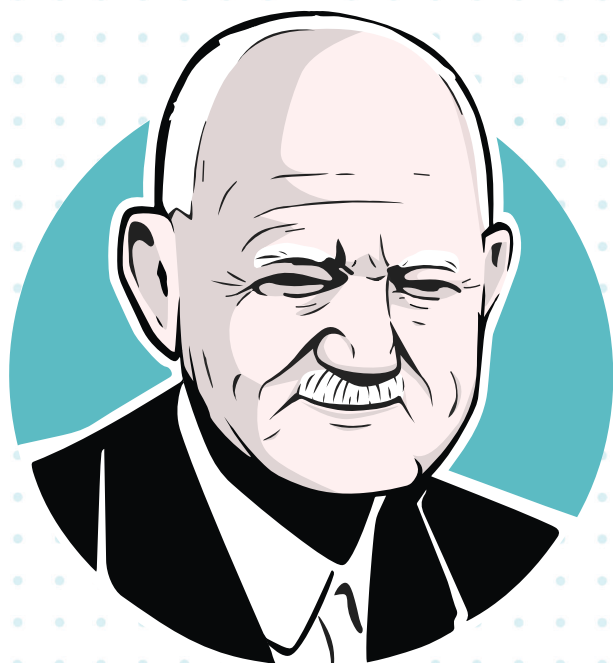


forbed og min
som Følelsen.
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jå, tænk?
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HUMILITY IS EVERYTHING

— Elias Aslaksen —

THEME 4

Høroffes, jule 1960.
Dyrebare teubikk-brøder!
Uttar eldgamle metoder. —
Hvor du er stor
Her på gode
Jest for dem som tror...?
Hvor ellers du nok er
For hvem isor
Som vunderig en
Som gjør forbed og min
Hjertet som Følelsen. — — —
Fører fullt av alle
Høroffes, jule 1960

Humility is everything

God gives grace to the humble. And then it makes absolutely no difference whatsoever. Write that up, as well, it makes no difference what everyone else does. And that is as crystal clear as it can possibly be that salvation is a personal matter between God and each individual. There is no person that can get in between them. It's a direct connection between God and each individual person. Can any other person get in there? I hope you understand this. I hope you understand what I'm saying. God gives grace to the humble. Who can interrupt that? Who can prevent that? It's by his grace that it succeeds and grace means help.

"God gives grace to the humble. And then it makes absolutely no difference whatsoever."

Elias Aslaksen

ly righteous. There is no respect of persons. Whether it's a newly converted person or an older brother or whoever it is it makes absolutely no difference everyone is the same before the law. There is no hint of respect of persons and therefore it can also be that it goes very well with some but then it goes to their heads and then they can become completely caput and end up outside. We are at a point of choice countless times a day, hundreds, thousands of times, and all of this is a result of humility or the opposite.

Elias Aslaksen

From a speech held in January 1976

We have 2 words for grace – one is to have grace bestowed upon us (to be pardoned) and the other is grace. To have grace bestowed upon us (to be pardoned) that is redemption and forgiveness of sins. That is pardoning. And grace – that is help. It is to get true light and life and to get victory and to go from light to light and from victory to victory and from glory to glory. And you do that according to the law of humility. And there's another foolish thought, it's a kind of type of shyness or modesty. You can think that I am a particularly great wretch and nothing much can come of me. That is 100% lies. There is just as much hope for the very greatest sinner on the earth. It's not any question of what we have been. It's a question of how humble we are and continue to be and what we therefore become and that is how we become something in truth. And it goes down to the last milliliter and milligram. God is fervent-

"It's not any question of what we have been. It's a question of how humble we are and continue to be and what we therefore become and that is how we become something in truth."

Elias Aslaksen



< Listen to this message.



Question

In the message "Humility," Elias Aslaksen says that a thought like, "I'm a wretch; nothing will ever come of me," is a lie. Why is this so, according to Aslaksen?

