants us to put more trust in ourselves and others as opposed to God.

2. It is a fantastic truth to realize that God, through His gracious dealings with us will do the humbling if we will but yield to Him and allow the humbling to take place. The trials, the tests and the suffering are all part of His humbling process and as we are submissive and allow this process to go on we have the wonderful promise in the latter part of this verse that in due time He may exalt you.
3. Paul to the Philippians after he describes the suffering and death of Jesus Christ in chapter two, verse nine, he says "that is why God hath now lifted Him so high and has given Him the name beyond all names so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, whether in heaven or earth or under the earth and that is why in the end every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord to the glory of God the Father.
4. We now can comprehend Peter's Patterns to Practice here and that is The Way Up is Down. As we are submissive and yielded to the Spirit of God He does a work in our lives to prepare us for the sheer glory of being used by Him. *
5. F. B. Myer points out "the shadow cast by that mighty hand is dense and dark, its pressure is almost overwhelming. David cried as he felt it, 'Day and night thy hand was heavy upon me. My moisture was turned into the drought of summer'. But bend beneath it. It's pressure may be felt in personal suffering, in rebuke, or shame or persecution, or in loss of property or in some other form of chastisement. Yet take each as another opportunity of putting into practice this injunction to humility. Lie still my soul. Whatever God ordains is right and good. Thou deservest nothing better. What right hast thou to be sitting at the royal table at all. If thou hadst thy rights thou wouldst be now in the outer gloom."

Verse Seven: Throwing all your anxieties upon Him, because it is a care to Him about you.

1. Whereas in verse six we are to "permit ourselves to be humbled," now in verse seven we are to "be throwing all of our anxieties upon him." That is God, because it is a care to Him about us.
- 2. Proverbs 16:3 - Roll your work unto the Lord and your plans will be achieved.
- 3. Philippians 4:6 - Entertain no worry, but under all circumstances let your petitions be made known before God by prayer and pleading along with thanksgiving.
4. F. B. Myer once again says "Do not be satisfied with rolling yourself on God. Roll your burden also. He who can carry the one can carry the other. A tiny boy trying to help his father move his books fell on the staircase beneath the weight of a heavy volume. His father ran to his aid and caught him up in his arms, boy and burden both and carried them in his arms to his room. And will God deal worse with us? He cannot fail or forsake. He can smite rocks and open seas and unlock the treasures of the air and ransack the stores of the earth. Birds will bring meat and fish coins if He bid them. He takes up the isles as a very little thing. How easily then, your heaviest load while there is nothing so trivial that you make it a matter of prayer and faith".

5. Ferrin, in commenting on this verse says "Never forget that there is one who thinks more of you than you do of yourself and that he is committed to help you and to look out for your interest and cause you to prosper in every way according to His will. So do not fret, but cast all your care upon Him. Do not worry whether men esteem and honor you. He cares, and in due time you will be exalted."

6. It is His will that I should cast my care on Him each day. He also bids me not to cast my confidence away, but oh how foolishly I act when taken unaware. I cast away my confidence and carry all my care.

7. It was David in Psalms 55:22 who said "Cast thy burden on the Lord and He will sustain thee".

8. It certainly is a wonderful thought to think of the fact that the God who carries the universes and who spangled the heavens with the stars and the planets is the same one who carries us continually upon His heart.

Verse Eight: Be self-possessed, be watchful. Your adversary the devil as a roaring lion (in fierce hunger) is walking about seeking someone to devour (swallow-up).

1. First of all in this section he said ¹ permit yourselves to be humbled and then ² throw all your anxieties upon Him and now he's saying ³ be self-possessed, be watchful.

