

The Virtue of Humility

Confidence – TRUST – and humility always go together. A proper attitude toward abandonment to the Holy Will of God is possible only after TRUST has been thoroughly established in one's soul. Trust has to be placed in God – NOT IN ONE'S OWN SELF! One of the principle reasons why men are so anxious to exalt themselves, to embellish their achievements, to overestimate their own value, to overstate their possessions, to stand firm in a constant program of proof of their abilities, to give constant evidence (even if surreptitiously) of their mental capabilities, to constantly work to keep themselves high in the estimation of others, is most likely because they see no other hope for their happiness save in themselves! That is why they are so "touchy," so quick to lash out at contradiction, so resentful of any and every criticism, so enthusiastic to make known their accomplishments, so hungry for praise, so determined on ruling their surroundings. Such ones clutch at themselves like drowning men clutch at straws. As their lives travel on, and they continue to find themselves far from being satisfied with their accomplishments, and therefore not fully accepted by those around them, their attitude borders on the feverish and hysterical. Has it not come to our attention how some parents, in their efforts to conceal their age, wear the clothes of their children? Such people, whatever they may get out of all their silly hooliganisms, are certainly far from finding PEACE!

The attitude of the man who has true Christian humility is just the opposite. His hope is placed in God, because he, in the honesty of his heart and mind, sees that there is no hope in himself. Such a man does not worry about getting his own way because all that matters to him is that God should get His way. Such a man knows that the less he has to do with the arranging of things, the more likely it is that things, with God's help and wisdom, will eventually arrange themselves for the best. Such a man is by no means spineless. He is not afraid or cowardly or undecided or nervous. Let such a man but once be certain that God wills him to undertake a particular work, and he will tackle it with all his strength and determination and energy, because he knows that his sufficiency is in God. He comprehends, he understands, he KNOWS his life is a partnership with His God and he TRUSTS and therefore he acts with unshaken confidence in God – his unailing Partner.

The virtue of Humility does not manifest itself in a self-centered expression of self-depreciation. How tiresome it is to listen to one indulging in the praise-getting gimmick of self-depreciation. True Humility is altogether SELF-FORGETFULNESS. A truly humble person is in no way concerned about either his abilities or his inabilities, and in