

## **Don't Think too Highly of Yourself**

Rom 12:3 — Paul had the grace from our Father to speak these words to the church and he simply said, “For by the grace given to me I say to you, not to think more highly of yourself. Everyone among you not to think more highly than you ought to think, but to think in sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that our Father has assigned to him.” So we must not go beyond our grace. Going beyond our grace is getting into the natural realm and it's called “the flesh.” Anything not done by faith is sin. Only according to one's faith must he do anything. We can't go beyond that. We can't go beyond. He goes on and speaks in verse 6 of how we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, so if your gift is to be a prophet, you're supposed to prophesy in proportion to your faith. Don't go beyond. We have to really have sober judgment. If you are going beyond your grace, a satanic principle is working there.

Don't think too highly of yourself, but only in accordance with the measure of faith you have received. So if you go beyond, wanting to be the leader, wanting to be the spokesman, this is the satanic principle. It's exalting yourself, wanting to be equal with someone greater than you. You don't have the grace. Someone else has the greater measure of faith. Someone's got more grace. You have the same gift, but someone has greater grace and greater faith. You follow the lead. That's a spiritual thing. Christianity can't do it. We can't do it either unless we're filled with the Holy Spirit and praying to be directed and led by the Spirit. Those are the sons of God. Remember that or the enemy can come and lead us to think we need to do this and do that, taking us off course.

Be humble, submissive. Young men, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that in due time He will raise you up, because you received the grace and measure of faith to be what our Father wants you to be. This is the Body principle (Rom 12:4). Paul said, “By the grace given to me...” Paul had grace to say it; he had the authority to say it to the Romans. Verse 3 — You'd better have sound judgment. How are you going

to know that? It's a miracle. Verses 4-8 — Not all members have the same function... This demystifies the parable of the talents.

This is where we're likely to go wrong. We'll go astray, wanting to be first, just like that man in 3 Jn 1:9-10. Diotrephes said to himself, "The Holy Spirit is leading me this way, no matter what John says. I will do this. I will tell people not even to listen to John. He just wants to come and take over." It's the satanic principle.

Then John mentions another brother, a marvelous, wonderful brother named Demetrius (3 Jn 1:12). If you want to be first, you'd better check yourself and find out what spirit is motivating you. Wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon you before you speak.

We're in the beginning now. This is going to come out time after time after time, and it's going to destroy communities. Isa 14 and Eze 28 speak of the sin of Satan. Paul said not to lay hands on a recent convert. He'll become conceited. Don't go beyond your portion of grace. That takes a spiritual person to be able to discern that. If we can't discern that, we're not in the Body, or we'll be a malfunctioning body. Don't try to be first. Don't desire to be first. Our Father is going to be the one who, in due time, will raise you up to do what He wants you to do. If you try to raise yourself up, it's not our Father (1 Pet 5:6).

That demystifies the parable of Mt 25:14. He's given us grace according to our abilities, which we were born with. He gives faith in order to employ the abilities to build up the Body. Talents are what we work with. Talents are the faith and grace to employ our gifts. Stay within the boundaries, within the portion of your faith. If you go beyond, another spirit can take hold and deceive. The chief ministry or job of Satan is to lead astray (Rev 20:8).

What will our Father do to the humble? He will raise him up in due time. What will He do to the proud? Oppose him. "I want to be humble so I can get raised up." Okay,

you can give someone a humble pin for being the most humble, but as soon as they put it on, you have to take it back.

Jn 12:26 is so amazing. The one who serves our Master will be honored, so who is the one who will honor him? Our Father honors him through one another. We see the glory in Yoceph. Other people have been here who didn't see that glory; they just wanted to see the glory in themselves. If we're being honored, we are going to honor one another. That's how our Father honors — it's through one another.

Everything Paul and the other apostles wrote was by the Holy Spirit. Paul might have thought he had labored in vain, but we know he didn't. We have those wonderful words he wrote by the Holy Spirit.

Jn 12:24-25 — “You must hate your life in this world.” Verse 26 — “Whoever follows Me must serve Me where I am.” If He's not there, there's no way we can serve Him. We have to be a community where He is, or we can't serve Him. Those who love their life and want to be honored will lose it; and those who hate their life and are humble will keep it for eternal life.

Paul wrote that letter to the Romans, so what happened? The first church did not listen to what Paul said. Mt 16:15 — Our Master asked His disciples who they thought He was. “You are the Son of the Living God.” That was revelation, but then people raised themselves up. So the underground took over in the Roman church. The gates of hell prevailed because they lost understanding and revelation. They started exalting themselves and the bishopric system came in. Then they started having inquisitions and crusades in the name of Jesus.