2. Pentecost in his book Your Adversary the Devil, says "sobriety in scripture has little if anything to do with alcoholic beverages. Sobriety has to do with a serious attitude of the mind. It has to do with an outlook on life. Sobriety sees things in their true light. One who is serious minded sees things in their true nature because he has a scriptural set of values and is living in the light of those new principles that have been given to him by Jesus Christ. An individual who takes no cognizance of the nature or character of the world, one who is unmindful of the purposes and attacks of our adversary the devil can afford to live in a light hearted or flippant way. But for one who sees life as Jesus Christ sees it there must be an entirely new attitude, an entirely new outlook characterized by sobriety. But in addition to this serious minded attitude the believer is to be vigilant. Vigilant means to watch carefully, to look around. One becomes vigilant when he recognizes the presence of an enemy or an adversary. Whereas sobriety deals with his internal attitude, vigilance deals with the external defense. This new attitude within is necessary because of the attack from without. So the child of God must recognize that he is living in the midst of a hostile enemy. That he is surrounded by an unseen adversary seeking to destroy him. He knows he must make his way through a morass where there is ample opportunity for the adversary to hide. Where there is abundant opportunity for ambush. It is inconceivable that our men in Viet Nam could make a foray into enemy territory without exercising vigilance and serious mindedness. Having seen a buddy destroyed by the adversary's bullets would produce a serious-mindedness. The

Amos 3:2

consciousness that behind every bush might lurk an enemy who already has one in his gunsight would produce vigilance. A man would be an utter idiot to go into armed combat with any other attitude or outlook and yet how many of us as God's children treat life as though it were a Sunday School.

3. Your adversary the devil as a roaring lion (in fierce hunger) is walking about seeking someone to devour or swallow-up.

4. Here Peter pictures the real adversary - the devil - as a roaring lion. It could be possible that Peter had in his mind some of the persecutions and the Christians being fed to the lions in the arena and thus used this as an illustration of satan himself. Whereas these persecuted Saints were being opposed from all sides. The real enemy and adversary, was satan who was watching for the smallest opportunity to catch them unawares.

- ✓5. Peter had an experience in Matthew 16 that caused him to realize how much satan is like a roaring lion pursuing us every step of the way. For shortly after he made his great confession that Jesus Christ was the Son of the living God. In verse twenty-two after Christ had told His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem to die, Peter took Him and began to rebuke Him saying "be it far from thee Lord, this shall not be unto thee".

- ✓6. Pentecost points out in the word translated rebuke is a word that literally means, to take one by the shoulders and shake him. Peter was trying to shake some sense into the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ turned, and these are His words "get thee behind me satan for thou art an offense unto me, for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of man."

- ✓7. Notice in the text too that the verb is in the present tense. He is continually walking about seeking someone to devour, to swallow up.

Amos 3:1

- ✓8. Pentecost says further "Satan never relaxes. You sleep, he doesn't. He is planning for the next days attack. You sit in church, so does satan. He doesn't leave you alone. He doesn't stay outside. He is there to attack and divert and to snatch away the word that is being sown. The Apostle uses a graphic picture to try to convey to us satan's ceaseless and destructive activity. The figure of a lion. The lion who stalks the prey driven by hunger is not stalking it to admire the beautiful coat, the grace with which the animal moves. The lion stalks because it is bent upon the destruction of that which it has chosen as its prey. Satan is pictured here as a roaring lion that stalks. Roaring lion suggests that satan considers he has already conquered his prey. No lion stalking its prey announced the fact by roaring. The lion does not emerge from sleep, go out into the plain driven by hunger where animals are grazing and announce to them that he's on the prowl. It moves with swiftness and silence. It strikes and destroys the prey and then roars. That roar does two things. First of all it's a note of triumph in which the lion

each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

²⁴And they began to argue among themselves as to who would be the greatest in the coming Kingdom. ²⁵Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men order their people around, and yet they are called 'friends of the people.'" ²⁶But among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷Normally the master sits at the table and is served by his servants. But not here! For I am your servant. ²⁸You have remained true to me in my time of trial. ²⁹And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right ³⁰to eat and drink at my table in that Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

³¹"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have all of you, to sift you like wheat. ³²But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up your brothers."

³³Peter said, "Lord, I am ready

2:37 Isa 53:12.

to go to prison with you, even to die with you."

³⁴But Jesus said, "Peter, let tell you something. The rooster will not crow tomorrow morning until you have denied three times that you even know me."

³⁵Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you out to preach Good News and you did not have money, a traveler's bag, or clothing, did you lack anything?" "No," they replied.

