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**Reminder:** The principle, 'God SENDS His Word to heal', can be understood to mean the following:

- A. God's Word itself has in-grained Healing Power and Potential.**
- B. Obedience to the General Word (Logos) Heals us.**
- C. Obedience to a Specific Instruction (Rhema) Heals us.**
- D. An Uttered Command or Decree to Heal.**
- E. Appropriating the Promises of Healing in God's Word By Faith.**

In this session, we **continue to unpack point C** above (continued from session 7).

God sends His Word to heal us. This word must be obeyed to access the healing. Humility is needed to obey. When we humble ourselves, God heals our 'land'. This session clearly demonstrates the vital importance of HUMILITY and it's association to HEALING on the one hand, and PRIDE and SICKNESS on the other. This teaching will encourage and enlighten you.

Humility is the pathway to all spiritual blessings. It is the access pin code to a life of healing and wholeness. God commends it and finds it highly attractive. Humility is the foundation to access healing and live a peace-filled and long life.

**Note:** The issues of Humility and Pride are dealt with in great depth in my teaching series on GRACE, freely available in PDF STUDY NOTE and AUDIO formats. You are encouraged to study these as well. Access this theme via these links:

- For PDF Study Notes: Scroll down to 'GRACE' :  
[http://randolphbarnwell.com/pdf\\_topical.html](http://randolphbarnwell.com/pdf_topical.html)
- For More Audios Sessions: Scroll down to Grace Parts (A), (B) and (C)  
<http://randolphbarnwell.com/audio.html>

Some of the notes in this study are extracted from certain parts of my series on 'Grace'.

## 1. HUMILITY HEALS THE LAND

**2 Chron. 7:14** and My people who are called by My name **HUMBLE themselves** and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will **HEAL their LAND**.



The ultimate outcome of humility is a HEALED LAND. In the text above, humility is required to turn from your wicked ways, and to pray. The result is the healing of the land. The point I want to stress here is that HUMILITY results in HEALING.

“Land” here does have reference to something corporate, far beyond mere physical healing. It incorporates the healing of dispositions, traits, characteristics, principles, protocols systems in whole countries and nations. BUT, we can also apply the term ‘land’ to the healing of our physical bodies and minds, because our bodies were made from the earth. In a sense, man is the last item of ‘earth’ God made, being created from the ground at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> day before God went into rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Our bodies can represent our personal ‘land’. If we master humility, we can access healing for our land - our bodies.

## 2. HUMILITY LEADS TO LONG LIFE

Humility leads to honour from God.

**Prov. 18:12** Before **destruction the heart** of man is **haughty**, But **humility** goes before **honour**.

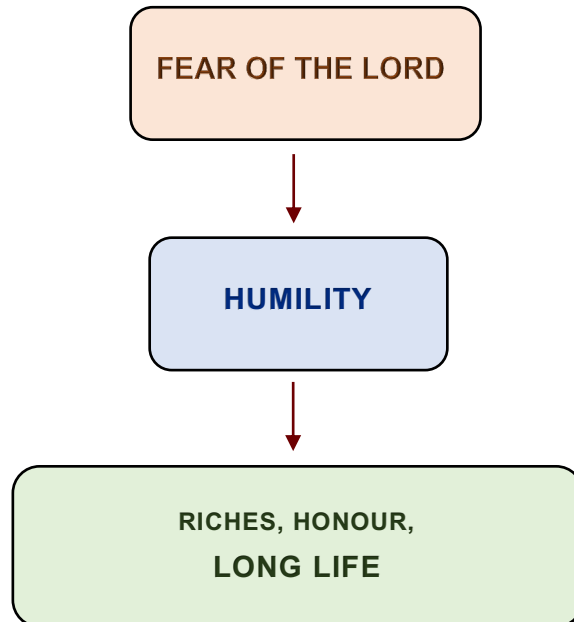
The fear of the Lord is prerequisite or a catalyst to humility. The fear of the lord relates to having a reverential and respectful heart attitude towards God, that is manifested in obedience to His Word.

