

HUMILITY & CONFESSION: VERTICALLY & HORIZONTALLY

PROCLAIM: גַּל-עֵינַי וְאַבְיֹטָה נִפְלְאוֹת מִתּוֹרַתְךָ. "Open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders from Your Torah teaching." **Ps.119:18**

"O Sovereign King, Creator of all things, I come before You recognizing that You are the source of all majesty and the rightful authority over my life.

I repent of the pride that so easily besets me, that ancient poison which led the Anointed Cherub to believe he could ascend above Your throne. I reject the urge to be my own god, to define right and wrong by my own feelings and desires, and to exalt my 'self' against Your perfect Word. Break the grip of lawlessness within me.

Grant me the grace to adopt the mind of Christ, that I might descend into the humility of a servant, knowing that in submitting to Your sovereignty, I find my only true life. In the holy name of Yeshua Christ, Amen."

THE FIRST SIN

The first sin in the universe was pride and the first created being to sin was *Hallel* a holy, perfect Cherub who worked in the very presence of *YHVH*.

אַתָּה-כָּרוּב--מִמְשַׁח, הַסּוֹכֵךְ; וְנִתְתִּיד, בְּהַר קֹדֶשׁ אֱלֹהִים הָיִיתָ--בְּתוֹךְ אַבְנֵי-אֵשׁ, הִתְהַלַּקְתָּ תָּמִים אִתָּה בְּדָרְכֶיךָ, מֵיּוֹם הַבְּרָאָה, עַד-נִמְצָא עוֹלָתָה, בָּךְ.

"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you." **Ezekiel 28:14**

He walked perfectly till he decided in his heart;

אֶעֱלֶה, עַל-בְּמֹתַי עָב; אֲדַמָּה, לְעֵלְיוֹן *"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High"* **Isaiah 14:12-18**

Hence he violated the very first command to love YHVH with all one's heart, soul and might.;

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יב איה נפלת משמים הילל בן-שחר נגדעת לארץ חלש על-גוים:
יג ואתה אמרת בלבבך השמים אעלה ממעל לכוכבי-אל ארים כסאי ואשב בהר-מועד בירכתי צפון:
יד אעלה על-במתי עב אדמה לעליון:
טו אף אל-שאול תורד אל-ירכתי בור:

and consequently falls by *YHVH* five times for each of his five “*I*” self exaltations. **Isaiah 14:12-15** (BHS)

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12. How you have fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

13. But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.

14. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

15. Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Isaiah 14:12–15

If Humility is the king of virtues, Pride is the root of sin and “*sin is lawlessness*” **1 John 3:4**

Pride which rejects submission and places ‘*love of self*’ above all including almighty **Yah** is a root leading to every other vice and evil including spiritual deaths.

Conversely, Jonathan Edwards noted “*Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil’s reach as humility.*”

The issue at the center of Pride is - *self*. Who decides what is correct, just and right? God is perfect and man is not. Yet flawed, self-full man would override God’s perfect word and righteous judgement to decide what is right and just. It is reflected in the attitude of What “*I think*” “*I feel*” and what “*I want.*”

Therefore, Will man submit to God’s just full authority and sovereignty? This is the prime question facing every man, will he ‘*die to the self daily*’ and accept God’s sovereign will and full authority over how he “*thinks*”, “*feels*” or “*wants*”?

Satan is the prime example of the negative aspect of the truth that “*whoever exalts himself will be humbled*” **Matthew 23:12**

Let us explore the other positive side and aspect of this foundational truth in the second half of the verse: “*.....he who humbles himself will be exalted*” **Matthew 23:12** We can contrast Satan with Yeshua. Satan reached up but slipped and fell. Yeshua stooped down

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and was lifted up. If we focus on these two beings we will see a perfect archetypal contrast of this truth, that applies in every area of every life, in every time and situation. The *way up - is down*. Exaltation by a Godly way, is through humility, of no repute.

Paul exhorts believers to align themselves with Christ Yeshua's view:

*5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:7 But made **himself of no reputation**, and took upon him the form of a **servant**, and was made in the likeness of men:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself**, and became **obedient** unto death, even the death of the cross.9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil; 2:5-11*

Paul observes Christ's attitude is in direct opposition to that of Satan, who did consider equality with God something to be grasped. Satan reached up, grasped, slipped and fell- irrevocably. In **verse 7** the translation in the NASB says the Yeshua "*emptied himself*" which captures a more real, literal version of what probably happened.

In this passage we can identify seven steps downward and seven steps up.

Here is that seven steps breakdown based on **Philippians 2:5-11**

The Seven Steps Down

This is the path of voluntary, self-emptying love that defines the "*mind of Christ*."

