

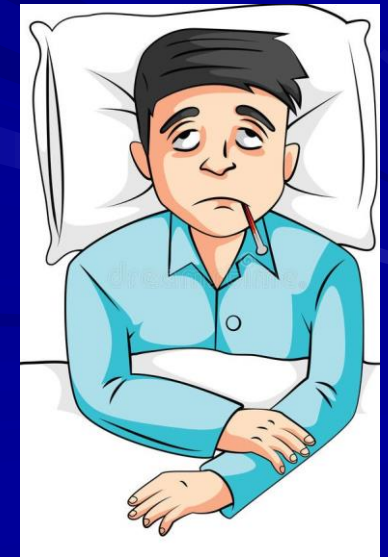
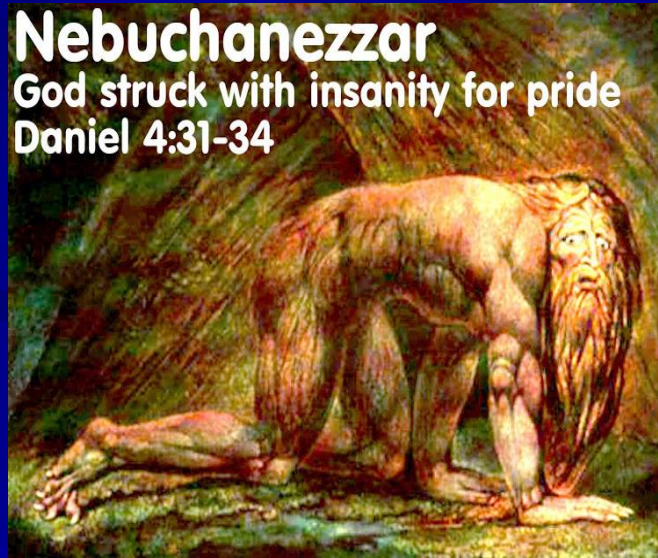
GOD'S LOVE IS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING

■ **Romans 5:8** ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **John 3:16**
¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **BUT GOD HATES PRIDE. James 4:6** “God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble.” **TO SOME EXTENT EVERY PERSON HAS SOME AMOUNT OF PRIDE. OUR AIM IS TO BE TRANSFORMED, SO THAT EACH OF US IS TOTALLY DEVOID OF PRIDE.**



1. GOD HATES PRIDE

■ **GOD HATES PRIDE:** *Daniel 4:29-32* as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” ³¹ Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. ³² You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox.” **PRIDE CAN BRING GOD AGAINST US.**



1. GOD HATES PRIDE

- **GOD HATES PRIDE:** Wherever God sees pride lifting itself on high, He resolves to level it in the dust. He draws his bow, he fits his arrow to the string, and pride is the target that he shoots at. The more pride enters into the Christian's heart, the more opposition from God will come there; for pride is never so hateful to God as when he sees it in his own people. (Charles Spurgeon)

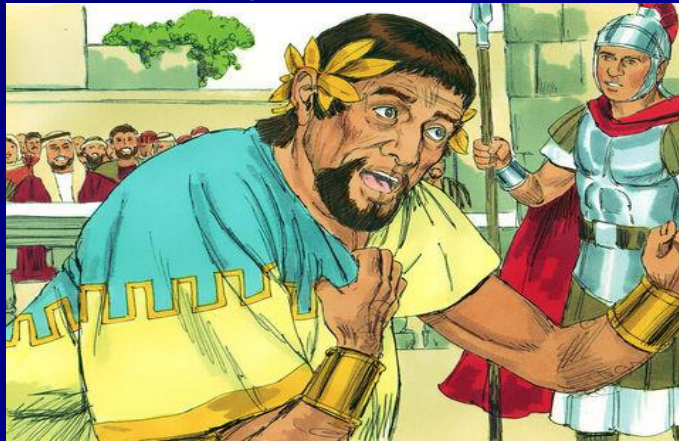


2. WHAT IS PRIDE?

- **WHAT IS PRIDE?** (i) Pride is a secret desire to be noticed. (ii) Pride is drawing attention to yourself in conversation. (iii) Pride is enjoying being flattered. (iv) Pride is a swelling of self when we're free to speak or to pray. (v) Pride is loving to have your name at the top of the list. (vi) Pride is when the praise of men is sweet to your taste. **Acts 12:21**²¹ *On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. ²² They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.*



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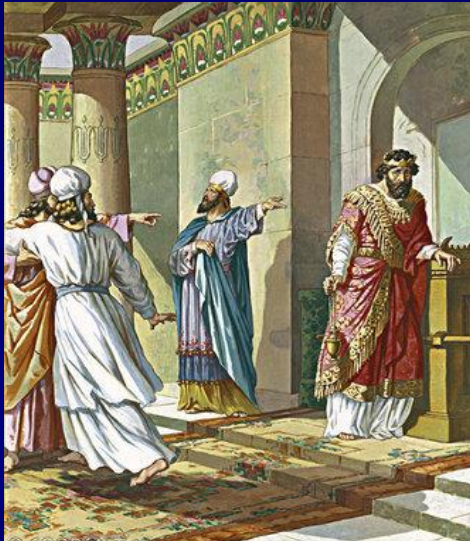
2. WHAT IS PRIDE?

