

The Psalms of Ascents

Week 5 – Thursday

Prov. 4:23; 16:18

Matt. 12:34

From this we can see that humility is not a natural virtue that we possess. There is no such thing as true humility in our natural man. Who can humble himself? No one. Even a beggar is filled with pride if he is able to get more than another one. Pride is in everyone in different settings, in different levels, and in different spheres. Everyone is proud of something as he compares himself to other people. The beggars in China today use cell phones to scan others' phones to collect money; they have become high tech beggars. Some might take in more than some others who have a job. This becomes their pride. There is always something that makes us proud, something in which we think that we are better than others. This is what is in man. Then how can we be humble? Humility needs to be constituted into us. Pride is within but we need to be constituted by the Spirit to gain the real humility. Only such a person can be blessed by God and can build the church with other brothers and sisters.

When David talks about humility he does it in three aspects: your heart, your eyes, and your attitude. Your heart must not be proud; your eyes must not be lofty; nor can you concern yourself with great things, things too profound for you. These things show whether you are truly humble. David wrote this psalm after being stricken by God, after experiencing the breaking of the self. This caused his heart not to be haughty. The most important thing for a person in the presence of God is that his heart is not haughty. People look at our appearance, but only God looks at our hearts. A humble person does not harbour pride in his heart. How do you prove that your heart is not proud? We observe outward things of others, yet God searches our hearts.

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." This shows us that the manifestation of our life, that is our living, is actually the outflow of our heart. The Lord said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). Whatever fills your heart flows out from your mouth. David said, "My heart is not proud" so pride did not come out from him. Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall." If today our heart is proud, destruction lies before us. If our heart is haughty, we will inevitably end up falling. Don't blame others if you fall; we often blame others for stumbling us. It is true that we can be stumbled, but if your heart is filled with Christ, then no one can stumble you. Who can stumble you if you are a humble man who looks unto God, a man who waits on God, a man who dwells in the Spirit? In that case, no one can stumble you. You may be rebuked by the leading bothers but if you are humble, you will not be stumbled.