**Prov. 15:33** The **fear of the Lord** is the instruction for wisdom, And **before honor comes humility**.

Thus, humility, founded in the fear of the Lord, will result in riches, honour and LONG LIFE!

**Prov. 22:4** The **reward of humility** and the **fear of the Lord** Are **riches, honor and life**. (NASB)

**True humility** and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and **long life**. (NLT)



### 3. GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

Grace is the constituent element that comprises God's being as 'SPIRIT'. This grace, the composition of 'spirit', enables and capacitates our functioning in the earth as sons of God. In 1 Pet. 3:7, it is called the 'GRACE OF LIFE'. 'Life' here relates to the God-quality of life ('Zoe' in the Greek). This life, full of grace, the substance of spirit, can override any condition in our physical bodies - our 'BIOS' life. When GRACE is present within us in profound quality and quantity, this grace, pregnant with the God-kind of life, can bring health and healing to our physical bodies and minds. What we need is MORE GRACE. Now, GRACE is attracted to HUMILITY!

One of the heart dispositions and mindsets within sons of God that positions us to be the recipients of a greater quantum and unique quality of grace, is HUMILITY. Three portions of scripture indicate this directly:

**1 Peter 5:5** You younger men, likewise, **be subject** to your elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with humility toward one another**, for God is **opposed to the proud**, but gives **grace to the humble**.

**James 4:6** But He gives a **greater grace**. Therefore it says, “God is **opposed to the proud**, but **gives grace** to the **humble**.”

These New Testament passages quote from Proverbs 3:34.

**Prov. 3:34** Surely He scorns the scornful, But **gives grace** to the **humble**. (NKJV)

The message is quite plain here: God actively resists pride, but gives a significant quality of grace to the humble.

#### **4. GOD’S EYES SCAN THE EARTH, LOOKING FOR HUMILITY IN MEN**

The eyes of God constantly survey the earth, keenly looking for dispositions within men that are like Himself, and to which He is most attracted towards. God finds humility attractive.

**Prov. 15:3** The **eyes of the Lord are in every place**, Watching the evil and the good.

**Job 31:4** Does He not **see my ways** and number all my steps.

**Zech. 4:10b** These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which **range through the whole earth**.

**Rev. 5:6** And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth**. (Also Zech. 3:9)

The Father **SEEKS** true worshippers:

**John 4:23** But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father **seeks** to be His worshipers.

The eyes of the Lord intentionally seek those with totally devoted hearts toward Him:

**2 Chron. 16:9a** For the **eyes of the Lord** move to and fro **throughout the earth** that He may strongly support those **whose heart is completely** His.

Specifically, the heart and mind which is HUMBLE, has an uncanny capacity to recruit the attention of God.

**Isa. 66:1,2** Thus says the Lord, “Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? “For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares the Lord. “But **to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.**

**1 Kgs 8:27** “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built.”

In the texts above, God clearly indicates the virtual impossibility of the entirety of any created thing or order, including the Heavens and anything man could create, to fully accommodate His being. The rationale is that how could He, who personally made all things, be contained within what He has made, since He is much bigger than anything made. Man, the corporate man, the totality of the Body of Christ, is the only possible created item that has any potential to fully house God, for man was made in His image and likeness. The thing that specifically is highlighted in the text above that actually recruits God’s attention or ‘LOOK’ (**“But to this one will I look”**), is the condition of humility, contrition and a high esteem for His Word. These set forth the ideal and most compatible framework to house HIM.

What the highest of the Heavens and a magnificent building cannot do, a humble heart can do - which is to ‘house’ and contain an awesome God!

**Look = Nabat =** ‘To watch, to regard. It has the sense of **looking somewhat intensely** in a **focused way** at something; to gaze. It is used of the **keen observations** of an eagle from a great distance (Job 39:29); and of the Lord’s gazing on the earth from His habitation (Ps. 102:19 ,20).’<sup>i</sup>

The eyes of the Lord search the earth to find His image in men. The very intent of His look is redemptive and not judgemental. He eagerly desires to dispense greater grace to the humble of heart and mind.

