

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

Chapter 9- Luke 9:46-56

185- The Nature of True Greatness- Part 2

November 11, 2012

Luke 9:46-56

46 An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest.

47 But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side,

48 and said to them, "**Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.**"

49 John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us."

50 But Jesus said to him, "**Do not hinder *him*; for he who is not against you is for you.**"

51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

52 and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him.

53 But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem.

54 When His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

55 But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, "**You do not know what kind of spirit you are of;**

56 **for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.**"] And they went on to another village.

To the Glory of God

In 1908 the British writer G. K. Chesterton described the beginnings of today's full-grown immature culture that is now called "Post-Modernism". One mark of its "vulgar relativism" has been the hijacking of two words:

- ✓ Arrogance
- ✓ Humility

To those who hold to no Absolutes- the concept that we have known for centuries as "conviction" has been relabeled as being "arrogance" and the timeless concept of "doubt" has been re-labeled as being "humility".

In other words- those who know what the Bible says and firmly hold to Biblical Truth in their daily lives are now labeled as being "arrogant" while those who have no idea what Holy Scripture teaches and are proud about that are now said to be "humble". Chesterton saw it coming and over 100 years ago he said:

"What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition. Modesty has settled upon the organ of conviction; where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. Nowadays the part of a man that a man does assert is exactly the part he ought not to assert - himself. The part he doubts is exactly the part he ought not to doubt - the Divine Reason. . . . The new skeptic is so humble that he doubts if he can even learn. . . . There is a real humility typical of our time; but it so happens that it's practically a more poisonous humility than the wildest prostrations of the ascetic. . . . The old humility made a man doubtful about his efforts, which might make him work harder. But the new humility makes a man doubtful about his aims, which makes him stop working altogether. . . . We are on the road to producing a race of man too mentally modest to believe in the multiplication table."¹

We have seen this most recently in the resentment over Christians expressing the timeless Biblical conviction that Jews and Muslims (like everyone else) must confess Jesus as God and believe that

¹ GK Chesterton, *Orthodoxy* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Co., 1957), pp. 31-32

God raised Jesus from the dead in order to be saved. We have seen it in the retaliation we receive when we endeavor to disciple and hold all believers accountable- black or white; poor or rich; educated or uneducated to a patently “un-worldly” understanding of life and money and children and family and government and truth and service and love and joy and satisfaction and to expect all those who say they are saved to struggle to refrain from all sexual sins and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. And we have seen it in the condemnation we receive when we reject personal opinions and private interpretations of the Word of God and stand firm in the conviction that God said what He meant and meant what He said and that saved people should live as though they are actually forgiven and redeemed and that the business of the Church is to preach and teach the uncompromising Gospel and to earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints and to hold all of those who say they are saved to that one single standard of Biblical Holiness- regardless of culture or background.

The most common response to these convictions that are spoken, written and heard is that Christians are hopelessly naïve; closed minded; unloving; and arrogant. And they say that with an amazing sense of clarity and certainty that never seems to trouble them because they honestly believe that they themselves have “escaped” the “prison” of Absolute Eternal Truth and have risen to a place of being able to see the faults of believers and of Biblical Christianity and the inspired Word of the living God so easily. It is assured that those who have thus risen to obtain this modern-day “humility” would never cry, “*Fire!*” since the smoke might be vapor from the clothes drier. And most of us see how ridiculous that logic is and how unbiblical that position is and we categorically reject it and have intention of ever abandoning Biblical Principles for political victory or to appear tolerant.

But we cannot stop simply because we have rejected their unbiblical rantings. Because if true humility is *not* compliance with the relativistic sophomoric skepticism of the lost world- then what is it? If humility is *not* what they say that it is- then what is it? We must agree that humility is *something* and that for us to be humble means *something* and that humility looks like *something*. And this is very important to us who value the Holy Bible since **1Peter 5:5** says:

GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

And in **Luke 14:11** it says:

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

So humility is a big deal to genuine believers. We *want* to be humble and God has *required* us to be humble and seeking after humility consumes a great deal of our time. Yet the world has hijacked this word and re-defined it with terms and concepts that are in contrast to and oppose to Biblical Truth. So I would suggest that if we are to actually be humble- we need to categorically resist what the world has done and define humility along Biblical lines rather than along the lines that the lost unsaved and pagan world is doing.