³⁶"But now," he said, "sell your money and a traveler's bag. And if you don't have a sword, sell your clothes and buy one." ³⁷For the time has come for the prophecy about me to be fulfilled: 'He was counted among those who were rebels.'* everything written about me in the prophets will come true.

³⁸"Lord," they replied, "we have two swords among us."

"That's enough," he said.

Jesus Prays

on the Mount of Olives

³⁹Then, accompanied by his disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. ⁴⁰There he told them, "Pray that you will not be overcome by temptation."

*Luke 22:
31-34*

trumpets out his conquest, because the lion is cowardly it is also a warning to any other animal to stay away while he enjoys the fruits of the kill. It is important for us to relate these things to satan. We think that satan will roar like a gentleman to announce that he is in the area and that after he tells us what he's up to then we can look for cover. We've been deceived into thinking we can take time to get on our armament and prepare to meet him. How satan has deceived us about his method of operation. Satan is not going to reveal his presence. When satan roars he is not roaring to announce to you that he has destroyed you. You already know that. After he has destroyed or overthrown a child of God he roars in defiance against almighty God to challenge Him to do something about the devastation that he has wrought. When lucifer first rebelled he said "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will be like the most high". When satan leads some of God's children into sin, he roars to defy God because he thinks that he has brought himself one step closer to his goal, to remove God from his throne and to rule over God's universe.

- ✓9. James 4:7 - Be humbled then before God, but resist the devil and you'll find he will run away from you.
- ✓10. Our attitude toward satan in his attack is to resist him. Not in the defensive sense of the word, but in the offensive sense. As you stand your ground as a child of God closed in the armor that has been provided for you in Ephesians 6, you are prepared to meet the onslaughts of the wicked one.
- ✓11. Ephesians 6:11,12,13 - Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against the wiles of satan for we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood but against persons without bodies. Evil kinds of the unseen world those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks and when it is all over you'll be standing up.

Verse Nine: Withstand (resist) him, firm (steadfast) in your faith knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being laid upon your brotherhood who are in the world.

1. Paul says in I Corinthians 10:13, "But remember this; the wrong desires that come into your life aren't new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you and you can trust God to keep temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. For He has promised this and will do what he says. He will show you how to escape temptations powers so that you can bear up patiently against it.
2. Rees points out "deep within the Auca wilds of Equador, five young missionaries are slain, five widows left behind. Picture them as one of them, Elizabeth Eliot has enabled us to in Through Gates of Splendor sitting quietly in the kitchen fingering the watches and the wedding rings that had been brought back from the scene of the massacre. Trying to work

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Christ 32:30	749-01	... 'Every day we may see some new thing in Christ. His love hath neither brim nor bottom.' p. viii
Suffering V.9	749-02	If your Lord call you to suffering, be not dismayed; there shall be a new allowance of the King for you when ye come to it. One of the softest pillows Christ hath is laid under his witnesses' head, though often they must set down their bare feet among thorns. pp. 1-2
Suffering	749-03	He delighteth to take up fallen bairns and to mend broken brows: binding up of wounds is his office. p. 2
Suffering 29:25	749-04	There is no sweeter fellowship with Christ than to bring our wounds and our sores to him. p. 3
Suffering	749-05	Grace withereth without adversity. The devil is but God's master fencer, to teach us to handle our weapons. p. 5
Death 35:19	749-06	They are not lost to you that are laid up in Christ's treasury in heaven. At the resurrection ye shall meet with them: there they are, sent before but not sent away. Your Lord loveth you, who is homely to take and give, borrow and lend. p. 6
Christlikeness Conclusion	749-07	Lord cut, Lord carve, Lord wound, Lord do anything that may perfect thy Father's image in us, and make us meet for glory. p. 7
Christlikeness Conclusion	749-08	O, what owe I to the file, to the hammer, to the furnace of my Lord Jesus! p. 8
Fruit Conclusion	749-09	Why should I start at the plough of my Lord, that maketh deep furrows on my soul? I know he is no idle husbandman, he purposeth a crop. p. 8

