

## No. 4 Humility or Ability—Which Does Jehovah Prefer?

*Note to the speaker:*

Talk with audience participation and videos. Stress the importance of continually cultivating humility, especially in view of the responsibility entrusted to appointed men

### **JEHOVAH IS NOT IMPRESSED BY HUMAN WISDOM OR ABILITIES** (3 min.)

From Jehovah's perspective, humans are like green grass or like grasshoppers (Isa 40:6, 7, 22)

None of us have a valid reason to boast about our abilities or possessions [**Read 1 Corinthians 4:7**]

Meditating on Jehovah's greatness and our own insignificance can help us to maintain a proper view of ourselves (Ro 12:3)

Because Jehovah is humble, he honors us with privileges of service (Ps 18:35; w04 8/1 8 ¶5)

One member of the Governing Body said: 'The more responsibility I have, the less authority I realize that I have. Christ is in charge'

The greater a brother's responsibility, the harder he must work at seeking humility (Zep 2:3, fn.)

Humility is more important than ability

### **JEHOVAH "TAKES NOTE OF THE HUMBLE"** (4 min.)

Humble ones attract Jehovah's attention [**Read Psalm 138:6**]

Humility is lowliness of mind, freedom from pride or arrogance (Php 2:3, fn.)

One Hebrew word translated "humble yourself" literally means "stamp yourself down" (Pr 6:3; *it-1* 1157)

Although humility is not listed as an aspect of the fruitage of Jehovah's holy spirit, it is a godly quality that requires deliberate cultivation and involves our state of mind (Ga 5:22, 23; w04 8/1 11-12 ¶15-16)

Humility can be lost

When circumstances in life change, our humility may be tested

Greater privileges of service can inflate a person's ego (Jer 17:9)

Constantly scrutinize your motives to avoid developing an inflated view of yourself

If we remain humble, we remain useful to Jehovah and his organization (Lu 1:51, 52)

### **HUMBLE MEN ACCEPT COUNSEL** (10 min.)

Elders can greatly impact the lives of fellow worshippers

You may be gifted in teaching or in helping publishers to resolve problems

You may be a talented speaker and be known for your diligence and hard work in behalf of the brothers

Work hard not to let responsibility or ability inflate your opinion of yourself (Pr 26:12)

If some deficiency is brought to your attention, accept the counsel and make adjustments

Note in the following video how a brother detected a prideful attitude in himself when counseled by a fellow elder and what he did to correct it

<<**PLAY VIDEO [1 min. 51 sec.]**>>

#### **Questions:**

1. What was this brother's initial reaction to personal counsel?
2. What did he do to adjust his attitude?
3. Why might an elder hold back from giving needed counsel to a fellow elder?

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4. Why is it neither wise nor loving to hold back needed counsel? (Pr 27:5, 6a)
5. If we are given counsel, how should we respond? (Ps 141:5)
6. On occasion, why should we take the initiative to ask fellow elders, perhaps younger elders, for suggestions?

**HUMILITY UNITES THE BODY OF ELDERS** (10 min.)

Elders work to promote unity among themselves and within the congregation [**Read 1 Peter 3:8**]

Our goal is to be “harmoniously joined together” and to cooperate with one another (Eph 4:15, 16)

We need humility to achieve such unity and cooperation

Elders should be friends with one another (Pr 17:17; 18:24b)

**Question:** What have you done within your body of elders to become friends with one another?

No one brother should feel he is superior or has special authority or prominence over the rest

All elders must possess genuine humility and modesty by appreciating the value of each elder on the body

In the following video, note how presumptuousness can set in when an elder fails to cultivate humility

<<PLAY VIDEO [1 min. 21 sec.]>>

**Questions:**

1. What did this elder do that showed a lack of humility and modesty?
2. How can elders assist a fellow elder who oversteps his authority? [Provide loving counsel]

Note in this next video how a humble overseer carries out his responsibilities

<<PLAY VIDEO [1 min. 46 sec.]>>

**Questions:**

1. How did the elder’s response this time show his modesty and humility?
2. How do his actions promote unity among a body of elders?

**“CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH HUMILITY”** (2 min.)

Humility must be worn like clothing [**Read 1 Peter 5:5**] (*cf* 33 ¶22)

Beg for Jehovah’s help to root out all traces of competition and pride (Pr 8:13)

Cultivate the desire to slave for fellow Christians (Ga 5:13)

Continually remind yourself that it is humility that Jehovah prefers

He gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones

[Announce the break]