

Preparation Guide for March 2015 Devotionals



Our sister, Shirley Heater, has given us wonderful devotions on humility this month. I know she was enlightened as she prepared them, because they bear witness of the truth of the matter. I know my understanding of humility was expanded as I read them and I know yours will be also.

There is that old joke about the man who said, “I am proud of my humility,” but humility is no joke. We cannot have a right relationship with God without humility.

Humility is the right understanding of who you are before God. We find ourselves humbled as we consider who God is and remember all of His wonderful attributes—His power and glory.

D&C 76:1a-c Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth, and rejoice ye inhabitants thereof, for the Lord is God, and beside Him there is no Savior; great is His wisdom; marvelous are His ways; and the extent of His doings, none can find out; His purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay His hand; from eternity to eternity He is the same, and His years never fail.

Worship, Praise, Prayer, and Study of the Scriptures all help us to come to an understanding of who we are before God. When we do not engage in these activities we begin to think more of ourselves than we should. Our human nature is such that, if not reminded often, we tend to forget the majesty and glory of God, and our eyes focus on ourselves and the worldly things around us. Satan comes in and tells us that we really are pretty good and those little sins don’t really matter. It is easy to become lifted up in pride. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans to think soberly and not to think too highly of ourselves:

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Humility is demonstrated in our lives by our attitudes, deeds/actions, and words. We should look at our lives and evaluate ourselves. Are we living out humility in our lives by the things we do and say?

Jesus stresses the importance of humility in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican.

Luke 18:9-14 He spake this parable unto certain men, who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself; God, I thank thee that I am not as other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers; or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I possess.

But the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other; for every one who exalteth himself, shall be abased; and he who humbleth himself, shall be exalted.

Christ himself was humble and expressed that humility in many different ways while upon the earth, but His journey was in and of itself a mighty act of humility.

Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

One of the first steps to salvation is to humble ourselves.

3 Nephi 5:49 Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility, and be baptized; for they shall be visited with fire

and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

Repentance flows from humble hearts.

Alma 10:6 And now, my brethren, I would that ye should humble yourselves before God, and bring forth fruit meet for repentance, that ye may also enter into that rest.

We are also told that we cannot assist in the work except we are humble.

DC 11:4b And no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care.

Alma reminds us that if we want to dwell in God's Kingdom we must become humble, patient, submissive and full of love. A tall order, but that is why he reminds us to pray continually. If we will stay constant in prayer we can overcome, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the pride of the natural man.

Alma 10:27-29 And now my brethren, I wish from the inmost part of my heart, yea, with great anxiety, even unto pain, that ye would hearken unto my words, and cast off your sins, and not procrastinate the day of your repentance;

But that ye would humble your-selves before the Lord, and call on His holy name, and watch and pray continually that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord;

Having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life; having the love of God always in your hearts, that ye may be lifted up at the last day, and enter into His rest.

God makes beautiful promises to those who will humble themselves before Him. We find one such promise in D&C, Section 28, where He states that if we will but humble ourselves, He will gather us as a hen gathers her chickens.



D&C 28:1a Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the great I AM, Whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins, Who will gather His people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, even as many as will hearken to My

voice, and humble themselves before Me, and call upon Me in mighty prayer.

There are many wonderful promises that God makes to those who will humble themselves. I cannot touch on all of them. The one I leave with you is God's promise that if we would humble ourselves the blessings of the kingdom would be ours.

D&C 61:6c And now verily I say unto you, and what I say unto one I say unto all, Be of good cheer, little children, for I am in your midst, and I have not forsaken you, and inasmuch as you have humbled yourselves before Me, the blessings of the kingdom are yours.

It is my prayer that all of us who read these devotionals will come down into the depths of humility and truly humble ourselves. If we would do this I believe God's Kingdom would come forth.

Sixth thing listed in the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church:

Am I willing to truly enter into the depths of humility?

Behold, I say unto him, he exalts himself and does not humble himself sufficiently before Me; but if he will bow down before Me, and humble himself in mighty prayer and faith, in the sincerity of his heart, then will I grant unto him a view of the things which he desires to see.
D&C 5:5b

Action: Begin to keep a diary, by writing down the blessings we have received and how God's hand has always been in our lives. Thank God every day for the manner in which He has blessed us. Share these testimonies with others.

This Month I will follow instructions found in the scriptures, to humble myself and stand steadfastly in the faith. I will engage in worship, prayer, praise, and scripture study. My actions and words will begin to bear the fruit of humbleness. I will keep a diary of blessings and share my testimony of God's goodness.

My Plan to Accomplish this Discipline:

Week #1

Week #2

Week #3

Week #4

My Partner to Assist Me & Help Me Be Accountable Is: _____

Self Evaluation:

How Am I Doing & What Do I Need to Do to Be More Successful:
