

# THE BEAUTY OF HUMILITY

*Broken Strength Ministries*  
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## BATTLE PRIMER

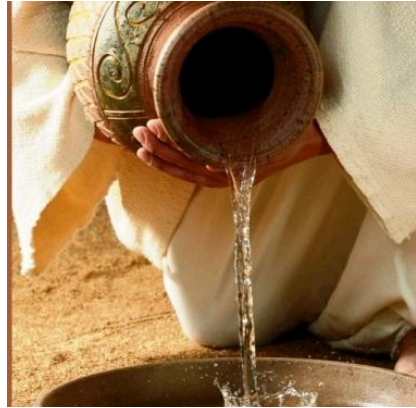
**By Joe Smith, Broken Strength Founder and current Board Chair**

“Humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up.” James 4:10

In the New Testament Jesus refers to himself in a variety of ways: the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the true vine, and others.

However, when he describes his character (for lack of a better term) in Matthew 11:28 – 30, he says, “for I am gentle and humble (or lowly) in heart.” I can’t speak for others, but that is not my natural demeanor. By nature, my inclination is to put myself first, be prideful, at times demanding and/or condescending toward others. Yet, as a person who believes that Jesus is Lord of my life – all of my life – I am on a life-long pilgrimage of allowing the Holy Spirit to make me more and more like Christ. In Luke 6:40 Jesus says, “The student when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” Obviously I am not fully trained yet. Ephesians 4:15 says, “Rather, speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head.” Clearly I am still in the growing process.

And the opposite of humility – pride – is dangerous. 1 Peter 5:5 – 6 tells us that “God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble.”



*Let this mind  
be in you,  
which was also  
in  
Christ Jesus  
Philippians 2:5*

### Resource of the Month

**KEEP WATCH**  
ON **YOURSELF,**  
**LEST YOU TOO BE**  
**TEMPTED.**  
Galatians 6:1b

**AU**  
Accountable2You

**GET STARTED TODAY**  
accountable2you.com

In Proverbs 16:5 we are told, "Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord. Be assured he will not go unpunished." Pretty strong language and hard to misinterpret.

I wonder if there is a part of you that resonates with my on-going battle to become more like Christ? It has been said that the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, and the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Pride says that I want to be first, I

## A note from Paul

Joe and I have been able to be in 15 locations in 2024 already. Broken Strength served in about 20 locations in all of 2023. Each location is unique and God is faithful in helping churches realize, "if we are willing to open this door, we better be willing to walk through it." Pray for continued strength and ability to do this in the name of Jesus.

need to be the ultimate voice in all matters, I want to be "god" over my circumstances.

Christ humbled himself to take the penalty for my sins – your sins – giving us the perfect model of humility and self-sacrificing love for others. May His grace also continue to work a work of humility in me as I consider this amazing love that God has for sinners who often want to usurp a throne only God deserves to occupy.

### Special Invite!

**Tuesday, May 28 - 11:30-1:00** - Broken Strength is hosting a luncheon update. If you are in the NE part of the Twin Cities (or know somebody who is), we would love to communicate on a personal level with you or them. We will have a brief testimony or two, an update from our Executive Director, and an opportunity to support financially or through our prayer team. We will provide a free, catered lunch. **Location: First Evangelical Free Church, 2696 Hazelwood St., Maplewood, MN. It will be in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.**

### We invite you . . .

- *Do you know a church or individual who would like to be informed or be added to our prayer team? Send an email to [pklassen@apathtopurity.org](mailto:pklassen@apathtopurity.org)*
- *Would you like to help us continue to offer our services for free so as to help more churches broach the topic of pornography and sexual integrity? It is our goal not only to increase the conversation but to provide a solid means of hope, freedom, and victory. You may donate to the ministry at [www.apathtopurity.org](http://www.apathtopurity.org)*

## This month's updates

### **Thank God with us for . . .**

- An incredible month of April where we connected with many churches for the first time through retreats, conferences, and events, from MN to TN to Mexico.
- New ways to address our cultural epidemic by engaging with youth groups, parents of youth, Christians schools, and seminaries.
- 146 men who purchases 46 Finally Free books and are currently engaging with each other in many different ways. About 4-5 churches are now "in the loop" now because of this weekend retreat at Camp Lebanon on April 6,7
- Opportunities to not only talk about God's plan regarding our sexuality, but to promote and facilitate vital small groups and repentant cultures within churches.

### **Pray to the Lord with us for . . .**

- Guidance, protection, and courage for the 1 last event the "season" and for a Summer of connections, planning, praying, and rest.
  - May 18, 2024 | Ambassador Baptist Church, Shoreview, MN (Paul)
  - May 29, 2024 | Bethel EFC, Fairmont, MN (Paul & Becky) Youth & Parents Equipping.
  - Pray for scheduling of Summer conferences and Fall church events.
  - Christian school opportunity in October.
- Each church with whom we interact, that the hundreds of men who have already responded will not lose hope or lose courage. Once we each identify what we want to battle and who we will battle with, the enemy is right there to convince us otherwise.
- Leadership of Broken Strength. We will be adding board members, Lord willing, in the next few months, and we want to be led by God's Holy Spirit in all we do, how we do it, and what directions to lean into or not pursue.