So in the inspired Divine Revelation of God and His Will in Scripture- God has told us at least seven things about humility that will help us to understand what true genuine Biblical humility actually looks like:

1. Humility begins with a sense of subordination to God in Christ.

Matthew 10:24

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master

1Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.

2. Humility does not feel entitled to better treatment than Jesus received.

Matthew 10:25

If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!

3. Humility does not return evil for evil. It is not a life based on its perceived rights.

1Peter 2:21-23

Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps. . . . While suffering, He uttered no threats, but handed [his cause] over to Him who judges righteously"

4. Humility proclaims Truth- not to bolster ego with control or with triumphs in debate- but as service to Christ and love to the adversary.

1Corinthians 13:6

Love rejoices in the truth

Matthew 10:27&28

What I [Jesus] tell you in the darkness, speak in the light. . . . Do not fear"

2Corinthians 4:5

We do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake

5. Humility knows it is dependent on Grace for all knowing and all believing and all doing.

1Corinthians 4:7

What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

James 1:21

In humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls

6. Humility knows it is frail and fallible, and so it considers criticism and learns from it; but also knows that God has made provision for human conviction and that He calls us to persuade others.

1Corinthians 13:12

We see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known

Proverbs 12:15

A wise man is he who listens to counsel

2Corinthians 5:11

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men

7. Humility is to believe in the heart and confess with the lips that our life is like a vapor, and that God decides when we die, and that God governs all our accomplishments.

James 4:13-16

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

15 Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

So the Holy Bible teaches clearly and repeatedly that believers are to be humble and to put on humility- which should be clear to us by now. But the Holy Bible also teaches that every human being born of woman after The Fall is born with two ingredients:

A. The very same rebellious nature of Adam

B. The guilt of the sin of Adam

Original Sin is imputed into the DNA of every human being in the mother's womb at the very moment of conception and that Sin fights against God and fights against the things of God and the Ways of God and nowhere is that fight more true or more visible than in this area of humility.

So Original Sin means that- by nature- in the normal and natural operation of our daily lives- human beings are by default *not* humble. And so Arrogance and Pride and Self-righteousness and Self-Centeredness are not strange things that affect only a small minority of people but certainly not us- but precisely because we are fallen creatures- Pride and Self-righteousness and Arrogance is common and these things are manifested most and they rise to the surface most frequently when God's Word is proclaimed and believed.

So pride is not something unusual; it isn't something odd. It is as

normal as breathing and as common as talking. And without consciously and honestly and biblically examining ourselves and our thoughts and acts and motives- and without being gifted by God the Holy Spirit to actually see ourselves as God sees us- pride will be the single most common aspect of our lives. That is just how pervasive it is.

And contrary to popular opinion- there are no exceptions to this Truth and therefore because every man, woman, and child on earth is born sinful and separated from God and determined to love sin and self- Pride is a huge issue with us.

Now some people manifest their arrogance and pride quietly and under the cover of darkness while others demonstrate their complete and utter self-righteousness openly and publicly. But whether public or private; and whether discreet or in your face- Pride dominates fallen Man and the world in which we live.

So we must face our pride as God gives us eyes to see it and we must starve it by not feeding it and sanctioning it and justifying it and we must purposely and systematically mortify or kill it- or our pride will dominate our entire lives.

And after years of being dominated by pride- the amazing things is that we will not only engage in acts and thoughts born of this human arrogance- but we will actually justify it and call it “good”. And that is why Dr. Luke put this Passage in his Story of Salvation.

Now **Luke 9:46- 50** is a critical juncture in Luke's Gospel. The events of this Passage are the last incidents that Luke records of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. You remember when Jesus began His ministry- He was baptized by John Baptist and then He went down into Judea, the southern area around Jerusalem and He ministered for a while and then He came up to Galilee and was up there for the bulk of a year and maybe a little more ministering in Galilee.

But that all comes to an end in verse 50 and in verse 51 we read that Jesus now resolutely sets His Face to go to Jerusalem to die. And starting with **Luke 9:51**- we have the beginning of His journey to Jerusalem. And that journey goes all the way to Luke 19:44- so we're going to be on this journey to Jerusalem for a long time. But it's a great trip because it is also the time of the training of the Twelve. So from **Luke 9:51**- all the way down to **Luke 19:44**- we will be looking over the shoulder of Dr. Luke as he writes about the School that the Apostles went to and Jesus Himself is going to be our Teacher. So we are going to

be disciplined by Jesus Himself over the next several years here each Sunday Morning- so I pray you will make plans to be here so you can learn directly from Jesus Himself.

Now this is a tremendously rich portion of Scripture. And it eventually leads us to Jerusalem where Jesus will be crucified and raised from the dead on the third day and then ascends into Heaven- back to the Father. So this is a final glimpse of Jesus' Ministry in Galilee. And even though there's been plenty of training going on before this passage- these next few verses are a good snapshot of that intense training.

So this passage is all about humility. It's about humility against the backdrop of an amazing demonstration of ugly and blatant pride- both individual and group pride.

Verse 46 tells us about individual pride while Verse 49 talks about group pride. So Dr. Luke writes here about both kinds of pride and it is a perfect opportunity for Jesus to then give us a powerful Lesson about true humility.

You see, the great misunderstanding of our day is that human depravity or being fallen or being lost has to do with some powerful manifestation of evil like mass murder or child rape which eliminates most of us. Most of the time- we examine ourselves wrongly- using a false standard that gives us comfort when no comfort is warranted.

Most people look at someone like the Apostle Paul and think to themselves- *"Well, I'm certainly not that 'good'"*. And then they look at somebody like Adolf Hitler or Charles Manson or Joseph Stalin and they think to themselves- *"But I'm not that 'bad' either"*.

And because they are not as bad as some notorious mass murderer- they then draw the wrong conclusion that they fall somewhere in between Paul and Stalin and therefore- they must be "okay" with God.

That is the common way in which we look at ourselves and there really isn't anything in most teachings from the leaders of the modern Church to counteract that. And the result of this wrong- headed thinking is that many lost people are heading straight to hell- thinking that they are "okay" with God because they haven't been "as bad" as they could have been.- and that is a terrible way of thinking.

The insulting and offensive reality is that every human on earth is a sinner. Every human has fallen short of the Glory of God- every

human has manifested pride- and as a sinner- every human on earth deserves eternal damnation- not just the mass murderers- but the real nice people too.

Self-centeredness, self-love, self-satisfaction, self-promotion, self-exaltation, self-fulfillment- all of these things are the passions of a fallen and unregenerate heart. Now out in the world these characteristics are considered virtues because we live in an upside-down world. Society has come to terms with its fallenness and it has relabeled it as a virtue. We have exchanged, as the prophet said, the sweet for the bitter and the bitter for the sweet. We call good evil and evil- good. The pagan world has reversed everything.

But the reality is that all expressions of sin flow out of dominant pride in the human heart. And Pride is the core corruption. Self-worship is what real fallenness is all about. Every other sin rises out of the soil of pride, everything grows in the ground of pride. Pride is the damning sin that produces rebellion against God. Every kind of rebellion and all sin is lawlessness, all sin is rebellion against God, all of it produced by pride. Pride seeks to dethrone God. It seeks to ungod God. It seeks to strike a fatal blow at His sovereignty and His majesty and to replace God with self. Pride grips the sinner's heart. And that's why it's so hard to believe, it's why it's so hard to be saved, that's why it's so hard to repent because pride is dominant. So pride is the defining sin of fallenness. And you want to get in touch with what it means to be fallen, it means to be self-centered and self-righteous and self-loving. It means to place yourself and your desires over God and His Desires.

And so when a sinner comes to Christ and Salvation- Jesus said he has to be characterized by self-hate, self-denial, and self-abasement. As we learned back in **Luke 9:23** when Jesus said,

If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

And to find out exactly what all that means- go back and get those messages. So to be saved- there must be utter and total self-denial. And I suggest to you that unless God the Holy Spirit comes to that individual and Sovereignly grant that person the ability to see himself as God sees him and to possess this self-denial- nobody would ever repent and nobody would ever be saved.

So people who are genuinely saved readily admit they are sinners and readily admit that they deserve eternal damnation and readily admit that it was God and God alone Who gave them eyes to see and ears to hear and an heart to believe and there is a humility about them because they know that unless and until God moves upon them first- they would have never even had the desire to love and serve God- much less repent and believe the Gospel.