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The fundamental law of a Godly life

“But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.” Ps. 75:7. “So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. . . . Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.” Rom. 9:16, 18. “And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Matt. 23:12. “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’” 1 Pet. 5:5. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” Jas. 4:10. “Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep Your word. . . . It is good for me that I have been humbled, that I may learn Your statutes. . . . I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have humbled me.” Ps. 119:67, 71, 75.

God neither abases nor lifts up, hardens or blesses, lets it fail or succeed at random. He always, in all cases and with everyone, proceeds according to certain laws.

The main law is the law of humility. What actually is humility? It is not a whimpering tone of voice or some nice phrases. It is self-acknowledgment and taking my rightful place in accordance with it. For example: A young person is humble when he submits to his elders. He acknowledges his youth and submits to his elder.

In the above-mentioned scriptures two main degrees of humility are mentioned: 1) humbling yourself, and 2) being willing to be humbled. Humility coincides with a love of the truth. The truth is that one consistently, in all areas, is too high up. You admit this by loving the truth (2 Thess. 2:10), humbling yourself, and abasing yourself in harmony with the light of the truth that shines from the Scriptures, testimonies, or some other means.

First-rate humility is that you judge yourself of your own free will (1 Cor. 11:31-32) and abase yourself of your own accord. Second-rate humility is that you acknowledge when you are being humbled by God, when you are personally judged by another person or through life’s occurrences of one kind or another. In other words, in such a case one needs extra help to be humble. Without it you would not be able to acknowledge your folly. When the light shines in the assembly without it being addressed to anyone in particular, you do not discover that it points at anything in your own life. Your personal attention of one kind or another needs to be drawn to it before you discovers it.

In the best case you take a back seat because you realize that it is your proper place. In the second case you take a seat more toward the front, but when the host explains to the person that his place is more toward the back, he is ashamed and sits farther back.

If he hesitates, we can say that this is third-rate humility. If he does not acknowledge it and is unwilling to be abased at all, it is arrogance and pride, and he does not receive any grace at all; he does not receive help for salvation.

All of this pertains to real situations; it pertains to facts. Besides this, we have one more kind of humility: namely, false humility, hypocritical humility. This consists of words, tone of voice, and facial expressions that have a semblance of humility, but when it becomes a question of power, of reality, it becomes apparent that it is only a performance.

Humbling myself means that I occupy my proper place of my own free will. Being humbled is consenting to be put in one’s proper place by others. Being proud is defending and wanting to keep the place to which I am clearly not entitled.

"Humility coincides with a love of the truth."

Elias Aslaksen

Elias Aslaksen

"Skjulte Skatter" February 1932



< Listen to the audio of this article.



Question

In the article "The fundamental law of a Godly life," Elias Aslaksen writes that nothing happens by chance, but that God always acts according to His laws. Do you have a choice that influences God's plan with your life?

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From only lying—to only truth!

What a salvation! What a transformation! What a development! What a calling! What an absolutely indescribable love God has for us—that He really wants to perform such a staggeringly great and glorious and divine work in everyone who believes, from his heart, all the words of life in the New Testament concerning this matter.

“The sons of man are all lies!” Ps. 62:9. That is how we are ruined by the sin in ourselves. “Indeed, let God be true, but every man a liar.” Rom. 3:4. Jesus said, “I am . . . the truth . . .” John 14:6. It is our heavenly calling to be like Him, now, during the dispensation of grace; in other words, to become truth—pure truth in reality, in all possible areas! This is where Isaiah’s word in Chapter 53 is so undeniably fitting: “Who has believed our report?” V. 1. However, God be greatly praised for each one who really acquires a living faith in Jesus’ and the apostles’ words—because it will succeed through faith! This is the same thing as being saved from all possible forms of hypocrisy, because hypocrisy is lying! See Luke 12:1. Hypocrisy means that I give the appearance of it being better with me in every way than it really is. In other

words, it is putting on a performance; it is acting. Then I receive honor for something that I am not in truth, instead of protesting against it with all my might in the name of truth.

