

We continue to learn if we strive for humility.

When we see a quiet person standing alone or in a remote part of the room, we assume they are introverted.

In contrast, the guy wearing the lampshade on his head quickly assumes the “life of the party” label and works tirelessly to maintain everyone's focus within earshot.

Both may be right, but experience tells me I am sorely mistaken.

My thought for both is, what are they hiding?

Isiah 32:17: The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Confidence is gained inwardly by a series of successful endeavors.

Confidence is gained outwardly if your actions complete your statements.

In both, confidence is gained but can never be taken from us unless we allow it to happen.

Maintaining a calm composure may be considered weak by those who are weak. Their only or at least limited option(s) for perceived success is the failure of others, not improving themselves.

Acceptance increases confidence exponentially. We should strive to master humility and servitude as our primary focus.

1 Peter 5:5, Young men, in the same way, be submissive to those who are older. All of you clothe yourselves with humility towards one another because “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 6: Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you in due time.

... clothe yourselves with humility...

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...that he may lift you in due time.

God hates arrogance and has no tolerance for the sluggard.

He expects you to work and develop the skills he gave you and keep using them until he feels you have mastered them and can use them to glorify him.

This is not arrogance on his part. He is showing confidence that we have followed his guidance and have earned the right to gain confidence in due time.

How humble it was that he felt we were worthy and had been chosen.

A journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step.

A journey that lasts a lifetime begins with one choice.

All we have to do is give it over to Him.

God is an incredible playwright, scripting a better life for us than we could ever have written.

So why do we want to keep grabbing the pen from his hand?

When we write our life story, we use the eraser to the point of being diminished well before we use the last drop of ink.

A few years ago, I made the word “Humility” my mantra for the entire year.

To the best of my ability, I would pause and think, “What is the best course of action to be humble without being perceived as weak?”

I found not frustration from being controlled by others but more substantial confidence and belief in my abilities to glorify God.

It worked so well that I stopped doing it. Once again, proving our human instincts leads to our demise much quicker than our ability to find success.

1 Corinthians 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

There are no two ways around it: when I depend on my freedom of choice without the influence of God, I am weak. I stumble, and it is a sin against God because he has already told me what I

need to do to succeed, and I chose another path.

Now comes the challenge if I choose to be weak or show strength.

If I choose to do it my way, not with a certain level of confidence, which is a façade for conceit, I am showing how weak I am.

I may be the “life of the party,” but we feel the clown's tears streaming inside, fearing someone will see them.

If I humble myself and give it to God, I become the World’s Strongest Man without lifting an ounce, observing life from the comfort of His grace.

Lesson learned.

Vivat Jesu.