- **(vii) PRIDE IS A LOVE OF SUPREMACY.** A desire to be honoured & to sit or stand in prominence. A desire and even insistence on being given the pulpit, is sure to draw God's opposition. **KING UZZIAH WAS STRUCK BY LEPROSY BECAUSE HE WAS PROUD & WANTED TO DO THE PRIESTLY DUTIES THAT WERE NOT FOR HIM. 2**

Chronicles 26:16 ¹⁶ *But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.*



- **2 Chronicles 26:17-18** ¹⁷ Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. ¹⁸ They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests.” While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD’s temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. **EVERY ONE HAS SOME AMOUNT OF PRIDE. OUR NEED IS TO GET RID OF EVERY TRACE OF PRIDE IN OUR LIVES BY BEING HUMBLE. DO NOT SEEK RECOGNITION & PRAISE. GOD WILL OPPOSE YOU, AND BRING YOU DOWN, IF YOU DO.**



2. WHAT IS PRIDE?

- **(viii) NOT TEACHABLE:** Christians & leaders who are self assured & feel that they know everything don't bother about personal growth. Their ego convinces them that they have arrived, and they stop learning & are easily distracted by worldly things. **Proverbs 12:1** *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.*
ARE YOU REGULARLY READING THE BIBLE? GOD IS WATCHING YOU. ARE YOU READY FOR GOD TO POUR HIS GRACE UPON YOUR LIFE?



3. GOD RESISTS THE PROUD

“GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” God gives grace to certain kinds of people—**HUMBLE PEOPLE**. It also tells us that God can withhold grace from another kind of people—**THE PROUD**. Three times the scripture reminds us of this fact. (i) *Proverbs. 3:34* Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble (NKJ) **DON'T BE LIKE KING UZZIAH WHO WAS STRUCK WITH LEPROSY.**



3. GOD RESISTS THE PROUD

■ (ii) **James 4:6** “God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble.” and (iii) **1 Peter 5:5** “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” The Apostles Peter and James both quote the Old Testament in their epistles. It’s notable that two of God’s chosen leaders in the early church spoke about this subject using the same scripture, so it must be **IMPORTANT THAT OUR CHARACTER REFLECT HUMILITY** as we grow in God’s grace. **HUMILITY OPENS THE WINDOW & GOD POURS OUT HIS FAVOUR ON THE HUMBLE.**



4. GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

■ **Proverbs. 3:34** Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble (NKJ) **WHAT IS GRACE?: (i) GRACE IS THE UNMERITED FAVOUR OF GOD.** Grace is

unconditional love toward a person who does not deserve it.

2 Timothy 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.



4. GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

- **WHAT IS GRACE?: (ii) GRACE IS THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD. Romans 3:23-24** *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (iii)*
GRACE IS NEW EVERYDAY: All our past sins, present sins, and future sins are covered when we put our faith in Jesus.



4. GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

■ **WHAT IS GRACE?: (iv) GOD'S GRACE ALLOWS US TO LIVE IN FREEDOM:** We think freedom is doing whatever we want to do when we want to do it. But that kind of life enslaves you to sin. **Romans 6:14** *For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.* (the unmerited favour of God).



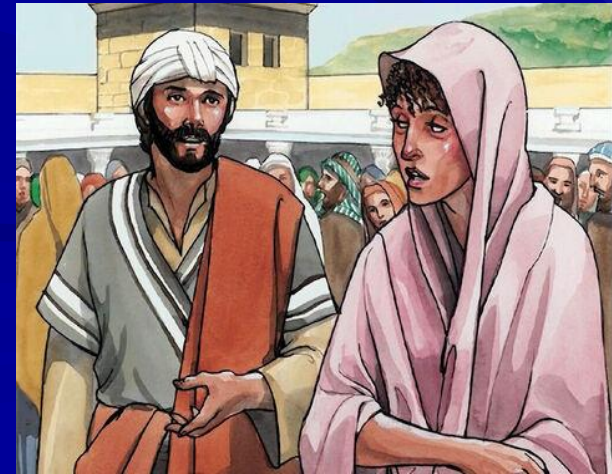
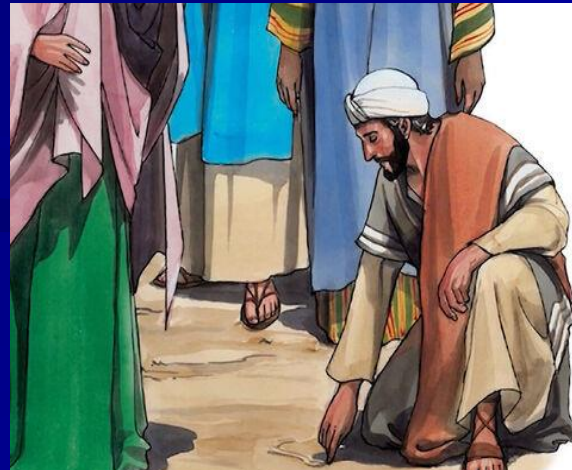
Humans are born with evil already in them

