

(2.2) Humble Submission to God's Word

Most persons are concerned with who is for them and who is against them so *what then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*¹ Make sure your conscience is clear and God will be your certain defense; for sure the wickedness of others cannot harm the one protected by God. Take as your *example of hardship and patience, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord*² and you will experience the Lord's help as they did. The Lord's wisdom will act at the right time and place and deliverance is certain if you let go of trying to control circumstances and let Him act. Remember, *God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble. He will conceal me in the cover of his tent; and set me high upon a rock.*³

It is often helpful to us that others expose our faults since we may be blind to our shortcomings and a dose of humility will put us back on track. Accepting our faults gracefully will dissipate the anger and resentments others may have with us. *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*⁴ *Clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for God opposes the proud but bestows favor on the humble.*⁵

Jesus reminds us that the Father reveals his secrets to the humble: *I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.*⁶

Although our faults may bring embarrassment, humility will instill in us a spirit of responsible acceptance and bring peace to the situation. *Humble yourselves before the Lord*⁷, do not put yourselves above others, and then you will be on the path of spiritual progress.

This article is based on Book 2, Chapter 2 of Thomas of Kempis' writing, "Imitation of Christ." It is not a translation, and there are many of those, but a personal (layperson's) reflection on his writing; if any of it helps give credit to Thomas of Kempis; if any of it fails the responsibility is mine. (rfm)

¹ Romans 8:31

² James 5:10

³ Psalm 27:5

⁴ James 4:6

⁵ 1Peter 5:5

⁶ Matthew 11:25

⁷ James 4:10