Hypocrisy is also in the same category as guile, a lack of uprightness, and dishonesty. We read something especially remarkable that is written about Jesus: He was without guile. Because He is the truth!

In other words, a person can lie in several different ways—not just by telling a direct, base lie or by telling tall tales! Unfortunately, it is quite common to hide one’s own folly and lack of blessedness—and to be very afraid that someone will get to know about it! People are so occupied with justifying and defending themselves according to every possible rule of the game, instead of agreeing with the judgment of the light.

What is it that people dread so much? They dread sinking in the eyes of people! However, they sink only in foolish people’s eyes. Because humbling yourself and going down is doubtless the most rewarding virtue you can find. Then, you are exalted in God’s eyes.

Being afraid of humbling yourself is therefore, spiritually speaking, crazy! This is also why so many people neglect to ask for forgiveness for all kinds of things, despite the fact that they have every good reason to do so, and that it would in truth be the cause of happiness in their inner being! Because the aim is: only truth!

Elias Aslaksen
"Skjulte Skatter" June 1985

"It is our heavenly calling to be like Him, now, during the dispensation of grace; in other words, to become truth"

Elias Aslaksen

"Because humbling yourself and going down is doubtless the most rewarding virtue you can find. Then, you are exalted in God’s eyes."

Elias Aslaksen



< Listen to the audio of this article.



Question

Why do you think that the article "From only lying—to only truth!" was included in this theme about humility?

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Humble of heart

For example, it's written that it's not unto he who wills or he who runs but God who shows mercy. Is there any law for to whom he shows mercy, to whom he shows grace? Yes, there absolutely is. Superficially speaking you could say well then it makes no difference, what good is it to be zealous? You can say that, but that doesn't mean that it's by chance or some kind of lottery or that God has mood swings. We know to whom he gives grace! We know to whom he gives more grace, and to whom he gives most grace and also to whom he absolutely does not give grace.

There are many who run, many who want, many who are ambitious. Do you know that term? What is that? It's what I want, I want to go up, I want to do more, I want to be a servant of the Lord, I want to be really capable, I want to speak really well. It doesn't make any difference all these things you want. Are you willing to go down? You can be in the midst of the church of the living God without ever becoming happy. What is the reason for that? I don't say there are many reasons. There is a lack of humility. I am too great, too strong in myself and that is the only reason. It's easy to prove, there are so very many examples.

"To be interested in getting victory over sin. What's the way to that? It is to be humble."

Elias Aslaksen

"You can be in the midst of the church of the living God without ever becoming happy. What is the reason for that? I don't say there are many reasons. There is a lack of humility."

Elias Aslaksen

If it goes poorly with one, you don't have victory over sin. Yes that's great wretchedness and in the midst of that you have a lot of interest in standing forth and speaking beautifully. Is there anyone who can recognize themselves here? Is there anyone who recognizes themselves here. It's not dangerous to be humble. It's not dangerous to acknowledge. Do you understand this? It's the opposite that is dangerous. Is there anyone who recognizes themselves here? Is there a point in this? Spiritually speaking it is crazy, that's what it is. Said in another way, it's hypocrisy and it's acting. It's to be bluffing and to impress people. It's to get some honor that I don't in any way deserve. Isn't it? Let's be finished with that, finished with that forever. To be interested in getting victory over sin. What's the way to that? What's the way? It is to be humble. It is to humble yourself. Then God will give me grace even if I haven't asked for it.

Elias Aslaksen

From a speech held in July 1963



< Listen to this message.



Question

In the message "Humble of heart," Aslaksen quotes a verse from Romans 9 which says that it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy (grace). Does that mean it is no use to "run?" Why should we still humble ourselves?

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God's method of working

God's method of working is essentially always the same. This is also quite reasonable since everyone is inclined in the same manner, namely, to be puffed up and have exalted thoughts about themselves so that they receive the honor for what God in His great grace has worked in and through them.

