HUMILITY UNLOCKS DIVINE FAVOUR WHILE PRIDE REPELS IT

Humility is the key that unlocks God's unlimited blessing and favour while pride repels them.

KEY POINTS

- Humility is a characteristic we should all possess. Not only does it attract God's attention, but it is also is the key that unlocks His unlimited blessing and favour.
- In 1 Samuel 8:1, the prophet Samuel, in his old age, appointed his sons as Israel's leaders. But the prophet's sons were corrupt and desired material treasure above godly service and integrity (v. 3).
- The people saw this and the elders of Israel asked Samuel for a king so they could be like the other nations. This request displeased Samuel, but God told Samuel that the people had not rejected him as their prophet; they had rejected God as their King (vv. 7-8). So, God gave the people what they wanted.
- It is against this backdrop that we are introduced to Saul, a member of one of the smaller and less prominent tribes of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin.
- When we get to 1 Samuel 9, the Bible tells us that Saul was on a journey looking for his family's lost donkeys—a routine search he had most likely done many times before. What he didn't realize was that this seemingly routine and mundane task would lead him toward his God-given destiny.
- It was after three days of looking for the lost donkeys that Saul decided to consult the prophet, Samuel. The prophet told him not to worry about the donkeys; they had been found. Then Samuel told Saul, "And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and your whole family line?" (v. 20).
- By this, Samuel strongly hinted that Saul was the one God had chosen to be the first king of Israel. Saul couldn't believe he would be considered for such a high office, saying to Samuel (v. 21): "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?"
- James 4:10 tells us to "humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (see also verse 6). Saul didn't manipulate the situation so he would become king. It wasn't even in his thoughts! All he wanted to do was find his father's lost donkeys.
- 'Humility', as defined by the Oxford and Merriam-Webster dictionaries, respectively, is "the quality of having a modest view of one's value or importance," and the "freedom from pride or arrogance." The King James Bible Dictionary says that humility "consists in lowliness of mind; a deep sense of one's own unworthiness in the sight of God, self-abasement."
- Saul's humility positioned him to receive the divine favour God was pouring out on his life. It was also that divine favour that took Saul to the house of the prophet and allowed him to be seated at the head of the table (1 Sam. 9:22). Humility unlocks divine favour!
- After they ate, Samuel prophesied, telling Saul what he was going to come across (1 Sam. 10:5-6). Everything the prophet told Saul came to pass, even the fact that God's Spirit would come upon him powerfully, enabling "him to prophesy along with the other prophets" (vv. 6, 10).
- Humility unlocks divine favour that will radically transform your life.

KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 15:12-23
(all scriptures in text are in KJV unless otherwise noted)

As the Spirit of God moves through you, you enter a new dimension that makes you a different person, like Saul. He was a new man with a new purpose because God was with him.

- But what Saul didn't realize was that his attitude of humility was going to get tested. And he failed the test. Instead of obeying the Word of the Lord and remaining humble, Saul thought that now that he was king, he could make his own decisions outside the given parameters of the prophet.
- Pride is an attitude the Lord detests (Proverbs 16:5). If we're not careful, it creeps in slowly and catches us unawares.
- In 1 Samuel 13, the prophet Samuel told Saul to wait for him for seven days in Gilgal and when he arrived, then *he* would offer sacrifices before the battle against the Philistines. But Saul became impatient and offered the sacrifices *himself*. A king does not perform the duties of a prophet or priest.
- Samuel came as soon as Saul had offered these sacrifices and asked what he had done. Then Saul began to justify his actions instead of acknowledging his wrongdoing, even going as far as to blame *Samuel* for being late.
- Samuel then told Saul, "You have done a foolish thing.... Now your kingdom will not endure..." (vv. 13-14).
- The humble attitude with which Saul began his journey was being eroded and replaced by pride. He thought he could take matters into his own hands—which was contrary to the given instruction—and still be blessed.
- How many of us have been like Saul, where we've been given instruction by God and we either try to go around it or disobey it outright? Why do we do that?
- Because pride is getting into our hearts and we figure we know better than the man of God. When that happens, God will begin to remove some things from us and give them to someone who is humble, obedient, and rightly has a correct view of themselves.
- Pride repels blessing and favour.
- If we want to unlock God's favour in our lives, we need to be sober in our thinking and be humble in the sight of God. Because humility unlocks divine favour while pride pushes God's blessing away.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In your own words, define "humility." What does the Bible say about humility? Is humility always obvious? Why or why not?
2. Discuss *Saul's* humility as evidenced in 1 Samuel 9:21 and 10:14-22. Then, looking at 1 Samuel 15, discuss the elements of pride that led to *King Saul's* downfall.
3. How do we guard against pride and avoid a similar fate to King Saul? What are the warning signs of pride?

PRAYER TIME
Lord, help me to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You (Micah 6:8). Amen.

Start-up: Have you ever failed a "life" test (e.g., losing your cool in a stressful situation)? When tested again, did you pass? How?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea)  (Think about)

 (Do this)  (Speaks to my heart)  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD

PRAYER FOCUS: Thanksgiving for God's goodness, provision, protection, freedom, health, etc.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;
Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;
Departmental Prayer: Every **Thursday** (please check schedule)
Corporate Prayer: Every **Friday** @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).
Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS
To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTHLY LEADERS' MEETING
Sunday, October 25th @ 1:15 p.m. in the Upper Chapel.

FAITH GALA
Save the date! Join us on Friday, November 20th at 7:30 p.m. for our Faith Gala. Our theme this year: "Anchored in Hope". Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online or at the Guest Service Hosts' desk in the front foyer. *For more information, please contact Pastor Lucy.*

STOREHOUSE
The following items are needed in the Storehouse: corned beef, sweet milk/evaporated milk, sardines, tuna, baked beans, oil, toothpaste, and coffee. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Contact: Bro. Richard or Sis. Naomi Daley



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)
Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)
Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)
Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)
Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD
We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD
We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION
We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL
We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL
We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE
Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN
We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

OCTOBER 25, 2026

Faith SANCTUARY

Feed Canada to Feed the World



Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"…Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry."
1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NIV)

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