

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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EXPRESSIONS OF PRIDE #2

John Edwards

“TODAY OR TOMORROW WE WILL.” James wrote, *“Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil”* (Jas. 4:13-16). Some translations say, “you boast in your arrogance” or “in your arrogant schemes”. We need to live each day in view of the Lord’s will and the uncertainty and brevity of life.

“I AM RICH AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING.” The church of the Laodiceans received this message from the Lord: *“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye*

salve, that thou mayest see” (Rev. 3:17-18). Can you imagine the people of God getting to the point where they say, “I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!” Wealth can give one a false sense of security.

Pride is like an iron gate that stands in the way of people coming to the Lord! May God help us to remove this barrier, humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift us to heights unimaginable! *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up”* (Jas. 4:10).

EXPRESSIONS OF HUMILITY #1

John Edwards

Consider some things the word of the Lord says with regard to humility: *“...before honour is humility”* (Prov. 15:33). *“Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud”* (Prov. 16:19). *“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life”* (Prov. 22:4). *“A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit”* (Prov. 29:23). *“...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble”* (1 Pet. 5:5). Now, let me call to

attention some expressions of humility:

“I AM BUT DUST AND ASHES.” When Abraham made intercession for the men of Sodom, he answered the Lord with the words: *“Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes”* (Gen. 18:27). Notice the humility with which this servant of God entreated the Lord. We would do well to recognize that we are but dust and ashes. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* (Gen. 2:7). When the penalty of sin was first handed out, Adam was told, *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return”* (Gen. 3:19).

“I AM NOT WORTHY.” When Jacob petitioned the Lord he said, *“I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands”* (Gen. 32:10). Do we act as if we are worthy of what the Lord has done for us? Others expressed a similar sentiment of humility. John, the forerunner of the Lord, declared, *“I indeed baptize you*

with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire” (Mt. 3:11). A centurion, when beseeching the Lord on behalf of his servant, said, “Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed” (Mt. 8:8). “I am not worthy” is an expression of humility.

“WHO AM I?” Observe the humility of Moses, when the Lord called him to bring forth His people the children of Israel out of Egypt: “And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?” (Ex. 3:11). David uttered these same words when King Saul pledged to give his daughter to him to wife. “And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father’s family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?” (1 Sam. 18:18). And again, in 2 Samuel 7, when God promised to make David an house, King David replied, “Who am I, O Lord God? and

what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord God; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant’s house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord God?” (vv. 18-19). Would you have said, “Who am I?”

“I AM LEAST.” When the Lord called Gideon to save Israel from the hand of the Midianites, Gideon expressed humility in this response: “Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house” (Judg. 6:15). If asked, “Who is the greatest in your family?”, some would say, “I am!” When the Lord was looking for one to deliver His people, he found a humble man! Would that have been you?

“O MY GOD, I AM ASHAMED AND BLUSH TO LIFT UP MY FACE TO THEE.” These words were spoken by Ezra when it was reported to him that the people of Israel “...have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations....so that the holy

seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands....” (Ezra 9:1-2). When Ezra heard this thing, he rent his garment and mantle, plucked off the hair of his head and beard, and at the evening sacrifice fell upon his knees and, with hands spread out unto the Lord, said, “O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens” (Ezra 9:6). Ezra’s prayer to God, with confession of sins, was an expression of humility! Part of Israel’s problem, during the days of Jeremiah, was the inability to blush due to no sense of shame. “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush....” (Jer. 6:15; 8:12).

“...and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

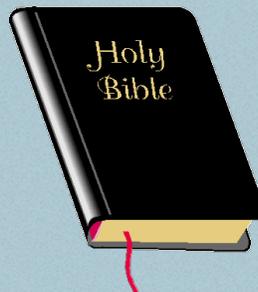
—1 Peter 5:5-6

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