Hey sinner - Judgement Day is coming!



4. GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

WHAT IS GRACE?: (v) *The Pharisees had caught a woman in adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say? Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”¹ “No, Lord,” she said. “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.” (**John 8:1-11**)*



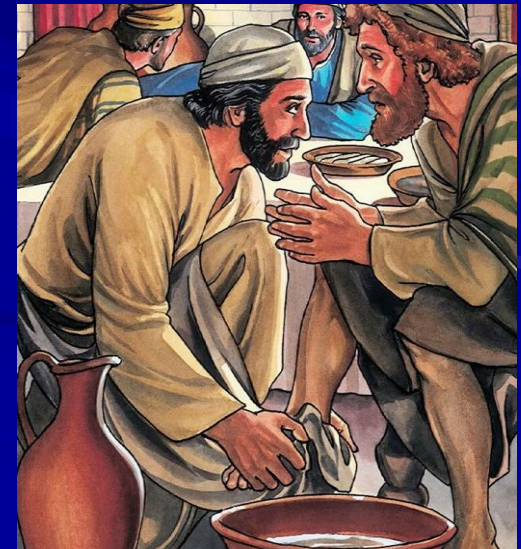
5. HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

■ (1) THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN HUMILITY AND GRACE.

When the Father sees his children willing to take the low place in the family, he pours out a special portion of grace to strengthen us in service to one another.

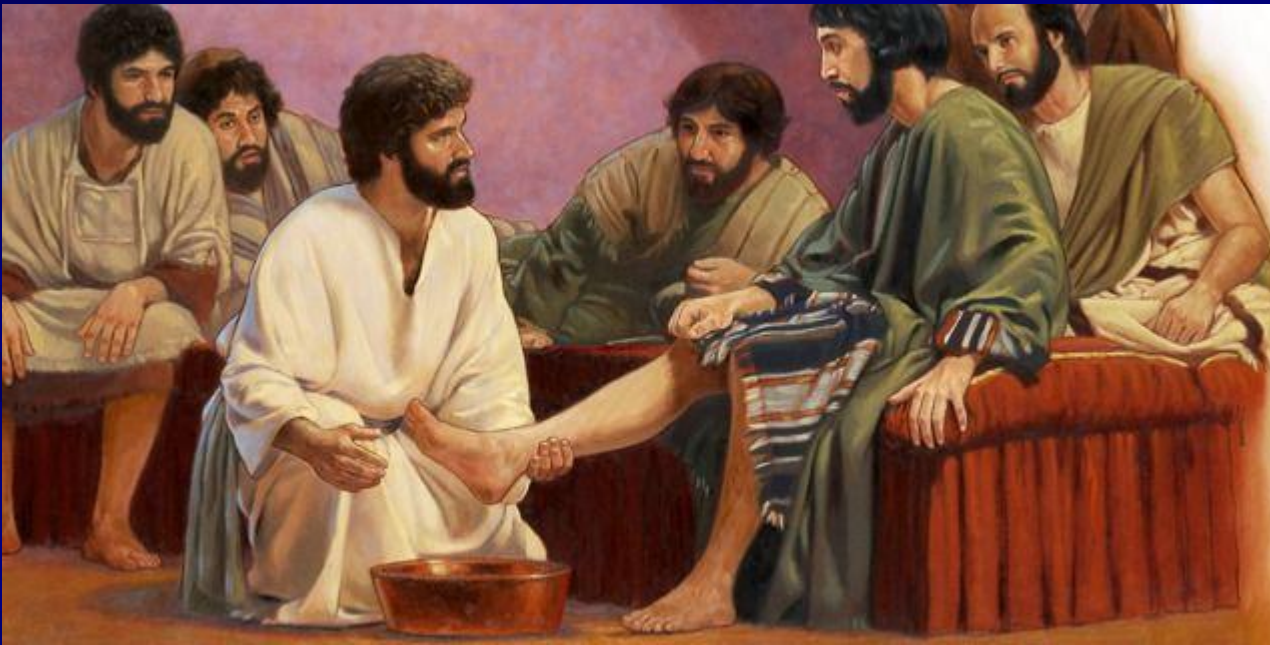
HUMILITY DRAWS THE BLESSING AND FAVOUR OF GOD.