## 5. THE 'HUMILITY-PAD' - THE LANDING SPOT FOR HEAVENLY GRACE

It is so easy for pride to displace humility. The line separating humility from pride is thin. We must all guard our hearts in this matter.



Example of a Helipad.

Humility becomes the characteristic that attracts grace, whilst pride is a grace-repellent. The humble recruit more grace unto themselves by virtue of their humility. The proud, by virtue of this arrogant disposition, provide no 'landing spot' for grace. Grace requires humility as a 'landing spot'. Helicopters generally land on a helipad, which is a designated landing pad marked with a circle and/or a letter "H", so as to be visible from the air (See illustration alongside here). These are found at airports, on the roofs of skyscrapers, hospitals, large ships, etc. Similarly, God looks for a 'humility-pad' within our spirits, upon which to dispense more and greater grace.

The **HUMILITY-PAD** is the **HUMBLE HEART**, over which grace **HOVERS**, upon which grace **lands**, and which grace elects as a **HABITATION**.

Like helipads, our hearts of humility must be **'visible from the air'** – i.e. must be observable and regarded by God and not falsely horizontally paraded before men (false humility<sup>ii</sup>).

**Col. 2:18a**    Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in **false humility** ... (NKJV)

True humility is a condition of the heart that determines an attitude within the mind. There is a false humility which parades itself as appearing to abide by biblically acceptable principles externally, so as to create an impression of piety. This is Pharisaical. Its intent is purely to create an impression of humility so as to foster esteem in the perception of others in reference to it.

**“When pride perceives humility as honourable, it often borrows her cloak.”**

(Thomas Fuller, English author; 1608-1661)

Rooftop helipads vary in their capacity to receive helicopters of a specified maximum weight or less. They display a large two-digit number, representing the weight limit (in thousands of pounds) of the pad<sup>iii</sup>. In addition, a second number may be present, representing the maximum rotor diameter in feet. Similarly, the sincerity and depth of humility will determine the quantum and quality of the potential download of grace. The genuine-ness of the humility dictates what grace capacity it can receive and handle.



We could extend this parabolic analogy further. For skyscrapers, with rooftop helipads to be able to receive heavier helicopters whose rotor diameters are large, the helipad needs to be sufficiently well and solidly constructed and prepared. This is especially true, the higher the skyscraper. The principle is that the more God uses you, the greater visibility you have and the greater heights you ascend, the more aware you need to be of the dangers of pride and thus focus upon entrenching an extremely strong disposition of humility within your heart and mind. The scriptures contain many examples of people who were initially humble and thus were abundantly blessed by God, but because of pride associated with the fact of their blessing, they fell out of favour with God and declined into obscurity. A case in point would be King Uzziah (see 1 Kings 15;2 Chronicles 26; Isaiah 1:1). If we are not careful, the event of our **breakthrough** could signal the start of a process of our **breakdown**.

True humility is a security measure against failure intrinsic to pride.

As you and I ascend externally because of God's favour upon us, may we deliberately descend internally within our hearts. Stay humble and access greater GRACE. 'Great Grace' is looking for an unpretentious heart of humility on which to land.

## 6. TRUE HUMILITY REFLECTED IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD

**At the heart of humility is the esteem and honour placed on God and His Word** (See *Isaiah 66:1,2 quoted previously*). The humble man '**trembles**' at **God's Word**, i.e. has a deep, reverential regard for the person of God and for God's view and opinion on things.

God's Word must be received with humility, in order for its inherent and intended saving quality to be released and experienced. Note in the text below, the Word is only 'ABLE TO SAVE' dependent on the quality of humility with which it is received.

**James 1:21** ... in **humility receive** the **word implanted**, which is **able to save your souls**.

In the text above, **humility** ('**prautes**'<sup>iv</sup> in the Greek) is "**mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness**"<sup>v</sup>.

God's Word contains His mind and will. When this is presented to our minds, we must humble any thought or opinion that opposes God's thoughts. We do this in deference to and preference for His thoughts, will and way. This is the essence of humility. In this economy, there is no place for establishing and entrenching one's own point of view above the revealed viewpoint of God through His Word.

