

The House That Humility Built

As you make your way through this reading plan our prayer for you is that you would embrace the John 3:30 challenge — *“He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.”* Humility is not an easy journey but it is one that God would have each of us travelling. This plan is designed to help you build each aspect of your ‘home’ —who you are— with humble materials.

Day One - Intro

Psalm 90:1-2 (MSG)

A Prayer of Moses, Man of God

God, it seems you’ve been our home forever; long before the mountains were born, long before you brought earth itself to birth, from “once upon a time” to “kingdom come” — you are God.

Moses was born in a time of division. Escaping a Pharaoh-released decree that could have taken his life, the plan of a desperate Mother set his God-given purpose into motion. He was placed in a basket, sent down a river and was scooped up by Pharaoh’s daughter. Moses spent decades in the protection and processes of the palace as a Prince and eventually became a general of the Egyptian army. One ordinary day left Moses in an extraordinary circumstance. Exodus 2:11 - Moses goes out into the land and witnesses first hand the forced labour and slavery of his people, the Israelites and after witnessing a Hebrew being beaten, he murders the Egyptian. He ends up fleeing his Princely life and heads into a pilgrims journey with God. The journey is one full of wandering and wondering, joy and strife, questions and fulfilled answers.

Psalm 90 is a prayer, one that is said to have been a prayer Moses encouraged the Israelites to have on their lips often. The Psalm speaks to the frailty of the human condition and who better to speak on that than Moses? From royalty to rags, season in and season out, God had Moses on a continual journey that required a humility of heart and action.

God is your eternal home and resting place, long before and far after, He is a dwelling that you will always belong to.

Day Two (Foundation)

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NLT)

A house is only as good as its foundation. Without a firm structure the house won't stand strong through the years. This idea is true for our lives, the foundation we build ultimately becomes that which we stand for. The greatest example we have for foundational material as a Christ follower is Jesus. We can look to his Earthly journey and model our structure after His.

While we often think of humility as a 'something' we should put out into the world, we must understand that humility is more suited as a motivation. Jesus is about the ways of God for the good of others, He always elevated others above Himself. Paul talks about this very idea in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15..

14 *Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. 15* *He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.*

The foundation of Jesus' teaching was to see others and care for them, the humble heart that always sees beyond the situation at hand. Whether it was the betrayal of Judas, the crowd that opposed or the fear of the rulers over the land — Jesus included *all* in His death. Spend time with Jesus discovering what your foundation is made of. Are you using humble materials? Maybe you feel like you are trying desperately to hold a structure together that always seems to be losing strength. The good and beautiful news for all of us is that Jesus will not shy away from helping us to jack up our house and lay a new foundation. Start with Him today.

Day Three (Windows)

2 Corinthians 12:5-10 (NLT)

5 *That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses. 6 If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, 7 even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.*

8 *Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. 9 Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

How many windows do you have in your house? Think about all the rooms or different spaces. I'm sure most have a window or even a few. Now, imagine those same spaces without windows. Imagine the morning light not breaking through, imagine not being able to draw back the blinds to see the starry sky. You may live on a sleepy little lane or a busy street, either way, not being able to see the world around you would be odd to us.

While we can look out our windows, God desires others to be able to see in. A life of humility is an existence that requires transparency. That's a super easy statement to make but living it out is incredibly challenging. Our daily lives are not easy to journey through... financial troubles, relationship struggles, personal faith questions — there are many different twists and turns for each of us. Often our tendency is to shut the blinds and try to heal our hearts in isolation. For each of us there is a story to the isolation.

In 2 Corinthians 12 Paul explains his Paradise experience with God (you should totally explore those Scriptures) which leads to him trying to explain his personal revelation and how it has flipped his heart. Life had changed and understanding had grown. Interestingly, Paul speaks to being given a 'thorn in his flesh' to keep him from being proud and asking three times for God to take it from him. God always responded with grace and encouragement that His power is a sufficient salve for all hurts and weakness.

Paul's experiences and desire to accept grace put him in a group of people, talking about these very things. Having transparent conversations aren't easy but it is the language of the Kingdom.

Start with Jesus!

Spend time today pulling back the blinds and letting Jesus see through your window, have a transparent conversation with Him about the things you are currently struggling with. Trust Him at His word ... "My grace is enough, it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness."

Day Four (Walls)

Zechariah 2:1-5 (NLT)

1 When I looked again, I saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. 2 "Where are you going?" I asked. He replied, "I am going to measure Jerusalem, to see how wide and how long it is." 3 Then the angel who was with me went to meet a second angel who was coming toward him. 4 The other angel said, "Hurry, and say to that young man, 'Jerusalem will someday be so full of people and livestock that there won't be room enough for everyone! Many will live outside the city walls. 5 Then I, myself, will be a protective wall of fire around Jerusalem, says the Lord. And I will be the glory inside the city!'"

Walls give height to our homes, they separate all the different spaces.
Walls mark boundaries. For example, we know when we drive over the US border.
Walls are distinctive. They take the guess work out of figuring out where we are.

Zechariah 2:1-5 speaks to a different kind of wall, one that we are not so used to. God is sending a warning to the people about what is to come, He's giving the current generation a look back at the mistakes of their ancestors and asking them to return to Him and His ways. Chapter two is the continued vision given to Zechariah, one that speaks to all of Jerusalem. There will be no wall large enough to contain all the people and animals that will inhabit the space. God declares Himself as the wall that will surround and the glory that will be within.

We all have walls.

We may not even be aware of the walls we have in our hearts.

Walls make us feel secure. We know who is inside and who is not.

Here's the thing, we all have reasons for this. One should not assume why you have the walls that you do. That is personal to your heart.

What if, though...

What if knowing your walls is a sign of the places in your heart that you keep hidden away? What if your walls are keeping God from touching those areas with His light and love? What if continuing on this journey of humility means tearing down some of those walls?

After all, the Church isn't a building — it's you and me.
Spend time with Jesus today.
Be willing to show Him the map of your heart, He wants in.

Day Five (Roof)

2 Samuel 22:31 (NLT)

Fear is near these days.

There are so many different ways that we safe guard our lives.

Insurance, alarm systems and alllllll the locks (door, cars)...

The need for safety is almost overwhelming at times.

Our homes have roofs to protect us from the changing seasons and the different kinds of weather they bring. We like to be prepared for just about any situation.

While we think our roofs protect us, they're really there to endure the weather for us.

Roofs will breakdown.

Often times we rely on ourselves to build our own roof, so much so that we don't take God up on His promise to shield us.

Today's devotion isn't lengthy but hopefully you will take up this challenge.

Spend time talking to Jesus about your fears, nothing is too big or too small.

To push even further with Jesus, write them down. Jot down today's Scripture over top to symbolize the shielding of God.

A humble heart understands that getting to stand behind the shield of God isn't a weak move, its a trust step.

He's got you, friend.

Day Six (Open door policy)

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

18 *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.*

19 *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Aren't you thankful that God is never stationary?

He's always on the move and He's with each of us through every moment.

While it's great to have this sturdy house that is built on Him, He wouldn't have us be satisfied to stay there for the rest of our days.

God has an open door policy. He encourages us to take Him with us on our journey to tell others about Him. A humble heart realizes and desires for others to walk in step with Jesus and to know His ways. Don't get too comfortable in your house! Not many people are going to come knock on your door. We've been asked to venture out and to be comforted by the fact that home isn't a place we live but rather a heart beat we follow — "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."