1. "**Who, being in the form of God...**" The unchanging, essential nature and glory of God Almighty's son. He willingly chose not to cling to His divine rights and privileges for His own advantage. He emptied Himself, veiling His divine glory and setting aside the outward manifestation of His majesty
2. He Took the **Form of a Servant** v.7 "...and took upon him the form of a servant;" He assumed the very nature of a *bondservant doulos*, one with no rights of his own.
3. He Was Made in the **Likeness of Men** v.7 "...and was made in the likeness of men:" He became fully human, entering into the fragility and limitations of human existence.
4. **He Humbled Himself** v.8a "*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself...*" When Yeshua. walked the streets of Nazareth there. was nothing special or. externally obvious to distinguish him from other people. When Peter identified him as Messiah, Yeshua. said "*flesh and blood has not revealed this to you*" **Matt 16:17**

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5. In His **human state**, He consciously and deliberately embraced a life of humility, obscurity, and lowliness. He was not a prince, a wealthy man or a general or political leader. Nothing that really impresses people. Just an unofficial, unendorsed, unaccepted, "*rabbi*" or *teacher*.

6 He Became **Obedient to Death** v.8 "*...and became obedient unto death, - he not only lived as a man but died as a mortal man to.*

7. **He died on the Cross- even the death of the cross.**" The ultimate instrument of humiliation: a shameful, excruciating, and accursed death reserved for the lowest criminals **Deut. 21:23**, rejection by men and even by God the Father.

Yeshua was not exalted because he was God's son. He was exalted because he **earned** exaltation. Even Yeshua was subject to the law. There is no one in the universe who is not subject to law and to the law and its testimony, for whoever humbles himself will be exalted...

The Seven Steps Up.

This is the Father's response, glorifying the Son for His perfect, humbled obedience.

1. God Highly **Exalted Him** v.9 "*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him...*"

The Father raised Him to a position of supreme glory and majesty, even greater than before, to the highest.

2. God Gave Him a **Name Above Every Name** v.9 "*...and given him a **name** which is above every name:*" the supreme title of authority and honor. This "Name" represents His full identity and ultimate authority, One name above every name.

3. His name causes **Every Knee Shall Bow**" v.10a. "*That at the name of Yeshua every knee should **bow**, of things in heaven...*" .

4. In **Heaven** - Angels and the glorified saints in heaven willingly and joyfully acknowledge His sovereign

5. Every Knee Shall Bow **on Earth** v.10b "*...and things in earth...*" Every living human being will one day bow, either willingly in faith now or unwillingly

6. Every Knee Shall Bow **Under the Earth** v.10 "*...and things under the earth;*" Demons, fallen angels, and the dead in hell will be forced to acknowledge His absolute lordship.

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7 **Every Tongue** Shall Confess He is Lord **v.11** *"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."* A universal, verbal declaration of His supreme authority from every created being. All is to the Glory of God the Father **v.11**.

The ultimate purpose and final result: the Son's perfect work and exaltation redounds to the eternal glory of the Father, displaying His perfect plan of salvation.

This passage maps the entire gospel trajectory: from the highest glory, down to the deepest humiliation, and back to the highest glory, now shared with redeemed humanity. To *"have this mind"* is to willingly walk the path of descent in service, trusting the Father for the ultimate ascent. Seven steps down for seven steps up.

The same attitude in Yeshua has to be in us;

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Phillipians 2:12-13

Breaking Down the Passage in Context

The word **"Wherefore"** Διό, **Dio** is critical. It means *"for this reason,"* pointing back to everything just described in **verses 5-11**: the stunning humility, obedience, and subsequent exaltation of Christ. Because Christ humbled Himself unto death and was exalted by God... here is how you, believer, are to live. Humility leads to obedience, pride on the other hand leads to disobedience.

Paul describes what *"this working out"* in attitude, conduct and nature would produce:

14 *Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. In this way I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.*

Phillipians 2:14-16 NIV

ATTITUDE PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We come before You acknowledging the breathtaking standard set by Your Son, our Master Yeshua. The attitude that was in Him—the ultimate humility, the perfect obedience unto death on a cross—is the same attitude that must be in us. For

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this reason, we ask for the grace to obey, not as if merely seen by men, but in our hidden moments, in our private thoughts, when no one is watching but You.

Lord, with fear and trembling, we seek to work out this salvation You have given us. We know it is not by our own strength, for it is You who works in us, stirring our will and empowering our actions according to Your good pleasure. Forgive us for the times we have relied on ourselves and grown prideful.

We confess the grumbling that rises in our hearts, the internal muttering that questions Your provision and doubts Your plan. We repent of the arguing and contentiousness that flows from a prideful desire to be right. Cleanse us from these corrupt communications that stain our witness.

By Your Spirit, make us blameless and pure, children of God without fault in the midst of this warped and crooked generation. Cause us to shine as stars in the sky, holding firmly to the Word of Life. Let our lives be a testimony that the labor of the Gospel is not in vain.

We ask for the mind of Christ Yeshua: a mind of humility that leads to obedience, and obedience that leads to life. Strip away every vestige of pride that leads only to death.

In the name of Yeshua, our perfect example and our redeemer, we pray.

Amen. Amen.

Note Verse 14: A Negative Command – The Elimination of Corrupt Communication

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing."

- ***"Everything"***: The scope is absolute, covering daily chores, work responsibilities, church service, and interpersonal relationships.
- ***"Grumbling" (gongysmos)***: Internal muttering, complaining, and discontentedness often occurs in private or among like-minded complainers. It's a symptom of a heart that doubts God's goodness and sovereignty in your circumstances.