It is imperative in humility to bow your heart and mind in a lowly fashion, displacing your own initial thought which may contradict God's, in a bid to accept and receive God's thought as your own. Thus, we bend and adopt a heavenly perspective instead of our own earth-based perspective. At the basis of humility is a huge respect and esteem for God's Word. Your mind must bow to the mind of God in His Word.

This is important because without this humility, obedience to the Word is impossible. Jesus 'HUMBLED' Himself, and as a result, 'HE BECAME OBEDIENT'. In fact, more correctly stated, obedience is the ultimate indication of humility. Obedience is the proof of humility.

**Phil. 2:8** Being found in appearance as a man, **He HUMBLED Himself** by becoming **OBEDIENT** to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus obeyed to the point of death. Courageous obedience is necessary to God's commandments or the leading of God that demands our total sacrificial commitment and loyalty to His Word and voice. These may seem difficult to us and requires a humble heart that so esteems HIM and His Word, that it does not count the cost to obey. Pride prevents daring obedience and negates the possibility of obeying, because pride places value and importance on the person more than on God and His Word. To be truly humble starts with an immense esteem and respect for God and a high value placed on His Word. Obedience to this Word will require you to die to yourself - to your own thoughts and opinions.



## **7. RECEIVE GOD'S WORDS SENT TO YOU THROUGH YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**

God sends His Word to heal. For Israel, this 'SENT' Word was sent through Moses. For the sent Word to be effective, it had to be obeyed, but its obedience was largely contingent upon whether Israel would receive it as God's Word, or simply as Moses' word.

Receive the words of God communicated through your spiritual leadership, not as their word, but as God's Word. This is important. Usually, this is how God would send strategic and directional aspects of His word to you.

Read the entire chapter of Romans 10. Faith is required to activate the power in God's word. This faith comes by hearing God's Word (Rom.10:17) communicated to you through a legitimate preacher SENT to you.

### **Rom. 10:14-15A**

- 14     How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have **not heard**? And how will they **hear without a preacher**?
- 15a    How will they **preach unless they are sent**

You cannot receive the SENT WORD, until you are also willing to receive the SENT PREACHER to you. God's Word, received as it is spoken through the ones God sends to you, produces FAITH. If you do not have the proper regard for those who speak the word, Faith is negated. Note the text below, the Word of God PERFORMS ITS WORK in those WHO BELIEVE (i.e. have FAITH) - this faith activates the power of God's Word. The Word must be RECEIVED correctly, viz as God's Word, not as man's word, even though it is communicated through men.

**1 Thess 2:13** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you **received the word of God** which you **heard from us**, you **accepted it not as the word of men**, but for what it really is, **the word of God**, which also **performs its work** in you **who believe**.

Paul considered those who would listen to him as a man, as those who truly FEARED GOD.

**Acts 13:16** Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, **and you who fear God, listen:**

John was even more emphatic. He stated that those who listened to him know God, implying those who did not listen to him, did not know God.

**1 John 4:6** We are from God; **he who knows God listens to us**; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the **spirit of truth** and the **spirit of error**.

## 8. DISOBEDIENCE = PRIDE

If true humility is expressed and evidenced in obedience, then pride's ultimate indicator is DISOBEDIENCE.

**Ps. 119:21** You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, Who wander from Your commandments.

**Wander = sagah =** to stray, to go astray, to err, to deceive, to make a mistake, to reel; a misleading mentally (i.e., being a deceiver or the deceived); this word depicts moral corruption.<sup>vi</sup>

The proud WANDER AWAY from God's principles. The proud rationalise a position in the mind which is opposed to God's view on a matter. Being deceived that they are right, in the error of their way, the proud progressively stray away from God's way, and so degenerate into greater moral corruption.

**Psalm 119:10** With all my heart I have sought You; Do not **let me wander** from Your commandments.

**Jer. 13:9-10a** Thus says the Lord, 'Just so will I **destroy the pride** of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This wicked people, who refuse to **listen to My words**, who walk in the **stubbornness** of their hearts ...

