

The X Factor! : Humility

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Using the Spiritual Weapon of Humility Professionally in Our Witnessing and Winning!

"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).



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What?

1. Humility is a virtue that the children of David must continue to convey in order to be good shepherds of their present and future flocks. To be an effective witness, winner and shepherd, you must actively seek for a spirit and mindset of humility, the attitude of a humble servant. Pride is the opposite of humility and will destroy your effectiveness in the Offensive. Pride is what makes you an old bottle and humility is what keeps you a new one. The more you choose to do the humble thing, the more you become a new bottle in the spirit. Anything that is humbling is good for you because it keeps you fresh, young, and alive in spirit.

Why?

2. We've learned a lot about humility over the years. There are numerous GNs on the topic, so it's nothing new. But what is new is the even greater importance of being humble in this day and age, with the new dynamics that the Offensive is interjecting into our Homes and lives. We absolutely must be humble if the Lord is going to use us to do the "great and mighty works" that He has promised. He's not going to do marvelous things for us and through us if it's going to go to our heads and generate pride. He'll only do the miraculous when He knows that we're going to give Him all the glory and credit and honor, and remain little in our own sight, ready to do whatever He might ask of us.

3. Your motivation for striving for true humility today might be different than your motivation has been before. In the past you might have prayed for and worked to achieve greater humility so that you could be more loving, so that you'd be easier to live with, and so that you'd have more of the Lord's blessing in your life. But in this era of the Offensive, we need to remember that our humility will determine how greatly the Lord is able to use us. We need humility for the sake of the sheep, to preserve us for the great job we have of winning the world, to prevent us from falling into the snare of pride, and so that we can be humble shepherds of the

flocks the Lord is beginning to give us.

4. We must be humble shepherds; there's no other way. Pride is probably the number-one thing that has led shepherds astray in the past and that has brought about the ruin of fruitful works. Pride can be extremely dangerous when it comes to building a flock and reaching the upper class--pride in your accomplishments, pride in how many sheep you have on the line, pride in your ability to give answers or teach classes or be a help to people, pride that results from accepting the praise of man, pride in wanting to be a one-man show and not desiring to teamwork with others, pride in thinking that your sheep belong to you rather than to your Home, the Family, and Jesus most of all.

5. Humility is going to be key in building your flocks in the future--and not just winning them, but keeping them in the long run. Humility will be instrumental in protecting your gift of prophecy, so that you can receive the Lord's words clearly and know His mind on how to best go about your plans during the Offensive, as well as how to shepherd and teach and train your flock. The work of the future is going to burgeon, and the Lord is going to want to do more miracles and wonders, but He'll need humble vessels to work through.

6. So, if you didn't have motivation enough before to keep your pride in check and to strive for humility, I imagine that the Offensive will provide a greater incentive. It's not only about you and your spiritual health or the happiness and unity of your Home. It's also about others now. It's about reaching the lost and building our flocks. We owe it to those who need Jesus, and to those whom He has been preparing to join our ranks, to be humble enough to allow the Lord to use us to the full in order to reach and win them.

7. Humility is also an important weapon in your day-to-day witnessing. By "humility" I don't mean shyness or having an "excuse me for living" attitude, but humility as a means of drawing others to Jesus. When you are humble, you are loving, you are kind, you esteem others better than yourself. You aren't self-righteous. You listen to others, you show an interest in them, and you impart an air of assurance and faith--not in yourself but in the Lord. Humility makes you the type of person that others want to be around, and talk to, and listen to, and that's so important in your witnessing and winning.

The keys of humility are vital for My witnesses to claim. Humility is one of the more obvious qualities of My Spirit, and it's so outstanding and different from the spirit of the world, that it makes people take notice, it breaks down the walls, and helps them to receive Me. It draws them to Me (ML #3599:197, GN 1182).

8. Love and humility are pretty closely connected. If you have real love, then you'll have humility. The Lord wishes to give each of us an enhanced gift of humility to use in a new way in our witnessing and winning. He asks us to pull down this gift through seeking to actively do the humble thing, and to give all the glory and honor to Him. He wants us to put on the robe of humility so that when others look at us, they will see Him. We will attain what we desire through the path of humility, which is lined with gentleness, kindness, and love. Humility makes you winsome.

