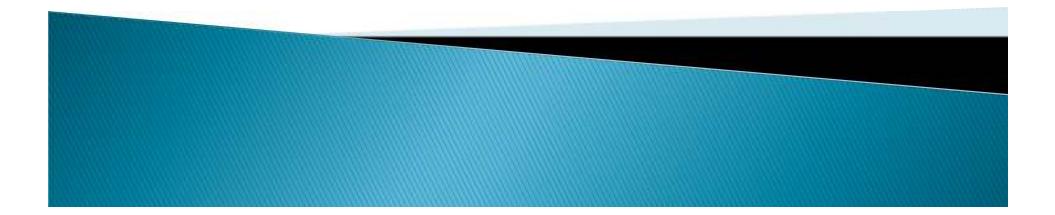
"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord" (James 4:10)

"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God" (1 Peter 5:6)



- Do I ever question the righteousness of God's actions (or inactions)?
 - Job did, but he learned better: "I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know...Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:3, 6).
 - Psalms teaches us to praise His righteousness, even how He answers us in righteousness; so we can't praise Him and question Him at the same time.

- Do I question the reasonableness of any of God's commandments (in word or deed)?
 - To do so would question both His righteousness and His love.
 - "And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always..." (Deut. 6:24).
 - "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (Psa.119:160).

- Do I ever think in terms of what God owes me, or what I deserve from Him?
 - "Who has preceded me ("given to Me"—NAS) that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is mine" (Job 41:11).
 - Enables us then to be filled with gratitude for every single blessing He bestows on us (including every single DAY He gives us).

- Do I thank other people for everything (big and small) they give me or do for me?
 - Humility and a deep sense of appreciation go hand in hand.
 - Think about the gestures of gratitude sprinkled throughout Paul's epistles, for many different people.



- In my marriage, which concerns me most—what my spouse does for me, or what I do for my spouse?
 - Do I esteem my spouse better than myself? (Philippians 2:3).
 - Am I too busy looking out for my own interests that I've neglected my spouse's? (Philippians 2:4).
 - Do I have the mind of Christ? (Philippians 2:5-8).



- Do I ever look with contempt or disdain on others because of their lack of intelligence, their poverty, their ignorance, or even their character?
 - "Did not He who made me in the womb make them?
 Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?"
 (Job 31:15).
 - "Showing all humility to all men, for we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, deceived..." (Titus 3:2-3).

- Do I ever try to impress others with my superiority over them (boasting of wealth, education, accomplishments, etc.)?
 - Could there be some smugness in my speech and behavior toward others?
 - Think about the demeanor exhibited by Jesus, consistent with His character: "I am meek and lowly" (Matthew 11:29).

- Do I consider any act of service beneath my dignity? Do I consider myself too important to do "less important" things?
 - Would I wash feet? (John 13).
 - Would I give a cup of cold water? (Matthew 10:42).



- Am I as eager to serve when I'm NOT seen as when I AM seen?
 - Which do I desire more, the honor of men, or the honor of God? (Matthew 6:1-18).
 - Related question: Am I as eager to serve when they can't pay me back? (Luke 14:12-14).



- Do I rejoice in the honors and accomplishments of others, or do I envy?
 - Which of these is easier? "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12:15).
 - Do we feel the need to "one up" them? Or, to "block" their moment in the sun?



- Am I sensitive and easily offended?
 - "Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness.
 And let him rebuke me; it shall be as excellent oil; let me head not refuse it" (Psalms 141:5).
 - There's another word for thin-skinned, and it's self-centered.



- Do I enjoy holding a grudge?
 - "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).
 - "At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them"
 (2 Timothy 4:16).



- Do I have any trouble saying, "I'm sorry," or, "That's entirely my fault"?
- Do I listen to those older and wiser?
- Do I know the difference between what I know for sure, and what I still need to study?