JESUS who stripped to the waist and washed the feet of his disciples will rejoice when we learn to be humble and serve one another.



5. HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

- (2) **“THE ONE WHO HUMBLER HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED.”** On four separate occasions Jesus employs this phrase, These passages are not simply repetition caused by the gospels writers retelling the same story. Each passage is unique (**Matt. 18:4, Matt. 23:12, Luke 14:11, and Luke 18:14**). **FOUR TIMES JESUS LAYS OUT THE CHALLENGE, HUMBLE YOURSELF AND, BY GRACE SERVE OTHERS.**



5. HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

(3) BE HUMBLE . *Matthew 18:4* ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.. **JESUS IS SAYING LAY ASIDE DREAMS OF GREATNESS AND EMBRACE DREAMS OF DEPENDENCY.**

Matthew 23:5-6 “Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues. **JESUS IS SAYING DON'T SEEK POSITIONS LIKE THE PHARISEES.**



5. HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

- (4) DON'T EXALT YOURSELF BY SEEKING A PLACE OF HONOUR NOW. WAIT, IT WILL COME IN HEAVEN.
- **Luke 14:11**¹¹ *For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*" (Jesus noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table) **LAY ASIDE THE THIRST FOR HONOUR FROM OTHERS AND SEEK TO HONOUR OTHERS INSTEAD.** Jesus tells us to honour those who cannot repay us. There will come a day where you will be rewarded, but it is not here and now. It is later in heaven.



5. HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

- **(5) DON'T TRY TO IMPRESS ANYONE: Luke 18:11-14** ¹¹ *The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'* ¹³ *"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'* **THE PHARISEES WERE KNOWN TO MAKE PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF THEIR SEEMING RIGHTEOUSNESS.**



THE TAX COLLECTOR HUMBLY ACKNOWLEDGES HIS SHORTCOMINGS. *Luke 18:14* ¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Jesus concludes: “I tell you, this man went down to his home and was proved more righteous than that Pharisee.” **BECAUSE EVERYONE WHO EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMILIATED, BUT WHOEVER HUMBLER HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED.**”



5. HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

■ (6) **TURN AWAY FROM THE THINGS OUR LIFE USED TO BE ABOUT. Titus 2:11-12** ¹¹ For the grace of God has

appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. **GRACE TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT AGE (i)**

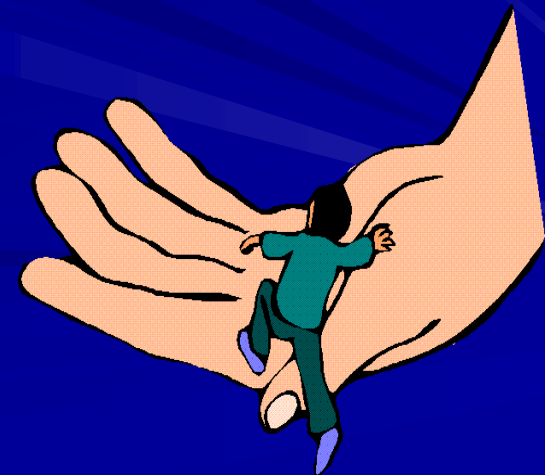
soberly (self-controlled) in regard to ourselves. **(ii)** We must live **righteously** (upright) in regard to the people around us.

(iii) We must live **godly** ("to take God seriously"),



6. WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF US?

■ (1) GOD IS NOT OUT TO HURT OUR PRIDE. GOD IS OUT TO KILL OUR PRIDE. “In **Proverbs 8:13**, He declares, “I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.” **James 4:7-10** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”



6. WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF US?

■ **(2) THERE WILL BE NO CONTEST IN HEAVEN** to see who was the most deserving of God's grace because no one deserves God's grace. All are sinners saved by God's grace. When we recall how unworthy we were and Jesus standing there - the only contest will be to see **WHO WILL SING THE LOUDEST**, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see." **LET US RISE UP & PRAY FOLLOWED BY SINGING "AMAZING GRACE"**



LET US PRAY

- Father, You hate pride, so deliver me from a secret desire to be noticed, drawing attention to myself, enjoying being flattered, in loving to have my name at the top of the list & the desire for praise from others.
- You're my strength and my security. Help me never to seek to be in a place of honour.
- I repent for taking pride in what was given to me by Your grace including my natural talent which came from You. Father kill the pride in me. Give me a humble heart.
- Gracious Father, through Jesus, by grace, I have been saved. Help me to comprehend Your grace more and more in my life. Give me an increase of grace this day so that I can respond to Your love by my good deeds, in Jesus name I pray, Amen