9. Using the weapon of humility will ensure that you are being to each person what they need you to be, because you will be in position for the Lord to use you to the full and work through you in the best way possible. If they need a listening ear or a sympathetic shoulder to cry on, you will have the humility to be that. If they need to be convicted to do something for Jesus, they will feel that loving conviction given in a spirit of humility and not judgment. If they need love, they will feel the Lord's love shining through you, because you'll be humble enough to be His vessel. If they need to be stirred up in spirit, they will feel it without getting offended, because the weapon of humility will help you to have the right balance, attitude, and spirit.

10. There's hardly anything about witnessing and winning that you don't need humility for. To be an instant witness you must be humble, because sometimes the Lord will ask you to approach someone who seems way out of your league, or someone whom it would be humbling for you to strike up a conversation with, and you can't let pride get in the way. In order to do new and different things during the Offensive, you have to be humble, because some of those new things might be rather radical or even crazy, and probably not "you." Reaching the rich also requires humility; you have to be humble enough to do what it takes to become one, and yet not allow your spirit to be tainted or polluted by the things of the world.

11. Standing up for the truth in your witnessing calls for humility. Our message and beliefs are not always going to be popular--in fact,

they won't ever be very popular with the majority. Your convictions will be challenged; you will sometimes be rejected, but if you're humble, it won't hurt your pride. You'll be able to praise the Lord and go on, trusting Him for the outcome. You'll be thinking more about what **God** thinks about you rather than your earthly reputation.

12. Humility is a part of our protective armor in the spirit world. By being humble, we retain our desperation in the spirit, and thus our usefulness to the Lord, and we are able to receive in full His anointing to be His mouthpieces to the world. By being humble, we guard against the pitfalls of self-confidence, independence, compromise, being tempted with popularity or riches, and many other negative things we don't want in our lives. Humility helps us to preserve and treasure and share the true riches of the spirit that we are privileged to have in the Family, and to stay on the straight and narrow.

13. Humility keeps us in the position of realizing that we can't do the job of building a flock in our own strength. We desperately need the Lord, the spiritual weapons, and His Word as our ballast. When we know and truly believe that the Lord is our strength and that the Word is what keeps us, then we will in turn teach our sheep and friends the same. We will draw them to Jesus and connect them to His Word first and foremost, not to individual personalities. That's how we'll have strong and stable flocks in the future. That's a big part of what it will take to be successful--giving our sheep the right foundation from the very beginning--and it all starts with, and is sustained by, humility.

14. (Jesus:) Humility is an outstanding characteristic of a powerful witnesser. You can be a good witnesser without sufficient humility, but you will never be a powerful witness unless you are humble and meek.

15. Humility isn't easily offended or hurt when something happens in your witnessing and winning that is embarrassing, or when I ask you to step out of the norm. Humility's desire for a soul to be saved is greater than the need to maintain a reputation or a front. Humility gladly accepts reproach for the cause of Christ and does not answer in anger. Humility is a beautiful garment of peace that covers you when you could answer in haste, but you hold your tongue for the love of souls, and because you love Me more than your reputation or appearance.

16. Humility causes the power of My Spirit to flow through you.

Real power, the power of Heaven, can only be harnessed through humble surrender. It cannot be worked up. Humility is a gift--accepted, harnessed, practiced, and held onto with great determination.

17. When you surrender your all to Me and you let Me use you however I want to--whether it's embarrassing, humbling, or glorious--you put yourself in a position to receive unmatched spiritual strength that will help you to be the witness I need you to be. You must harness this gift and make it your own if you wish to do great miracles or find the keys to someone's heart. Humility is a prize possession--hard to hold onto, easy to lose, but absolutely essential to becoming a powerful witness.

18. Humility is surrender to the Spirit of God. You take hold of Me and profess your need and admit your weakness. You refuse to let your pride keep us apart. In humility you gratefully and with anticipation receive all that I have to give you. You don't question with a carnal mindset.

19. Humility is acceptance of My will in every area of your life. It doesn't matter if it pertains to a soul or to the schedule, humility accepts and praises Me for everything that I send your way. It doesn't think it knows better. It doesn't reject a chance to witness in a humbling way; it embraces it with both arms, lays hold on that soul, and woos it into Heaven, regardless of the cost to reputation or pride. The love of Christ compels humility more than anything else.