This is precisely why His firm plan and working method is to prevent this, and why the aim of His work is to break us down according to the flesh and get us to sink considerably in our own eyes—for instance, by not letting certain things work out for us, by withdrawing Himself and His grace in certain circumstances and thereby letting us taste the fruit of our own ways, the fruit of our own strength, our will, and our human reasoning.

In this manner He humbles us, and thus we receive ballast in our life's ship so we can endure a voyage in all kinds of changing weather without capsizing, so we can reach the eternal haven safe and sound.

Of course it is His loving, good will to exalt us together with Him; therefore He has to break us down powerfully so that we can bear to be exalted in the end without receiving honor for it ourselves.

He accomplishes this with a firm hand and a steadfast heart, without being in the least influenced by our lack of understanding of His method of working.

Glory, glory, glory to His name!

Elias Aslaksen

"Skjulte Skatter" April 1958

"Of course it is His loving, good will to exalt us together with Him; therefore He has to break us down powerfully so that we can bear to be exalted in the end without receiving honor for it ourselves."

Elias Aslaksen



< Listen to the audio of this article.



Question

In the article "God's method of working," Aslaksen writes about taking the honor that belongs to God for yourself. It is one thing to receive honor from people, but can you think of another concrete example of how you can take the honor that belongs to God, and why this is so dangerous?

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The abundant and sure grace of David // Isaiah 55: 3

These are therefore two descriptive words of this grace which, amazingly enough, is called the grace of David—that tremendous grace which David received that empowered him to become a man according to God’s heart. Obviously, it requires extremely much for this to happen!

All the effective grace that we have opportunity to receive now, in the dispensation of the new covenant, is so many times greater and more effective than the grace one could receive in the dispensation of the old covenant!

However, according to Peter and James, in accordance with the divine laws that apply absolutely and without exception, we can receive this grace if we are truly humble, but only to the extent that we are humble.

This is sure and true in every way! This is the surest thing of everything that is sure! And it is just as sure that the proud person has God as his opponent as it is that the humble receives grace. This is the spiritual as well as the human, natural law of life. It is the true background for all exaltation and all humiliation. According to Jesus’ own words, “And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Matt. 23:12), even if the person concerned does not wish for it! For this is God’s own firm decision according to His own divine nature.

In other words, we receive grace that is precisely as abundant and manifold as we are humble! And this is just as sure and certain as the fact that we possess humility in truth and spirit and not some kind of surrogate of humility.

There are several characteristics of humility: The humble person does not make objections or come with rationalizations; he does not protest or oppose or doubt or hesitate to obey God’s Word and his superiors in this world at his place of employment or in family life. Such a person is also willing to be exhorted or corrected. He is also diligent in keeping quiet and not opening his mouth and commenting about all kinds of things and about all kinds of people, and even speaking about something that he actually does not understand, for he gladly associates with the humble—in the lowly places. He also makes use of opportunities to stay there, for in that place there is peace without end!

Above all, the humble person abstains from judging and criticizing his neighbor, because everyone who does that has undeniably exalted himself and has seated himself on the judgment seat. That is where the judges sit. Then the person is as far from humility as east is from west. And God’s true grace is just as far away from every such person!

As long as a person is humble, he is, so to speak, insured for life! God is gracious, kind, and merciful to everyone with the exception of the proud, arrogant, overly confident, conceited, and puffed up; for God is their opponent! Poor people!

Elias Aslaksen

"Skjulte Skatter" april 1985

"And it is just as sure that the proud person has God as his opponent as it is that the humble receives grace."

Elias Aslaksen



< Listen to the audio of this article.



Question

In the article "The abundant and sure grace of David," it is made very clear that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Why do you think this is so? Can you think of an example from daily life where God gives grace to the humble?

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First class humility
consists of voluntarily judging
yourself and humbling yourself –
of your own accord.

ELIAS ASLAKSEN



**The richness and amount of grace
we receive is in direct relation to
how humble we are.**

Elias Aslaksen





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