

Philippians 6 – Go Low Grow High

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 2:1-11 NASB95] 1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not [merely] look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- This is one of the richest Christological passages in the New Testament.
- Like a river flows lower to gain momentum, humility is how the Spirit channels power in our lives. Christ went low, so He could be raised high.
- In a world obsessed with status, power, and recognition, Paul unveils a radically different vision: Christ humbled Himself and God highly exalted Him.
- This passage is known as the Kenosis Hymn (means emptying); an early church confession proclaiming how Jesus emptied Himself and became a servant.

What does this passage teach today's Spirit-empowered believer about humility?

Here are four points from this passage that help us to live in humility.

I. The Call to Unity and Humility - Philippians 2:1–4

- a. Paul urges believers to be like-minded, united in love, and free of selfish ambition. Humility is the soil where the Spirit plants revival.
- b. The Spirit can't move freely where pride dominates.
- c. [Jas 4:6 NASB95] 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore [it] says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."
- d. [Psa 133:1-3 NASB95] 1 A Song of Ascents, of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, [Even] Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing life forever.
- e. Unity requires humility. Unity equals shared anointing. (Remember their fellowship with and shared grace in chapter 1.)

II. The Example of Christ's Humility - Philippians 2:5–8

- a. Christ emptied Himself (Greek: ekenōsen).
- b. Took the form of a servant.
- c. Humbled Himself to death on a cross.
- d. Jesus, fully God, set aside His rights to become the suffering servant. This is the ultimate model of submission and service.
- e. The Spirit empowers believers to choose humility when the flesh demands exaltation.

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- f. Suffering servant prophecy. [Isa 53:3-5 NASB95] 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.
- g. [Jhn 13:14-15 NASB95] 14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.
- h. His example of laying down ourselves is an example.

III. The Exaltation of Christ - Philippians 2:9–11

- a. Because Jesus humbled Himself, God highly exalted Him, giving Him the name above every name. Humility didn't lower Jesus; it positioned Him for the highest glory.
- b. The anointing flows strongest through surrendered vessels.
- c. [Mat 23:12 NASB95] 12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
- d. [Rev 5:12 NASB95] 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."
- e. The path up is down.

IV. The Spirit Enables Us to Walk Like Christ

- a. Paul calls us to "have this mind" (v.5). The Spirit makes this possible. Humility isn't natural. It's supernatural.
- b. A Spirit-filled life reproduces the mind and mission of Christ.
- c. [Gal 5:22-23 NASB95] 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- d. Ask the Holy Spirit to assist you in walking in humility.

- **The path to true spiritual power is the path Christ walked: humble obedience leading to exalted victory.**
- **In the Kingdom, the way up is down. The Spirit is calling believers not merely to admire Christ's humility, but to walk in it.**
- **Your anointing will only grow as deep as your humility goes. If you want power, go low. If you want authority, serve. And if you want true victory, follow the path of the cross.**