

# Humbled to Stand

Confidence and Humility in Christ

**Goal:** To equip believers to live with **biblical confidence**, rooted in God's character and work. To explain the mindset of **biblical humility**, rooted in our dependence on Christ.

Avoiding prideful self-assurance and false modesty

**Summary Statement:** *"We are saved by grace through faith, kept by mercy, enabled by the Spirit, and called to live in humility and confidence, for the glory of Christ alone."* (cf. Eph 2:8–10; Rom 11:36)

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## Day 1: The Foundation – God’s Glory, Our Dependence

*True confidence and humility both flow from beholding **God’s greatness** and our **smallness**.*

**Icebreaker:** “When have you felt *over-confident* or *falsely humble* in your faith?”

## SCRIPTURE

### Isaiah 66:1–2

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.’”

### Romans 11:33–36

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?’ ‘Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”

### 1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

## OBSERVATIONS

- **Humility** = Seeing God as **infinite** and us as **finite and fallen**. This recognition keeps us from presuming upon God or despising His image in others.
- **Confidence** = Trusting God’s **sovereign wisdom** and **unchanging promises**, not our abilities. It is never self-derived but always God-ward.

## APPLICATION

**Question:** “How does meditating on God’s greatness kill both pride *and* insecurity?” **Action:** Memorize **Romans 11:36** this week and recite it whenever you feel either arrogant or inadequate.

Pray out...

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## Day 2: The Cross – Humiliation That Secures Confidence

Christ's **humiliation** is the ground of our **humility**; His **exaltation** is the ground of our **confidence**.

**Icebreaker:** How does this quote make you feel? "The cross crushes our pride and gives us hope."

### SCRIPTURE

#### Philippians 2:5–11

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

#### Hebrews 4:14–16

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

### OBSERVATIONS

- **Humility:** Jesus **did not grasp** equality with God (v. 6) → we **let go** of self-exaltation and embrace servanthood.
- **Confidence:** Jesus **was exalted** after perfect obedience → we **approach boldly** because He succeeded where we fail and now intercedes for us.

### APPLICATION

**Question:** "How does the gospel free you from *performing* for God's approval?" **Action:** Pray **Hebrews 4:16** daily this week whenever you are tempted to fear God's rejection or to boast in your own righteousness.

Pray out...

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## Day 3: The Spirit – Power in Weakness

*The Holy Spirit gives **confident boldness** in ministry **through acknowledged weakness**.*

**Icebreaker:** Is there something currently inhibiting you from being the perfect version of yourself? Think of a thorn in a lion's paw, how it can inhibit the lion from his full potential. **How do you think this applies in Spiritual development?**

### SCRIPTURE

#### 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

“So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

#### 2 Corinthians 3:4–6

“Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

### OBSERVATIONS

- **Humility** = “Not sufficient **in ourselves**” (v. 5) – rejects self-reliance and any notion of earning God’s favor.
- **Confidence** = “**Through Christ** toward God” (v. 4) – rests entirely in Spirit-enabled competence for every calling.

### APPLICATION

**Question:** “What ‘thorn’ is God using to keep you dependent on Him?” **Action:** Journal one area of ministry or service where you will deliberately **boast in weakness** this week, asking the Spirit to display His power. Think of a thorn in a lion’s paw, how it can inhibit the lion from his full potential. **How does this apply, now, in Spiritual development?**

Pray out...

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## Day 4: The Church – Mutual Edification in Truth

*Humility and confidence flourish in **accountable community**, not in isolation.*

**Icebreaker:** Have you noticed when kids think they're right, try to show off, are found to be wrong, and make themselves look foolish? This childish behavior is sometimes found in our nature as well... if we cannot accept guidance, we will continue to look foolish.

### SCRIPTURE

#### Proverbs 11:14

"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

#### Ephesians 4:15–16

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

#### 1 Corinthians 12:21–26

"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

### OBSERVATIONS

- **Humility = Receiving** truth from others (Ephesians 4:15), acknowledging that no believer has a monopoly on wisdom.
- **Confidence = Speaking** truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), trusting the Spirit's gifting in every member.

### APPLICATION

**Question:** "Who in your church can you **humbly receive from** and **confidently speak to** this week?"

**Action:** Schedule a **15-minute accountability conversation** in which you and another Christian share one strength and one weakness, then prays for the other.

Pray out...

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## DOCTRINAL DEFINITIONS

### HUMILITY

Merriam-Webster: A modest or low view of one's own importance.

Biblical Definition: A right estimation of self before our Holy God—acknowledging our dependence and sinfulness while receiving God's grace in Christ.

Scripture: Philippians 2:3–4

Theological Reason: True humility flows from the Holy Spirit because of Christ's self-emptying (Phil 2:5–8) and frees us from exalting ourselves and enables us to serve others, even as heirs of grace.

### CONFIDENCE

Merriam-Webster: Full trust; belief in the powers, trustworthiness, or reliability of a person or thing.

Biblical Definition: Bold trust in God's character, promises, and finished work—not in human merit or ability.

Scripture: Hebrews 4:16

Theological Reason: Confidence is rooted in Christ's priesthood and atonement. Because He resurrected and has interceded, every believer has direct, assured access to God, through the Holy Spirit.

### FALSE HUMILITY

Merriam-Webster: Not directly defined; inferred as insincere or exaggerated modesty.

Biblical Definition: A pretense of lowliness that either seeks human praise or denies the imago Dei; often a mask for pride or despair.

Scripture: Colossians 2:18, 23

Theological Reason: False humility rejects the Spirit's work in the believer (1 Cor 12:11) and undermines soul competency—God equips every saint for service.

### PRIDE

Merriam-Webster: Inordinate self-esteem; a reasonable or justifiable self-respect.

Biblical Definition: Exalting self above God and others; trusting in personal sufficiency rather than divine grace.

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18

Theological Reason: Pride is the root sin (Isa 14:13–14). It denies depravity and the necessity of grace. It opposes salvation and sanctification by grace alone. It exalts self above others, and even above God and His Word.

### MERCY

Merriam-Webster: Compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender.

Biblical Definition: God's withholding of deserved judgment; His kindness to sinners who cannot save themselves.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4–5

Theological Reason: Mercy is the foundation of justification. God's mercy awakens dead sinners to respond.

### GRACE

Merriam-Webster: Unmerited favor, especially divine favor.

Biblical Definition: God's free, sovereign, undeserved favor that saves, sustains, and empowers believers.

Scripture: Titus 2:11–12

Theological Reason: Grace is unmerited (Rom 11:6), sovereign (Eph 2:8–9), and transforming—the sole basis for salvation and sanctification, rejecting any human contribution.