

## Humility in Grace

David tried; he was imperfect and his flaws, especially the public ones, were bloody and ugly and out there for everyone to see. Who would know better than David that he did not deserve God's grace? Yet, his heart was troubled over the fact that he sat in his great kingdom hall with God's Ark of the Covenant still unsettled. So, he said to Nathan the prophet "*See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains*" (cf. 2 Samuel 7:1-2). It evidently didn't dawn on him that no house could possibly be suitable to possess the God of heaven and earth (1 Kings 8:27), but one cannot doubt David's sincerity (1 Kings 8:18). The very fact that he was concerned about the Ark of God was a testament to his being "*a man after (God's) own heart*" (Acts 13:22).

Nathan responded with God's wonderful vote of confidence for David's concern and David was overjoyed, overcome, and overwhelmed. His gratitude, one of the most beautiful ever uttered from human lips, began: "*Who am, I O Lord God? And what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?*" (cf. 2 Samuel 7:18-23).

The practical, modern application of this ancient event to those of us reading this would be: Who are we, that God should bless us with His only begotten Son (John 3:16), with forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38) and with a hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7)? How we can stumble through life with no cognizance of such a great blessing and gracious gift is inexcusable. With so little "effort," God gives us strength far beyond our ability (Philippians 4:13), protection from all possible harm (Romans 8:31-39), and more than sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9), in spite of who we really are (and He **knows** who we really are! Psalm 139:7-12). Indeed, our salvation is by the grace of God and not through meritorious works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

What can we say? How does one respond to such a great gift of "*given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:7)? Why, we "*minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God*" (1 Peter 4:10). The only and proper response is a humility in the grace of God in which we stand redeemed, sanctified and justified.