## 9. REMOVE THE STONE OF PRIDE

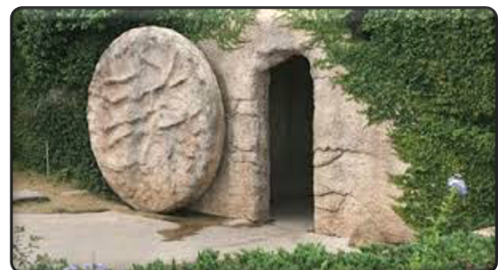
God is intent on removing every obstacle within us that impedes His desire to dwell fully within us. Pride is a major obstacle to Divine habitation in men.

**Isaiah 57:14,15** And it will be said, “Build up, build up, prepare the way, **REMOVE EVERY OBSTACLE OUT OF THE WAY** of My people.” For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the **contrite and lowly of spirit** In order to **REVIVE** the spirit of the **LOWLY** And to **REVIVE** the heart of the **CONTRITE**.”

For Jesus to issue an authoritative command to dead Lazarus to “COME FORTH” from the dead, a stone blocking the entrance to the tomb had to first be removed.

**John 11:39-40** Jesus said, “**REMOVE THE STONE.**” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this **time there will be a STENCH**, for he has been dead **four days**.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see **the GLORY of God?**”

Martha protested - she was concerned that the stench from a four day old dead body would be an embarrassment to the family, their reputation and social standing. This indicates a measure of pride in her. Thus, the stone here symbolically could have reference to PRIDE. Jesus counteracts this by encouraging her to just believe and she will see the GLORY of God, which is the nature and character of



God displayed. Jesus was saying to her that if she just removes the stone, what people will remember and talk about, is not the stench, but the glory of God revealed. The glory of God would not be revealed without the stone being removed. You and I must remove the stone of pride in order for the miraculous resurrective power to reach our ‘death’ issues to raise them back to life again.

Address the hidden and dark aspects of your pride. Be open and transparent. Do not be concerned about your reputation, image or the opinions of others about you. Your healing lies in your humility. God’s glory will be revealed.

Some healing will come, not by prayer and fasting, but by confessing some fault, indiscretion, failure, etc to someone who you have hurt or offended; or confessing sins or faults to someone who is spiritually mature.

**James 5:16a** Confess your **faults** one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **(KJV)**

**Fault = paráptōma** = Fault, lapse, error, mistake, wrongdoing.

Confession of faults must be made to someone who is spiritual (not naturally or carnally minded), preferably your spiritual oversight (leadership) as the context of James 5 suggests.

**Gal. 6:1** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are **spiritual**, restore **such an one** in the **spirit of meekness**; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted **(KJV)**

## **10. PERFECTING HUMILITY FOR HEALING**

The cleansing of Naaman's leprosy demonstrates that perfected humility is key to accessing total cleansing/healing/breakthrough/provision.

Naaman was a highly ranked and hugely successful Assyrian general in the army. Assyria means pride. So everything about the nation and Naaman in particular denotes pride. To receive his healing, Naaman had to deal with his pride. Read the account below.

### **2 Kings 5:1-14**

- 1 Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a **great man** with his master, and **highly respected**, because by him the LORD had given **victory** to Aram. The man was also a **valiant warrior**, **but he was a leper.**
- 2 Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife.
- 3 She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."
- 4 Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel."

- 5 Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand *shekels* of gold and ten changes of clothes.
- 6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."
- 7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending *word* to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."
- 8 It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent *word* to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."
- 9 So Naaman **came with his horses and his chariots** and stood at the **doorway of the house of Elisha**.
- 10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "**Go and wash in the Jordan seven times**, and your **flesh will be restored** to you and **you will be clean**."
- 11 But **Naaman was furious** and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.'"
- 12 "Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.
- 13 Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you *to do some* great thing, would you not have done *it*? How much more *then*, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"
- 14 So he went down and **dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God**; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.

'Naaman' means pleasant or sweet. He had position, pomp, prestige and popularity - but he also had a problem that detracted from his 'image', namely leprosy. The sin of pride is distasteful as it mars the image of God in us.