20. Humility takes all and gives all--it takes all from Me and gives its all to others. Humility is the essential ingredient in harnessing the power of Heaven to reach a soul. Humility is impressive in a world where pride is glorified and reigns unchecked. Through humility, you receive the ability and wisdom to answer with My words, in My Spirit, and with My power. Through humility you wait for My timing and speak only the words I give you to speak. You surrender everything to Me through humility.

21. Through the keys of humility you can embrace any prickly rejection, and respond with love and kindness in return. Humility is essential to love, and love is essential to reaching the lost for Me. Humility is a great prize to seek after. Humility is a wise virtue to pursue, if you are to be a powerful witness.

22. Humility will give you the grace and strength to even die for

Me, if that is My will for you, as a testimony of My love, and for a witness against those who persecute you. Through the strength that humility will give to your witness, you will plant seeds of love and truth in the hearts of your persecutors that cannot be dislodged. Humility will destroy the strongest vestiges of pride in the hardest of hearts.

23. (Jesus:) With humility, you become all things to all men, so that you may win some. With humility, you expect the unexpected, and therefore receive the unexpected--out-of-bounds results.

24. With humility, you stand out as a beacon of light and are not hampered by pride's false faces and cover-ups. With humility, you will see your dreams become reality. It will enable you to continue reaching for the stars, dreaming those "impossible" dreams of faith and vision and foresight, which will then materialize and even surprise you.

25. With humility, you cause the world to sit up and take notice of you. Humility makes you stand out from the world and makes you attractive. You become irresistible.

26. With humility, the Offensive, which you and I have paved the way for in the spirit, will become a reality. Humility is the key ingredient in you being a success in every endeavor you embark on.

27. Humility to try the new and step into uncharted territory will keep you moving forward, always forward. Humility will make you decrease, so that I can increase within you.

28. Humility is the beginning and the end of your witnessing and winning, because humility is Me in its purest form. I am the all in all, the beginning and the end, and without Me, you can do nothing. Need I say more?

How?

29. * Exercise humility by playing whatever role is needed in your Home--whether it's meeting, teaching, feeding, praying, supporting, planning, provisioning, caring for the kids, or keeping the Home fires burning. All are important and contribute toward the overall success of your winning team and your expanded flock.

30. * Even if it's humbling for you, become one and be the example needed to connect with and minister to the sheep. Be willing to change your personal appearance, your Home's appearance, your speech habits, mannerisms, and interaction, in order to play the role needed to reach the sheep and win disciples. Be willing to adapt to the culture and customs of those you're ministering to, even if it's not your style or to your liking. Forget about yourself and your own pride and image. Your humility in being willing to "become one" with those you are ministering to will go a long way in touching their hearts and helping them be more accepting of your message, and ultimately, Jesus. They need to see Jesus in you, not you in you.

31. * Seize every opportunity as a witnessing opportunity. Always be on the lookout for an opening to start witnessing. Be humble enough to strike while the iron is hot, no matter how difficult it may be for you.

32. * Be humble enough to ask your sheep to tithe and support you. (Of course, after you've confirmed with the Lord that they are ready.)

33. * Feed your sheep the meat of the Word. Don't hide or water down the beliefs that set us apart from the world and make us different.

34. * Be humble, and have mercy and compassion for the people you minister to. Don't judge them for what they've done, or their choices, or their sins and mistakes, but let the Lord's perspective be your perspective in each situation. Have the attitude of, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

35. * Don't be intimidated or embarrassed in the presence of the wealthy, powerful, influential, gifted, popular, beautiful, or intelligent. That's pride.

36. * Pray with those that you're ministering to, and be humble and willing to receive the Lord's words of encouragement and counsel for them.

37. * Give Jesus the credit for everything--your fruit, financial stability, successful projects, goals reached, etc. When your sheep come over for a Bible class, or when you're out on follow-up, and someone remarks how wise you are, or how the Word or the class you delivered was so right on and just what they needed, give Him every bit of the glory. If you find yourself beginning to pocket any of the credit yourself, even in your mind, recognize it, ask for prayer, and go on the attack to point others to Jesus, so that He can continue to use you. (See "The Temple Prophecy," ML #9.)

38. (Jesus:) I am connected to everything successful and fruitful, and I'm more than willing to grant you all the power that lies at the disposal of the God of the universe. The only way that I can trust you, a frail human being, to use My supernatural power as it should be used is if you use the weapon of humility, which means giving Me the credit, acknowledging Me, looking to Me, and calling on Me for help.