And those who are lost spend all their time arguing about their lost condition. Unsaved people do not accept that they are “that bad”. They categorically refuse to admit that they are wicked sinners who deserve eternal damnation and they will cite numerous things they do to prove that God and the Bible are wrong and that they are really not lost after all and this rebellious pride gives them courage to actually believe that by periodically doing some noble or good thing- that God will see that and grade them on a curve and accept them into Heaven- even though the Bible says that He will not do that.

And that refusal to admit that they are lost is the manifestation of pride that damns their soul. It is the arrogance that dooms them and it is the willful self-righteousness that cannot bring them to the point of agreeing with what God has said about them and then in broken humility begging God for Grace and Mercy.

And that is why very few successful people in this life are ever saved. And that is why most people- not the mass murderers and the child rapists- but why most people will sin repeatedly and willfully and then categorically refuse to admit that their sin is worthy of damnation and they will say with all honesty that God is unjust to send them to hell because they are really not “bad” at all.

Several weeks ago- we talked about the concept of “self-suicide” where Jesus said you have to literally hate yourself; hate your sin; hate your life as a lost person and where you have been graciously given the ability by God where your desire for true goodness and true fulfillment has to go through the path and the route of self-hatred. And so when Jesus said, “**Let a man deny himself,**” you remember the Greek language really says that you had to refuse to associate with the person that you are any longer.

So “self-hate” and “self-denial” is essential to true repentance and therefore to genuine Salvation. Without those two ingredients- there will be no true Redemption. And that refers back to the Sermon on the

Mount and the Beatitudes where Jesus said that the only people who can be saved are those who are bankrupt in spirit- mourning over their sin; meek and humble- absolutely broken over their own filth and ungodliness and genuinely; truly and continually hungering for a righteousness that you do not have and that must be given to you by the Grace of God. It's like the wicked publican who is so convicted of his sin- he cannot even look into Heaven and he beats on his breast and cries out in total desperation- "*God, be merciful to me, a sinner,*" that's the guy that Jesus says goes home justified. And that is absolutely intolerable to the lost because it strips them of the arrogance and self-righteousness that they are so very proud of.

So only when human pride is Sovereignly overpowered with conviction of one's sinfulness and wretchedness can a person be truly converted.

And we saw that the Apostle Paul is a great illustration of all this. In **Philippians 3**- Paul said that he was an Israelite, he was of the tribe of Benjamin, one of the most noble of the tribes, he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, kept all the traditions, he was kosher, he was passionate for his religion to the point of persecuting anybody who was against his religion, namely Christians. He was zealous for God's law, so much so that he was a Pharisee and as far as the outward manifestation was concerned, he was righteous.

And so Paul was very pleased with himself until he met Christ and he was drawn to the point where the Holy Spirit Sovereignly granted him conviction- and then Paul instantly saw all of that source of his pride and self-righteousness for what it really is- as manure; as rubbish; as a discarded menstuous cloth- the Greek word is "skubalon". And at that point- Paul was mercifully and graciously and Sovereignly drawn to a place of utter self-rejection and self-loathing and self-hatred. And that is the Sovereign Work of God the Holy Spirit- tearing down our pride so we may repent and be saved.

So when you become a believer- you are brought to the point of seeing your fallen pride overpowered and defeated by the Triumph and Work of the Holy Spirit which in turn brings conviction upon your heart that you're a wretched sinner- worthy of nothing but damnation.

Another way that we see that in the experience of Paul is found in **Romans 7**- so lets' go there. **Romans 7**.

In **Romans 7**- Paul gives a testimony that is very similar to the

testimony in **Philippians 3-** but from a different perspective. In **Philippians 3-** it was when he saw that everything Paul prided himself in was nothing and when he came to that bankruptcy of heart- when he came to that realization that all of that added up to absolute nothing- it was all loss- in fact, it would send him to hell- it was then that he embraced Christ and Salvation.

But here in **Romans 7-** the Apostle comes at it- not from the standpoint of seeing Christ- but the standpoint of understanding God's Law. Look down at verse 9:

Romans 7:9

I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

Paul says here, "**I was once alive apart from the law.**" In other words- before he understood the reality of the Law of God- he was alive. Paul said, "I"- there is his pride- *"I was running my life. I was the main thing. I thought I was doing fine. I thought I was doing well. I was satisfied with myself. I was seeking self-fulfillment, etc."*

So apart from the Law of God- Paul had never really come under the conviction of the fact that he was living in violation of God's Law. His pride and arrogance and self-righteousness blinded him into thinking that not only was he "okay"- but that he was actually very righteous and God was pleased with him.