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Guidance 24:11	749-10	My shallow and ebb thoughts are not the compass Christ saileth by. I leave his ways to himself, for they are far, far above me . . . There are windings and to's and fro's in his ways, which blind bodies like us cannot see. p. 11
God's Will 31:3	749-11	Let him make anything out of me, so being he be glorified in my salvation: for I know I am made for him. p. 12
Suffering	749-12	Neither need we fear crosses, or sigh, or be sad for anything that is on this side of heaven, if we have Christ. p. 16
Death 35:29	749-13	Our fair morning is at hand, the day-star is near the rising, and we are not many miles from home; what matters the ill entertainment in the smoky inns of this miserable life? We are not to stay here, and we will be dearly welcome to him whom we go to. p. 17
Suffering V.9	749-14	When we shall come home and enter to the possession of our Brother's fair kingdom, and when our heads shall find the weight of the eternal crown of glory, and when we shall look back to pains and sufferings; then shall we see life and sorrow to be less than one step or stride from a prison to glory; and that our little inch of time – suffering is not worthy of our first night's welcome home to heaven. p. 19
Suffering 33:20	749-15	Whether God come to his children with a rod or a crown, if he come himself with it, it is well. p. 21
Trust Conclusion	749-16	There are many heads lying in Christ's bosom, but there is room for yours among the rest. p. 21
Training Intro	749-17	I pray you learn to be worthy of his pains who correcteth; and let him wring, and be ye washed; for he hath a Father's heart, and a Father's hand, who is training you up, and making you meet for the high hall. p. 28

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Flesh	767-31	If you are still the same miserable, grouchy person, set on having your own way, then it is a lie to say that God has saved and sanctified you. (May 15)



out of their collective imagination just how it all happened. Which of the men was first to be lanced, which one watched the others fall and was last to go? What were their thoughts of loved ones left behind? Did they suffer long? No resting place of certainty for their weary brains. Mystery; yet not wholly. This much we know says Elizabeth Elliot. Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake ~~and~~ the gospels, the same shall save it. Before long the messages began coming to them by letter and by cablegram from all over the world. From a college in Japan; we are praying for you. From a group of eskimo children of a Sunday school in Alaska; from a Chinese church in Houston, Texas; from a missionary on the Nile River in Africa; from an eighteen year old boy in Des Moines saying "I'm turning my life over completely to the Lord, I want to try to take the place of one of the five". How right was Peter. Whatever our pain or loneliness, we must never forget our allies, the brotherhood is with you, he declares. In a lovely term that no one else in the New Testament uses, which in fact he seems to prefer to the word church.

Verse Ten: But the God of all grace who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall Himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.

1. Here is the key verse to the whole epistle. It is the God of all grace who provided grace and salvation past, who provides grace to meet every trial in our daily lives and experience, and who will ultimately manifest his grace when we stand complete in His presence. He is the one who has called us and Peter has had a lot to say about our being called. He called us to be Holy because He is Holy, He called us from darkness into His marvelous light, He called us to suffer because Christ also suffered for us leaving us a model to imitate that we should follow in His footprints, He called us to the beautiful life in order that we might inherit a blessing. Now in the conclusion of the letter, He has called us to His eternal glory in Christ. It is because of our relationship to Him through grace that it is possible for us to have a part in His eternal glory. Because we are heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ we have an inheritance reserved in heaven for us.
2. This will all be ours after we have suffered for a little while. And there are four things that he is going to do for us. One He shall Himself make you complete. Two, he shall establish you. Three, He shall make you strong. Four, He shall ground you as on a foundation.
- ✓3. We have noted in the letter that Peter has spoken about grace for salvation, suffering and submission. Each of these three things are involved in this tenth verse. The God of all Grace who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, our salvation. After you have suffered for a little while our suffering in this present time shall Himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation. All of this of course depends on our submission and yieldedness to Him.

Verse Eleven: To Him be the power (dominion) forever and ever Amen.

1. Once again Peter breaks into a doxology of praise even as he did back in chapter four and verse eleven. It is by his power that the creatures of His hand are changed and transformed through a salvation experience into the children of his heart. It is by His power that through suffering we are transformed into the likeness and image of Jesus Christ. It is by His power as we permit ourselves to be humbled under the mighty hand of God that we experience the freedom of submission.