39. If you want to use My power, you have to give Me the glory. When you admit that you are nothing in yourself and call upon Me, you can be everything through Me; you will be fully possessed by Me and have access to My **limitless** resources. The weapon of humility makes your job easier, quicker, and guarantees success.

40. * Share personal testimonies and specific victories that the Lord helped you to win, due to or in spite of mistakes you made in your outreach. Don't try to cover up your faults and failings, but be open to sharing them, so that others can see that you're only human and so that the Lord can always be glorified when things go well or you experience success.

41. * Good manners are essential in the art of humility. Being courteous and following local etiquette can be humbling as well as seem like a lot of extra work, but the humility to do so will speak to those whom you're ministering to.

42. * Go out of your way to contact potential sheep, even if they have been difficult to get through to or seem to be avoiding your calls or e-mails. Humility will continue to give them the benefit of the doubt. Sometimes people are really busy and they aren't purposely trying to avoid you. Pride

would cause you to give up and feel that they don't deserve your time and energy; humility will continue to pursue someone until the Lord tells you otherwise.

43. * Don't draw your sheep to yourself. Draw them to Jesus and the Family--that's who they belong to. Involve others in their shepherding and training; counsel with others, and don't be a one-man show. Let your sheep get close to others, and learn from others, and partake of others' gifts and talents and anointings. Be humble enough to realize that you don't have everything that your sheep need, so giving them well-rounded training requires teamwork and the regular involvement of others.

44. * Be faithful to regularly ask your Home for prayer for love, humility, and fruit that remains. Humility will cause you to admit your weaknesses and it will keep you dependent on the Lord, which is a sure way to keep you strong in spirit.

45. * Shyness, which is a form of pride, can hinder you in the realm of witnessing and winning. So if you are shy, ask the Lord for practical steps to take to overcome it. Many of God's greats were shy, but the reason they were great is that they didn't let their shyness and timidity take over. (See "The I-ness of Shyness" in *Treasures*, pp 140-147.)

46. * If you fail in an outreach endeavor, try again. Don't let fear, pride, condemnation, or anything else stop you.

47. * Be humble enough to ask the Lord everything. You may think you have put together a good plan regarding where to go witnessing, what means of transport to take, who to visit, and what to feed those you are ministering to. But humility realizes that the Lord always knows best.

48. * Work together as a Home, counsel together, hear from the Lord together. Showing yourselves open to each others' ideas, suggestions, comments, and visions is a manifestation of humility. It's proof that you realize that you don't know everything, and that you need others.

49. * When you're inviting visitors or sheep over for an event or meal or activity, ask the Lord for an extra anointing of humility, which will help you to be a top-notch host or hostess for the occasion.

50. * Show people that you value their time by being on time for appointments.

51. * Humility is being "all there" for someone and not daydreaming or spacing out when you're ministering to them. This is also true if you are not the main one speaking to them; i.e., if you are the witnessing partner who plays more of a support role. Even if the conversation is long and drawn out, humility will help you to place importance on matters of their heart and life. Humility will help you to do all that you can to support your witnessing partner in spirit through silent prayer, while still showing the person you're ministering to that you are attentive and interested and tuning in.

52. * Humility is the willingness to do things with a sheep that are not normally your cup of tea. Perhaps they invite you somewhere you're not particularly keen on going to, or serve you something to eat that is not your favorite. Humility will not make a fuss or have a negative reaction, but will go along with it out of love.

53. * Humility is being willing to stretch yourself to give a class or Bible study even if you don't feel prepared for it, or if you feel that someone else could do a better job. Humility will yield and try, and this demonstration of yieldedness and willingness and humility will show those whom you're ministering to the lengths you are willing to go to teach and train them, even if it hurts your pride.

54. * Attempt to learn and develop a new skill that would be a blessing to your Home and sheep, even if it's not your natural proclivity or something that you know you might not be so great at.--And stretch your humility muscles while you're at it.

55. * Be willing to ask for help when preparing for a follow-up appointment, whether it's asking for prayer, asking for help receiving a prophecy for the one you'll be ministering to, asking counsel of others regarding your appearance, etc. The point is to be humble enough to ask for help if you need it, while trying not to impose on others.

56. * Be just as wholehearted in your Home duties as you are when you are on outreach. Offer to rotate on kitchen duty when you have visitors coming to your Home, instead of always participating in the visit.