But when the Holy Spirit graciously drew Paul into confrontation with the Commandment of God- the Law of God- God Sovereignly opened his eyes and he immediately understood that he was a wicked sinner- deserving of eternal damnation. So in that sense- sin became alive- and at that moment- Paul's confidence in himself and his own self- died.

This is the wonderful moment when the Spirit of God has brought an elected sinner to the place of spiritual bankruptcy, utter self-denial and self-hate at which point the gift of saving faith embraces Christ as their only hope.

So as long as Paul was apart from the Law of God- he was doing fine- perfectly happy in his own self-righteousness and arrogance. But as soon as he came under the power of conviction that he was living in violation of God's Law- his sin became alive to him and at that point he

died. It's the death of self. And every single human being who is truly saved is saved this very same way. Now look at verse 10:

Romans 7:10

and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;

So Paul said- *"This is what killed me"*. That is what absolutely just slaughtered the inherent arrogance and pride and self-righteousness that Paul had- that he received from the seed of his father through Original Sin that had kept him deceived about himself and thus had kept him lost and unsaved- even though he was a fastidious Jew.

And that's what has to happen to everybody. Before anybody can come alive in Christ- they first have to be slain to your own selfish pride. And then in verse 11 he follows it up:

Romans 7:11

for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

So now look at the sequence from these three verses:

- ✓ **"I died" Romans 7:9**
- ✓ **"Death for me" Romans 7:10**
- ✓ **"It killed me" Romans 7:11**

And that is exactly what Jesus was talking about back in **Luke 9:23**- when He talked about the concept of "self-denial" for anyone and everyone who comes after Him. It isn't about giving up things- it is about being drawn to the place of not trusting in yourself and of not believing the lie that your pride and arrogance tells you that you are really not bad after all- but good.

And that is the Sovereign Work of God the Holy Spirit. He moves into the mind and heart of the elected sinner and overpowers the pride and overshadows the sinner's confidence in himself and defeats the self-will and brings that person to the point where he's willing to abandon everything- even take up a cross- to love and follow Jesus. They even joyfully volunteer to give up their lives- if need be- for the cause of the

Gospel.

And that is the marvelous miracle of Justification. The powerful violent determined invasion of the Spirit of God as He forces His Way into the heart of one that is being regenerated. And it's a Divine Sovereign miracle because the only way your pride could ever be broken to that degree would be if God- Who dwells outside of you- comes in and forcefully and violently and successfully overpowers that pride- which is natural to every single fallen heart.

And we need to know that no one can do this on their own- which is just another terrible insult and injury to the pride of man. People are not saved when they get good enough and ready. They are not saved when they choose to be. They are not saved when they voluntarily decide to make that decision. None of that is true and the only thing that false teaching like that does- is to feed the very arrogance and pride and self-righteousness of fallen Man that God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are working to destroy.

People are saved when God gets ready to effectually call them out of darkness and into His marvelous Light. People are saved when God chooses them to be saved. People are saved when God makes the conscious decision to Sovereignly draw them into a place of seeing and hearing and believing- regardless of where they are or who they are. The Owner and the Creator of the Universe is not standing there wringing His Hands hoping that somebody will repent and believe and love Him. The one true living God makes all that happen by His great and mighty Power and therefore God receives all the Glory for Salvation and Man receives none- which is yet another insult to human arrogance and pride.

And that is why I teach you very carefully and continually that Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is a Sovereign Work of God. Salvation was all God's idea and God did all the Work and therefore God gets all the Glory because you could never overcome your pride on your own and you could never overcome that which is natural to your corrupt soul. But the Holy Spirit comes in with conviction and brings the Law of God to bear upon you and you begin to see the violations of the Law of God that you have made and even though you thought you were alive and free; even though you thought you were pursuing all of your dreams and ambitions- all of a sudden you see yourself as God sees you- in the light of the violations of the Law of God and at that moment

your arrogance and pride and self- righteousness dies and you repent and believe and are justified. And that is the great miracle of conversion.