Naaman's pride is manifested in that:

1. He expected Elisha to come out to him to wave his hands and heal him personally.
2. He initially refused to obey Elisha's instruction to dip seven times in the dirty river of Jordan.

He had to heed the instruction of Elisha's servant sent with the Word of the Lord to him. As indicated earlier, for God's word to be effectively at work in us, it must be received as though God is sending it, even though it is transmitted and communicated through human vessels. If Naaman would not receive the word of the servant, you cannot receive the word from Elisha who sent him, and further cannot receive the word of God sent through Elisha.

Naaman also had to obey the instruction to dip seven times in the Jordan River. Seven indicates perfection and rest. Jordan, as explained below, alludes to humility. He had to bring perfection to his humility if he was to come into a place of rest, healing, breakthrough and provision. Fortunately for him, he ultimately obeyed. Your healing is one step of humble obedience away.

## 11. THE JORDAN RIVER AND HUMILITY

Naaman's healing did not exist in a prayer from Elisha, but in perfecting humility and obedience in the Jordan River.

The name 'Jordan' means '**descending; flowing down**'; (root = to go down; to flow down); **descending rapidly**'<sup>vii</sup>. This denotes humility – a lowly position. Biblically, the River Jordan has symbolic significance in the following areas:

### 1. It was in the middle of a fertile valley

Lot settled in the Jordan Valley because it was well watered and fertile. Two principles are key here:

- a) Firstly, within the context of humility, you will be most fertile and productive because you will be 'well-watered' by the water of God's Word, which you highly esteem and subscribe to obediently. Pride, on the other hand, leads to barrenness.
- b) Secondly, Lot arrogantly disconnected from Abraham in pride but tried to abide in an environment of humility. **You cannot cloak yourself externally in humility when it has not become an internal reality.** He positioned his tent towards Sodom, depictive of unbridled carnal, sensual indulgence. Some use false humility as a mask to cover their prideful intent and preoccupation with fleshly pursuits.

## 2. The Jordan River is a boundary, indicating a separation of two realms

This is indicated by clusters of passages that speak of "beyond Jordan," "on this side of the Jordan," "on the other side of Jordan" and "over Jordan." Often, humility would be the defining line separating us and thus delineating our distinction from that which may be unpleasing to the Lord. Pride often results in a blurring of clearly defined protocols or boundaries governing righteous and acceptable behaviour.

## 3. The issue of 'crossing' is connected to the Jordan River

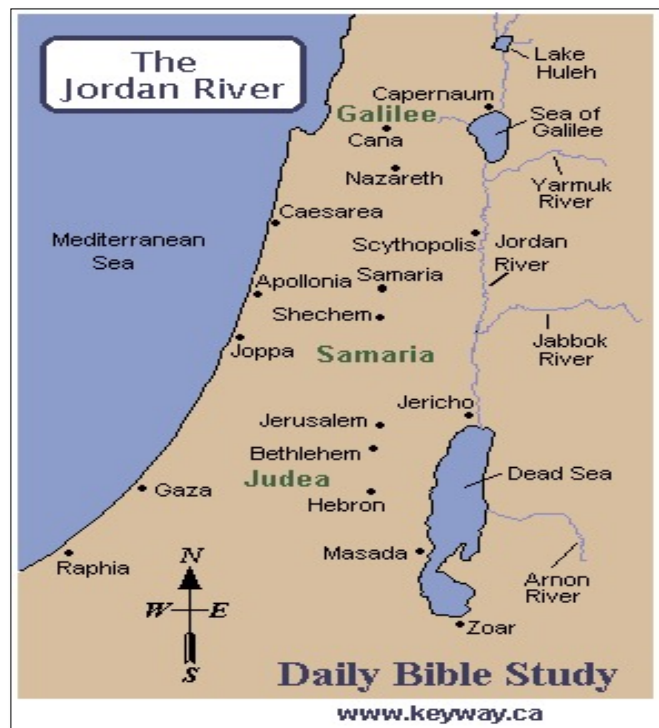
This is related to the previous image of Jordan as a boundary. It was a boundary of the Promised Land. Joshua chapters 3 and 4 describes how, after forty years in the desert, Israel, led by Joshua, made a decisive crossing of the Jordan from the east, opposite Gilgal and Jericho.

