

## Battle is fought in the heart and mind - Therefore we must

Renew the mind with the truth – take every thought captive 2 Cor 10:3-5  
Train the heart to LOVE what God loves and HATE what God hates

## How do we train our heart? - Correct its disposition

### From Pride to Humility – The Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

Both are alive and well inside our hearts  
Discerning our pride – learning what it looks like and how it thinks and feels  
Humble ourselves before God and others

The **contrast** between **pride** and **humility** can be seen very clearly in the teaching of Jesus. Consider how he pointed out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in Luke 18:9-14. Consider the **spiritual awareness** of the two subjects in the illustration.

**Luke 18:9-14** - 9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. 11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, '**God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. 12'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'** 13 "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even **unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'** 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." NASB

Consider the **disposition before God** of the two subjects in the illustration. The **Pharisee** is **proud** and has an inflated view of himself, and being **self-righteous** he thinks is better than others saying, "*God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer.*" He views others with contempt, thinking they are worse sinners than he is, and not seeing his own hypocrisy. He has a **spiritual blindness**, an **inability to discern** the true reality of **spiritual things**, including and most importantly its **relation to God and others**. He is **blind, not spiritually aware**. The thing to which he is blind the most is his own pride and arrogance. Being so charmed by his own inflated self-respect, he makes a wrong appraisal of himself, God and others. He is **self-exalting, self-willed, and self-reliant** thinking he has God's approval, worse yet that he himself has earned God's approval, when in fact God is not even hearing his arrogant prayer; "*The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself.*" God is opposed to this man and does not even acknowledge his bankrupt and blind discourse about the glory of himself, and he was **NOT justified** before God, "*justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled.*" Having exalted himself, he had cut himself off from the mercy of God who only "*gives grace to the humble.*"

But notice the **tax-collector**, he is **mourning** and **broken** over his **sinfulness**. He is **humble** and **yielding** and submissive. He is so **contrite** that he is **fearful to even approach God**, whom he knows he has offended with his sin; "*standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'*" He did not even consider himself worthy to look up toward God, he was **lowly** and **trembling before God**, even "*beating his breast*" and crying out to God for mercy, knowing that he desperately needed God's help and mercy and remedy for his terrible crimes against the Lord. He **sees so clearly** and has the **ability to discern** the true reality of **spiritual things**, including and

most importantly his **relation to God and others**. His eyes see reality, he is **spiritually aware**. Being filled with **humble child-like faith**, He realizes his total dependence on God for grace and in his own **weakness** needs mercy from God, the One whom he has offended and the only One who can give mercy. Here Jesus demonstrates the disposition one must have to approach God, for God to hear his prayer, and to receive grace and mercy from God and be justified in his sight.

**Defined Pride and Humility** – pgs 55-60

**Humility and its relation to obedience** – pgs 61-64

**Making war on pride** – pgs 65-70

Pride is part of the nature of every sin, To make war on pride is to make war against all sin in your heart and life – pgs 70-71

**Battle is fought in the heart and mind - Therefore we must**

Learn to be **disciplined** in the **Christian life**

to stay focused and diligent in the role we play in God's purpose in saving us – Bearing the image

3 Basic Disciplines in the Christian life – pgs 72-74

Therefore, since the **struggle for Christian character** and image bearing is largely **waged in the heart** (what is the disposition of your heart) **and mind** (taking every thought captive), with the end focused on **obedience to the Lordship of Christ**, we have seen how important it is to be **focused** on our **posture before God** in our daily Christian living. Are we **humble** and contrite with a **submissive** and servant like mindset, a **heart that sees its great need for divine grace** and help to live the supernatural life of the Spirit, seeking to live according to God's will for our life? Or are we **proud** and **self-reliant**, living life according to the **dictates of our own selfish ambitions** and in the strength of the flesh, thinking that we are largely in control of our lives and pursuing our own glory, comfort and desires (lusts)? In the end, the **real struggle** is for that **throne of our hearts** and who is ruling there, and what is our heart attitude before God, as we approach our daily lives. This puts the **war against pride at the forefront** of our living, seeking to kill the great beast of pride, taking self from off the throne, and surrendering to King Jesus in **humble child-like faith**, that **He may rule** in our hearts by faith. We have seen the great necessity of a disciplined life of **renewing the mind in the Word of God** to know His will and stay focused upon it, and to look to Him **daily in prayer and fellowship with Him**, drawing strength from Him (God dependent effort) to live in obedience to His will. And we have seen the great need for the help of others in **regular fellowship** with those who desire to do God's will and encourage and help one another in the struggle for obedient living.

**Vivification – Putting on Christ**

The Virtues