So we can say this, beloved, at the time of your regeneration, at the time of your conversion if you're a Christian, at the time of your redemption and your salvation, your pride was broken and you came with that Old Testament broken and contrite heart because the Spirit of God crushed your pride, shattered all your hopes and your achievements. And you stood before God willfully acknowledging your spiritual bankruptcy and emptiness and crying out, *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."* That was the miracle of your regeneration.

But have you noticed that now that you're a Christian- your pride isn't gone permanently? Have you noticed that? Pride and self- righteousness and arrogance still trouble us even though in that initial moment of Regeneration; in that miracle of Salvation; when you were Justified- your pride was overwhelmed by the Power of the Spirit of God and- miraculously- the dead was made to live; the blind was made to see; the prisoner was set free; and the stony heart was made to believe- all by the Sovereign and Supernatural Power of God. And God granted you faith to embrace Christ and at that moment- pride was overcome and you were born again. And that is what Regeneration and Justification is.

1. **Regeneration** is being born again- it is the dead being given life
2. **Justification** is having the desire and power to repent and believe the Gospel

But even though pride has not been eliminated- it has been severely wounded. It has been given a death blow but it's still kicking in the throes of death and it hasn't completely died yet and it's still flopping around in you.

So that brings up another issue- the issue of Sanctification. So let me tell you what Sanctification is. I just told you what Justification, or salvation is- so now let me tell you what Sanctification is. Sanctification is the triumph of humility over the remaining pride. Sanctification is a process that goes on through your whole life whereby God the Holy Spirit works in you to enable and empower you so that the Humility of Jesus Christ will become part of you.

You see, Jesus was perfectly humble in His perfect submission to God the Father and through His perfect submission to God the Holy Spirit- and that humility will ultimately triumph over all remaining pride.

So even though you are saved- you still have a battle with the remaining vestiges of arrogance and pride that will periodically bow up against God and God's Word and give you the desire and ability to rebel against God and His Will.

Well, Paul had the same problem. Back in **Romans 7**- the Apostle already told us- *"Look, the Law came and I died,"* and yet right after that he says in **Romans 7:15**:

Romans 7:15

For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

So Paul explains, "That which I'm doing I don't understand, I'm not practicing what I would like to do, I'm doing the very thing I hate." So Paul is answering the question that many of us ask all the time, *"What's going on in me? I do what I don't want to do and I don't do what I should do."* And he gives the answer in verse 17:

Romans 7:17

So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

In other words, Paul is saying, *"Even though I am saved and born again and even though my pride was initially overcome so I could be saved- there's still sin in me and the root of that sin is this pride."* And that is why saved people still need to be Sanctified- which is why we are studying Sanctification on Sunday Evenings.

And down further in verse 24 Paul called himself,

"a wretched man."

.. because of this ongoing struggle. So pride is still there- residual pride is still in our fallen flesh. And the Holy Spirit is constantly having to subdue that pride. And the spiritual growth process, the process of Sanctification is the progressive triumph of Christ's Humility over our

arrogant pride. And that's how you can measure your spiritual development by the measure of triumph that the Humility of Jesus Christ has over your own natural pride that still seeks to rebel against God.

I tell you my friends- true Humility; godly humility; Christ-like humility comes very, very slowly and very, very hard. But until we are humble- we still are really not like Jesus at all. In fact, it is so hard to come into true Biblical humility- that it doesn't come simply through the knowledge gained through the teaching of Scripture. You can have lesson after lesson after lesson after lesson on humility and still be as arrogant as you can be.

Now it is very important to have lessons in humility and that is why Jesus gives one right here in **Luke 9**. But unless and until God allows you to be in a position of being *humiliated*- then the lesson will just go over your head. So *humiliation* is the method by which God Sovereignly humbles us. And it is at the point of being humiliated that all the lessons on being humble come to the forefront. And that is why saved people need to be sanctified.

So rather than get angry when we are humiliated- we should actually rejoice- because God loves us so much- He isn't about to leave us like we are- but God is allowing your flesh to be offended- and broken and humbled- so that you may taste the humiliation of Jesus Christ. And that is the very essence of Sanctification- that as broken trembling people- we will serve God acceptable with reverence and godly fear and we will then preach with purpose and not arrogance and we will then serve the Lord with gladness and not as a source of pride and we will love our enemies instead of just looking down our noses at them. And we will be like Jesus and that is when we will bring Glory to God.

Let's pray.