

## Prayer List

Gene  
Veda  
Wallace  
Sheila  
Ophelia

## Services:

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.  
Assembly 10:00 a.m.  
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

## Elders:

Brad Behrens - [bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com)  
Michael Odom - [MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com)  
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## This Week's Question:

Whose acts are recorded in "the book of Shemaiah the prophet"?

## Answer To Last Week's Question:

Wormwood - Proverbs 5:4; Amos 5:7

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# Pinole Tidings

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## **Humble Yourselves**

Sewell Hall

Pride is a sin that is seldom confessed. It precludes confession. It hinders us from realizing our need for anything, especially humility. Following is a test to help us determine whether we are humble:

1. Do I ever question the righteousness of God's actions?
2. Do I question the reasonableness of any command of God?
3. Do I ever look with disdain on others because of their lack of intelligence, their poverty; their ignorance, or because of their character?
4. Do I try to impress others with my superiority by actions, appearance, or any other means of making them feel inferior to me.
5. Do I consider any act of service beneath my dignity?
6. Am I as eager to serve when I am not seen as when I am seen?
7. Do I insist on having my way over others in matters of expediency?
8. Do I envy others when they receive honors that I think I should have had?
9. Am I sensitive and easily offended?
10. Do I enjoy holding a grudge?

True humility will answer NO to all of these questions except #6 which should be answered YES. How did you do on the quiz? If you made 100% don't tell anyone, for once you become proud of your humility you cease to be humble.

### **Learning to be Humble**

We have seen that God demands humility. Both Peter and James admonish, "Humble yourselves" (1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10). How is this done?

**Meditate on God's Greatness.** Meditate on His greatness revealed in nature. "When I consider your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that you visit him" (Psalm 8:3-4)? Reading and meditating on God's qualities revealed in scripture should make us humble. Songs that extol God's greatness, when sung as they should be, will deepen our awareness of God's superiority, and our own inferiority before Him.

**Take God's Word Seriously.** When the temple was being cleansed in the days of King Josiah, a copy of the book of the law was found. When it was read to the King, and when he realized that Judah had disobeyed God, he tore his clothes and wept before the Lord, and so humbled himself (2 Chronicles 34:28). God's word is a mirror that reveals our faults; as we read it and see ourselves as we are, humility should surely result. Just reading the life of Jesus should humble us as we compare our imperfections with His glorious perfection.

**Think Soberly.** (Romans 12:3). Those who are drunk overestimate their qualities and abilities, while one who thinks soberly does not think more highly of himself than he ought to think. He also considers the source of whatever advantages he may enjoy over others. The proud Corinthians were asked, "Who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you glory as if you had not received it" (1 Corinthians 4:7)?

Each of us should think: "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Sober thinking involves seeing our faults as clearly as our virtues. Pride results when we maximize our virtues and minimize our faults, while at the same time maximizing the faults of others and minimizes their virtues. No wonder we appear to ourselves to be superior! Thus John writes: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

**Pray for Humility.** The very act of prayer should humble us if we realize that we are in God's presence. The original words for worship (both Hebrew and Greek) suggest prostration before, kissing the hand or the ground toward a superior. We may never have felt strongly enough toward a human being to do that, but awareness of the presence of God should cause us, as many did in Bible history, to fall on the ground mentally and humble ourselves before Him. Beyond this, a part of our prayer should be for humility.

We need, however, to be aware that when we pray for humility, it may come in unpleasant ways. God may allow us to suffer some humiliation that will help us to overcome pride. The apostle Paul considered this the explanation for the "thorn in the flesh" which he suffered and which God refused to remove. He wrote, "And lest I be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure" (2 Corinthians 12:7). Anything that helps us to be humble is worth whatever pain or suffering it may cause. It may even be an answer to our prayer for humility.

### **Conclusion**

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). "Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).