**THE GATE OF HUMILITY**

 **[THE WAY TO HEAVEN]**

 ***Written by: Tommy Romans – March 2019***

I’d want to deal with Brokenness and Humility in this Newsletter – it is the only Route to God and His good Heaven! Humility of heart is the very first step to Salvation. The only way you can be saved is by having a broken heart and a Contrite spirit. **Ps. 34:18** – The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a Broken heart and saveth such as be of a Contrite spirit. Contrite means Broken and Willing. It is saying – “Lord, I am completely helpless and hopeless – please save me. I relinquish all to you – I’m now willing to give you my whole life and serve you.” Before God can make anything good out of a person and use them for His glory, they must be Broken and Humble in His sight, yielded in His hand.

**THE GATE OF HUMILITY**

 Go with me now with Jesus upon the Mountain of Beatitudes. In **Matt. 5**, Jesus goes up into a mountain and His disciples come to Him. He opens His mouth and begins to teach them. He lists 9 Beatitudes – Blessed are: The very first Beatitude that Jesus starts with is – **5:3** – Blessed are the Poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (Poor in spirit here does not mean – poor in material things and poverty stricken. It means Humble and broken in Heart.) Isn’t it amazing that in this first Beatitude Jesus places the Gate of Humility? If you want to go to my good Heaven, you must come through this gate first! This is a picture of complete Humility. It is a sense of nothingness and emptiness in ourselves and a total dependency upon God. It’s the soul saying – Lord, without you I am nothing. I realize I’m totally helpless and hopeless without you – you are all I have and want!

**FOREVER KEEP YOUR PORTRAIT**

 Don’t ever forget where you came from and how God saved you! The same Humility that it took for you to be saved – you must Maintain it for the rest of your life until you leave this world and God calls you home!

 Back many years ago in the city of Munich, every child and youth that was found begging and

loitering in the streets, were arrested and taken to a charitable institution. The moment they entered and

checked in, even before they were washed and cleaned up and given new clothes, they first painted a Portrait of each one while they were dirty and ragged – exactly as they appeared when they entered the door from off the streets. They then clothed and fed them. When their education was finished and schooling complete, before they were released back into society, their Portrait was given back to them. They had to promise their teacher of the charitable organization with an oath that they would keep their Portrait for the rest of their life as a reminder of the condition they were in when they were found and rescued. No matter where they went in life, wherever they moved to or lived – that Portrait was to hang on their wall as a reminder how the Institution saved them from misery and gave them the means by which they might avoid it in the future!

 When they passed by their Portrait, they could say – Lord, I remember where I came from. I’ll never forget your Mercy and how you Saved me. God, I never ever want to get in that shape again. You found me in the rags of my sins, when I was lost and lonely, helpless, hurting and broken, you Loved me and took me in!

**YOU MUST MAINTAIN HUMILITY**

 It would behoove each one of us to look back and remember how the Lord took us in. Don’t ever forget that at one time we had no hope, no one to turn to for help, but the Lovely Jesus our wonderful Saviour forgave us, cleansed us and gave us eternal life. From time to time as you walk through your home, pause at your Portrait and just think back at God’s Grace and Mercy He showed you! The day, month or year that you prayed with tears of repentance and gave your life to God – the Holy Ghost is saying to you today – “the same brokenness and humble spirit that it took for you to be saved, that same Contrite and willing spirit Must be Maintained for the rest of your life!! Don’t ever let that Good feeling slip!”

 There are many of God’s children who were saved years ago and they have remained grateful and humble to this very day. They have never forgotten the Lord’s mercy He showed in saving them. But it’s sad to say that many others have lost that Divine touch and gratitude, they forsook humility and brokenness and went on to become hardened and full of selfish pride. Some have allowed things that have happened to make them bitter.

**A CHILD IS OUR EXAMPLE**

 In **Matthew 18** and **Mark 9** the Bible tells us that Jesus’ 12 disciples followed Him on foot from Galilee to Capernaum. It was a distance of 16 miles. You would have a lot to talk about in that long walk. Remember, Jesus is trying to teach and school them in the ways of God. Get a picture of it: Jesus is in front leading the way and the disciples are following behind. During that trip, they began to dispute with one another on which one of them would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. During that long walk, Jesus is listening but never says a word to them the whole way. When they reach Capernaum, Jesus asked them – “What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?” But they held their peace. It was then that Jesus called a little Child unto Him and set him in the midst of them. Mark records that Jesus then took the Child in His arms and said to the disciples – “Verily, (for a Truth) I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as a little child, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore Humbleth himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Tradition says that this little Child Jesus held in His arms that day was Ignatius who grew up and became Bishop of Antioch and later suffered martyrdom in 107 AD.

 Jesus said – if you want to go to Heaven, you must have a child-like humility. An earthly father can scold and chasten his little son hard enough to bring tears and 5 minutes later he’s reaching for his Daddy to be taken back in his arms! Except ye be Converted: Converted means to be changed in heart and attitude. Our prayer ought to be – “Lord, let me weep before you. Show me my heart like you see it. Help me to Humble myself and cry till I’m broken. Empty me of all self-will and pride. Give me your meekness O Lord. Let me harbor no ill-will or anger. Reach down in my heart Sweet Holy Ghost and take out all resentment, every grudge and unforgiveness. Help me to pray and cry it all out of me. I want to be contrite, humble and willing in my spirit.” Heaven will have this kind of spirit, it will fill the whole City. Every Saint there will have a Humble child like heart of Love.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

 A true child of God will be known by their Humility. During the Civil War, Edwin Stanton treated Lincoln with utter contempt. He called Abraham a “low cunning clown – the original Gorilla.” He said – “there’s no need to go to Africa to capture a Gorilla when we have one in Springfield Illinois.” Lincoln never retaliated, instead he made Stanton his Secretary of War General, believing he was the best qualified for the office. Years later when Abraham Lincoln was killed by an assassin’s bullet, Stanton looked down in the coffin on Lincoln’s rugged face and said with tears – “There lies the greatest Ruler of men this world has ever seen!”

