

HUMBLE YOURSELF

I have been a student of toddlers for many years. They all seem to get to a phase where their greatest mission in life is to gain autonomy over their guardians. They argue, rebel, and exert their own will to gain control (Perhaps I am also talking about teenagers).

Case in point: I saw a toddler leading their parents around like minions in a public place this week. Instead of recognizing their parent's leadership, the toddler tried to exert their will over them. By the looks of things, in this case, it was working. The toddler was leading the adults. Side note: I'm afraid those parents have a long and tear-filled journey ahead of them.

Looking back at the history of God's people, it isn't hard to see some toddler-ish behavior. There are multiple occasions where the people (toddlers) try to tell God how things should be done. They exalt themselves and their opinions and agendas over the wisdom of God. This never works out well for humanity. The good news is there is a remedy. It is called **humility**. In the Hebrew language, it means to bow down or bend low. This posture is representative of the relationship dynamics. Lowering self and exalting the true and good leader is what humility means. A perfect example is John the Baptist, who said, "He (Jesus) must increase and I must decrease. (John 3).

Psalm 25:8–10

*Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

*He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.*

*All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

The Psalmist recognized the conflict in the relationship between man and God. His conclusion was this: God is good, and he knows what he is talking about. We (mankind) are sinners, and the Lord is the one who instructs us (not the other way around). Those who humble themselves are obediently led in God's way. This humble posture is accompanied by a promise of the Lord's steadfast love (HESED) and faithfulness.

Psalm 147:6

The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Psalm 149:4

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

The promises of God's steadfast love and faithfulness are more incredible than anything we can acquire for ourselves, no matter how hard we try to exert our will. May God continue to transform our hearts so that we can humble ourselves before him.

Shalom,
Ryan