Verse Twelve: Through Silvanus, a faithful brother, as I am thinking of him, briefly I have written to you, exhorting and testifying that this is the true Grace of God in which grace take your stand.

1. Silvanus can be evidently identified as the one who accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey referred in the book of Acts as Silas and he is also spoken of by Paul as Silvanus in certain of his epistles I Thessalonians 1:1 and II Thessalonians 1:1. He could well have been the one who served as a stenographer for Peter and also the one who carried the letter to its destination.
2. Without a faithful brother like this the ministry could not be carried on. Men who do the job behind the scenes in order to edify and build up and fortify the body of Christ. A man certainly a good administrator of the very grace of God.
3. Peter then summarizes what he had to say in the letter. I have written to you exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which grace take your stand.

Verse Thirteen: The church in Babylon, chosen out with you sends greetings and Mark my son.

1. The church in Babylon often was a name used by Christians to refer to the city of Rome. This could possibly be the case here. The group sending greetings is chosen out just like they were referred to as chosen exiles in verse one, and then Mark my son, who was the one who wrote the gospel of Mark and also the Mark who chickened out on Paul's first missionary journey and returned home and then went with Barnabas on a missionary journey later and Paul went with Silas. I am sure Mark and Peter had a lot of common in that Peter could sympathize with Mark in that he had a critical point in his life, denied the Lord and both Peter and Mark subsequently were greatly used of the Lord. Paul even mentions Mark as one whom he wished Timothy would bring because he could be profitable to all in the ministry. So both of them were real trophies of God's grace.

Verse Fourteen: Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ.

1. Peter ends the letter as he began and that's with peace. Rees points out "in between there is trouble, turmoil, tempest and tension, yet beneath it all, through it all, peace. There must have been a sound in Peter's soul as he pronounced this blessing of peace. It was the sound of music like golden bells chiming across silver seas, came the music of that sentence, Peter had once heard in the solemn quiet of the supper room in Jerusalem when the shadow of tomorrow's cross lay full length

Kiss of αγάπη

across the whole scene. "In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

CONCLUSION: We have come to the end of our study, Patterns to Practice from Peter's Play Book. Each one of these patterns has built one upon the other and have provided for us a set of patterns that we might practice in endeavoring to live an effective victorious Christian life.

Pattern number one - Don't Get Shook, God Has the Controls.

Pattern number two - Get Tough and Start Growing.

Pattern number three - You are Part of the Establishment.

Pattern number four - Submit to Authority.

Pattern number five - Follow the Coach.

Pattern number six - When One Plus One Equals One.

Pattern number seven - Life Can be Beautiful.

Pattern number eight - The Right Game Plan.

Pattern number nine - What you Plant is What You Pick.

Pattern number ten - Keep a Good Attitude.

Pattern number eleven - There are Laws for Leadership.

Pattern number twelve - The Way Up is Down.

I Corinthians 9:24-27 "In a race everyone runs, but only one person gets first prize. So run your race to win; to win the contest you must deny yourselves many things that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes to all this trouble to win a blue ribbon or a silver cup, but we do it for an heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I'm not just shadow boxing or playing around. Like an athlete I punish my body treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to, otherwise I fear that after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit and ordered to stand aside."

Lessons Study #12

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- (#1) The key to blessing is humble brokenness & surrender to the will of God.
- (#2) Humility must be dominate in our relationships with our brothers & sisters in the body of Christ.
- (#3) God is an adversary to the proud because they are living for themselves & dominated by their own desires.
- (#4) Help me Lord not to cling to my rights, but to unclinch my spiritual fist so that I can be free to follow you.
- (#5) Trials, tests and suffering are all parts of the humbling process.
- (#6) "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3 (N.I.V.)
- (#7) Are you casting your cares upon Him daily?
- (#8) Be constantly on the alert because the devil is looking for victims he can destroy.
- (#9) According to verse 10 the God of all grace longs to do four things for you
① make you complete
② Establish you
③ make you strong
④ ground you with a solid foundation

#10 Suffering is a necessary part of the divine program to make us Christlike.