**I Pet. 5:5** – Peter said – Be clothed with Humility. It’s a suit that is always in fashion, it never wears out, it’s always comely, it is recognized by men admired by Angels and loved by God.

**James 4:6** – God resisteth the proud, but giveth Grace unto the Humble.

Pride makes you artificial – Humility makes you real. Humility is the sweet low root from which all Heavenly virtues flow. The soul is healed by being with children. All pride must die before Heaven can live in you. Humility is the best and sweetest and safest trait you can have. In the heart of every good Saint that is a blessing to others, you will find Humility.

John Oxenham explains it well in a little poem:

Is your place small? Tend it with care – God placed you there. Is your place a large place? Guard it with care – the Lord set you there! Whatever your place, it is not yours alone, but it is the Lord’s who put you there. With everything you have – give God the Glory. With everything you are able to do, all your talents and abilities – give Him all the Glory. However big and important your duty and call and no matter how little your place of service – keep it and tend it with Humility! O what God has entrusted to us! Should not we remain Humble and give Him all the Glory?

**A LITTLE BOY IN THE WHEAT-FIELD**

 A farmer took his little boy out into the wheat field with him to check out how soon the harvest would be. As they strolled through, the little lad looked up at his Dad and said – “Look how tall and straight these stems hold up their heads. They are ready Daddy, they are the best ones. Those others that have their heads bowed down can’t be good for much. The farmer plucked a stock of each kind and said – “Look close son, this stalk that stood so straight is light headed – it has nothing to offer: But this one that had its head bowed down is full of beautiful golden grain.!”

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

 One of the Founding Fathers of the United States tells about when he was 21 years old, he went to seek advice from Cotton Mather – a Puritan minister. Franklin said, when I got up to leave from Mather’s library, he showed me a shorter way out of his house through a narrow passage, which was crossed by a beam overhead. We were both talking as we walked when suddenly Mather hollered from behind and said – “Stoop, Stoop!” I didn’t understand him till I felt my head hit against the beam. The Puritan minister said to me, giving me instruction from the incident – “Son, you are young and have the world before you – Stoop as you go through it and you will miss many a hard bumps!” Never allow yourself to be lifted up in Pride. Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

It was Tennyson who said – True Humility is the highest virtue – the mother of them all.

Who is it that God dwells with? **Is. 57:17** – I dwell in the High and Holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble.

**Is. 66:2** – To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my Word.

**Ps. 138:6** – Though the Lord be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly. When you are humble, it’s then you are fully dependent upon God and realize you are nothing and can do nothing without Him. True Humility and freedom go hand in hand – only the Humble person can really be free. If you remain Humble, nothing can touch you or move you. The nearest you will ever be to God is when you are broken and contrite. Your life is a lesson in Humility. Many things will happen that at times will break you, but remember – God chooses the lowly and broken!

**HUMBLENESS BRINGS UNITY**

 Mrs. Floyd Crook tells about when she was a child: I came home from school one day crying because I had been given only a small part in the children’s program, while my playmates got the leading role. After drying my tears, my mother took off her watch and put it in my hand. “What do you see?” She asked. “A gold case, a face and two hands!” I replied. Opening the back, she repeated the question. I told mom that I saw many wheels working together. Mother said – “Child, without every part, even the little ones you can hardly see, this watch would be useless – it would never work!” Mrs. Floyd said she kept that lesson in her heart and it helped her all through her life to see the importance of the small duties and the little things that we must do when asked to perform. Are you willing to be one of the little wheels in the background that will help turn the big hands? Your part in life is very important if you do it with all your heart! God will recognize it and you will get just as big of a reward for your part as anyone else. Humility is the basis of all service to God – it’s the core and heart of it all.

 Remember, Lighthouses play no music, they ring no bells, they don’t fire cannons – they just shine their Light – that’s all their job is to do and it is enough to guide others to safety and show them the way!

**SWEET HEAVEN WILL BE WORTH IT ALL**

 I know Heaven will be far greater, sweeter, richer and better than any of us mortals can imagine. Not one thought of bad will be there. Not even one little hint of evil – not one speck of dislike – never a word spoken to hurt. From one end of the Kingdom to the other will be love and harmony. That Holy City is pure! Every soul that enters has made everything right with God. Every Heart there has been transformed, changed and been emptied of pride. It has been refined through suffering and come through the fire of trials and been emptied of all bad and selfish attitudes! Heaven will be a most beautiful place. There will never be a frown there. The love will be so divinely pure and strong that it will emanate from heart to heart through the endless ages. Jesus told the disciples – I heard you all disputing with one another about who’s going to be the greatest. Remember, there’s no big I’s and little you’s in my Father’s kingdom. Not a one of my children will be more loved and important than another there.

 Children, God is working on us by His Spirit to get us ready. Just any type of attitude cannot enter that celestial city where Angels cry Holy, Holy, Holy. It’s only for the Redeemed and Blood washed and forgiven who have been sanctified from this evil world and all its sins! Thank God, everyone there will be worthy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Remember, Jesus placed on the mount of Beatitudes the first gate – the GATE of HUMILITY – enter it and forever remain true and Heaven will be yours some day! May God Bless my Readers!