

When I was younger, I often felt the need to prove myself. Whether it was in school, sports, or social situations, I was always striving to be the best, to outshine others, and to seek recognition. One day a mentor gently pointed out that my constant need for validation was rooted in pride and insecurity. He shared with me the importance of humility, noting that true greatness lies in serving others and putting their needs ahead of my own.

This was a hard lesson to learn, but it changed my perspective. Practicing humility doesn't come naturally; it requires intentional effort and a heart **transformed** by God's grace. It means recognizing that every good thing we have comes from God and that we are not superior to others. It involves acknowledging our limitations and being willing to learn from others, even those whom we might think are less experienced.

Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. Though he is God, he chose to humble himself, taking the form of a servant and sacrificing his life for us. In following his example, we learn to value others, to listen more, and to serve without expecting anything in return.

I've learned that humility allows us to see others through God's eyes and to respond with compassion and grace. Practicing humility means letting go of our ego and embracing the mindset of a servant, just as Jesus did.

- We're called to lay down our desire to put ourselves first (v. 3)
- We're called to lay down our pride (v. 3-4)
- We're all called to put others before ourselves (v. 4)

Humble Savior, thank you for the example you set of laying down your life for others. Jesus, I praise you for the community of Faith Wesleyan Church, where we can not only ask for help, but follow in your footsteps by being there for others. Father, help us to lay down the pressures we put on ourselves and to rest in the support of the community you've gifted us with. Don't allow our pride to get in the way. Instruct us in humility and charity. We pray this in the sacred name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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