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- **"Arguing" dialogismos:** Verbal disputes, contentious reasoning, and quarrelsome debates. It stems from pride and a desire to prove oneself right.
- This command targets the two most common ways we rebel against authority and express a lack of **Trust/Faith *Emunah & Bitachon*** in God's provision and plan.

Verse 15: The Positive Result – A Transformative Testimony

- *"so that you may become blameless and pure..."*
- The purpose of obeying **verse 14** is personal sanctification. "Blameless" *amōmēta* means above reproach, giving no just cause for accusation. "Pure" *akerāia* signifies unmixed, sincere, without ulterior motives.
- *" 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. '"*
- This is from Deuteronomy 32:5, describing Israel's failure, they complained a lot. Actually, God points out 10 Major times. They complained and hence tested God. Complaining is challenging God. Challenging his justice, challenging his mercy, challenging his sovereignty. His kingship. Believers are now to succeed where they failed. The world is morally **"warped and crooked" *skolias kai diestrammenēs***—bent and distorted by sin.
- *"Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky"*
 - This is the powerful effect. In the overwhelming darkness of this world, a life characterized by joyful obedience and a thankful heart instead of grumbling and arguing will be as conspicuous and beautiful as stars blazing in the night sky. It is a direct witness **without a word being preached**.

Verse 16: The Eternal Significance – Holding Forth the Word

- *"as you hold firmly to **the word of life.**"*
 - *"Holding firmly" *epechō** can mean both to *hold fast* for yourself gripping it as your foundation and to *hold out* or *offer* to others -like offering a lifeline. Both are true. Your steadfast faith in the good word *"the word of life"* is what fuels a life that shines.

PRACTICUM: PRACTICAL HUMBLING: VERTICALLY & HORIZONTALLY

1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"*

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Step number one in humbling oneself is: *confess your sins to God. [Vertical]*

Vertical Confession - To God:

Lord, I humble myself before You.

I confess my pride, my self-will, and my independence.

I acknowledge my specific sins: [Name them specifically].

I receive Your forgiveness through the blood of Yeshuah.

Clean my heart. Renew a right spirit within me.

I choose to submit to Your authority in every area of my life.

Amen.

PRACTICAL HUMBLING: VERTICALLY & HORIZONTALLY

The Torah Imperative for Horizontal Confession

While **1 John 1:9** addresses our vertical relationship with God, the Bible is clear our sins against others must be addressed horizontally. To claim a right relationship with God while ignoring a broken relationship with a brother or sister is hypocrisy.

- **Matthew 5:23-24:** *“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”*
- **Significance:** Yeshua places horizontal reconciliation as a *prerequisite* for authentic vertical worship. The offense doesn’t even have to be your fault *“that thy brother hath ought against thee”*; the burden is on you to initiate reconciliation.
- **James 5:16:** *“Confess your faults **one to another**, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*
- **Significance:** This links confession to healing—healing of relationships, but also of our own souls from the guilt and isolation sin creates. It’s communal discipline.

When Is It Applicable?

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The template is applicable when your sin has directly harmed another person. This includes:

- **Interpersonal Sins** Lies, gossip, betrayal, anger, wrath, harsh words, theft, disrespect.
- **Broken Commitments:** Failing to follow through on a promise to a friend, family member, or colleague.
- **Professional Misconduct:** Actions that have harmed a coworker, employee, or client.

It is not necessarily applicable for:

- **Internal sins known only to God** (like private thoughts of envy). These are confessed vertically.
- **Situations where contacting the person would cause them further harm** (e.g., an old, deeply painful wound they have moved past). In such cases, wisdom and pastoral counsel are needed.

The Promise: *“He Will Lift You Up”*

Following James 4:10’s command to humble ourselves *in the sight of the Lord* through the humbling act of horizontal confession leads to the promised reward: “and he shall lift you up.”

This “lifting up” includes:

- **The lifting of guilt:** The crushing weight of unconfessed sin is removed.
- **Restoration of relationship:** The door is opened for healing and reconciliation.
- **Spiritual authority:** A person who can humbly confess sin becomes a trustworthy and credible witness for Christ.
- **Deepened humility:** Each act of confession makes it easier to walk in continual dependence on God’s grace.

Horizontal confession is the practical proof that we believe the good word

Horizontal Confession - To Others, when applicable:

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I have sinned against you by [state the specific offense...].
I ask for your forgiveness. I take responsibility for my actions.
and I commit to making restitution, if it is required.
Please forgive me. Amen

These templates are based on Prince's repeated emphasis on **James 4:10** "*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up*" and;

1 John 1:9 "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

He taught that humbling is an act of the will, and confession is the practical outworking of that humility both vertically and horizontally.

Humility & Confession is a masterclass in the mechanics of spiritual elevation.

The foundational sin is not an action; it is a posture. You will learn the seven-step blueprint of descent used by Yeshua to obtain a name above every name. Master the vertical confession that unlocks heaven and the horizontal discipline that heals you and the earth. Start walking in the transformative authority that only comes through the death of the self.
