

Transforming Daily
“ . . . fell to the ground and worshipped . . . ”
Job 1:20

In response to the news that Job received, he rightly fell to the ground and worshipped God. His heart was right. His attitude was right, and subsequently, his posture before God was right. Job not only fell before God in humility and humiliation, but also in willful submission as is indicated by his torn clothes and shaved head. It was in Job to be humble and contrite every day before God, in the first place, in order for him to display these acts now upon hearing this catastrophic report. On the other hand, for many believers, and certainly for most non-believers, their heart lacks contrition before God to begin with. So it takes being brought to one's knees in humiliation before one is willing to live in humility.

I'm reminded of a story that an old deacon told a young minister about his delivery of a recent sermon. The preacher boy was all prepared and fired up to offer a rip-snortin' message. When the music portion of the service ended, and it was time for the young minister to preach, he attacked the pulpit with uncompromising swagger. He decidedly placed his Bible and sermon notes on top of the holy desk, and boldly announced the passage of Scripture to be considered and the sermon title. For the next few minutes he sounded loud and determined. As the sermon continued, his momentum slowed and his tone mellowed. Nearing the end of his message his determination seemed to have left him and his demeanor reflected defeat. As he left the pulpit feeling humiliated and humbled, he passed by the old deacon who hoped to encourage the preacher by saying, "If you would have gone into the pulpit the way you came out of it, maybe you would have come out of the pulpit the way you went into it."

The story applies to every believer regarding their spiritual discipline and the Christian lifestyle. If we would live with the attitude of humiliation before God and with acts of humility toward others, with respect to every day circumstances, then when adverse situations arise one's response might very well bring immediate glory to God. Two things are certain, if humility and contrition aren't there in the first place, one cannot draw from them, and while humility and contrition might be developed through adverse circumstances, if humility and contrition aren't there during one's daily routine, it won't be there in times of adversity.

What is your attitude toward God? What is your normal demeanor before God? How do you respond to adversity? When times of trouble arise, is your first impulse to look to God in prayer, or settle the matter in the flesh? Regarding your daily routine, would anyone say on your behalf that she or he fell to the ground and worshipped?