### Joshua 3:13-17

- 13 "It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, *and* the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap."
- 14 So when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people,
- 15 and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the **feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water** (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest),
- 16 the **waters which were flowing down from above stood *and* rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam**, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho.
- 17 And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan.



As the feet of the priests, who bore the Ark of the Covenant, touched the waters, the waters were heaped upstream at the city of Adam where the Jabbok River enters the Jordan from the east. **Jabbok means ‘emptying, pouring out’<sup>viii</sup>**. Self-emptying is essential to stand in humility. **Entrance into the next phase of God’s purposes and promises demands that we adopt an intensely strong disposition of humility.** One cannot enter God’s purposes or the fulfillment of some prophetic plan with pride.



It is noteworthy to regard the fact that the priests stood in the middle of the Jordan while the entire nation crossed the Jordan River onto dry ground. The priests here are representative of spiritual leadership or of a representative leadership. It is incumbent on leaders that they, more than anyone else, be first and frontline in modeling sincere humility. The passage of entire communities of God’s people into prophetic destiny and purposes is contingent upon the humility and self-emptying of their leaders.

As the priests stepped into the Jordan, the miracle of the waters being dammed happened kilometres upstream. The effects of their obedience at the place where they were, would only be experienced a few hours later. **The place of your obedience might actualise the miracle at some place or point far from you, although the effects will eventually be felt where you are.** Do not be discouraged while you wait for the results of your obedience to actualise where you are. Simply continue to ‘rapidly descend’ in humility, and God will speedily cause the results of your obedience to reach you.

RAPIDLY DESCEND in HUMILITY, so that GOD can RESPOND SPEEDILY with your breakthrough. As you descend in HUMILITY, God DESCENDS in your life and situation with great providence.

## 12. PRIDE PREVENTS HEALING BUT CAN ALSO INVITE SICKNESS/DEATH

Elisha refused to receive a gift from Naaman (see 2 Kings 5:15ff.). Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, sought to mispresent Elisha by running after Naaman and deceptively extract the gift from him.

For this act of prideful disobedience rooted in covetousness and greed, the leprosy of Naaman



was transferred to Gehazi. The principle is simple : disobedience rooted in pride can lead to sickness and disease.

Without going into detail, here below are some incidences where sickness and/or death resulted from the expression of pride:

- **HEROD**

**Acts 12:21-23**

- 21 On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them.
- 22 The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"
- 23 And immediately an angel of the **Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory**, and he was eaten by **worms and died**.

- **NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S MENTAL DERANGEMENT**

**Dan. 4:30** The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which **I myself have built** as a royal residence by the **might of my power** and for the **glory of my majesty**?'

**Dan. 4:33** Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began **eating grass like cattle**, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

- **UZZIAH**

**2 Chr 26:16** But when he became strong, his heart was **so proud that he acted corruptly**, and he was **unfaithful to the Lord his God**, for he entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.

**2 Chr 26:19** But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the **leprosy broke out on his forehead** before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the altar of incense.

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## ENDNOTES

- <sup>i</sup>. Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament (electronic ed.), Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #H5027
- <sup>ii</sup>. False Humility:  
**Col. 2:18-23** : Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self- imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
- <sup>iii</sup>. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helipad>
- <sup>iv</sup>. Note: ‘prautes’ is only found in James 1:21; 3:1 and 1 Pet. 3:15; often translated as ‘gentleness’
- <sup>v</sup>. Thayer, J.H. (1996), Thayer’s Greek Definitions, Hendrickson Publishers, e-Sword X, Version 3.2. (11), Dictionary, #G4240
- <sup>vi</sup>. Baker, W. (2003, c2002). The Complete Word Study Dictionary : Old Testament. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, #H7686
- <sup>vii</sup>. Smith, S., & Cornwall, J. (1998). The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names (3). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos.
- <sup>viii</sup>. Ibid.