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HUMILITY

Looking around at the world of faith and religious expressions we are readily reminded of a few irrepressible facts. The first is, compared to the vast number of eternal truths possessed by God alone, we humans really know very little. Even our world's greatest minds have perhaps about 1/10th of a drop of knowledge in what can only be described as an ocean of God's Truth. The only rational response to this realization seems to be one of utter humility, brokenness and an ongoing attitude of grave contrition. Interestingly, the scripture tells us to humble ourselves, and it seems that this is something that we acquire and even develop over time. Perhaps it begins when we realize how little we really know or understand about life, about God and about His ways. Maybe from there we

look at those we judge and admit that we know very little about them and their lives too. Maybe this humility will grow to the point that instead of looking out on the world with condemnation we look at it with empathy, compassion and the longsuffering God demands. When I was a member of a church that claimed to be the only true church on the face of the earth, I thought I knew everything – and treated people around me from this egotistical point of view. When I came to see that it had issues, I softened. When I then embraced American Evangelicalism, I again (but to a lesser extent) thought I possessed the truth (making me favorable to God) and that the rest of the world was lacking, failing and in the end, headed to an eternity in a fiery hell. Then, again, the truth shined through and I

again found myself humbled by the love of God, the sacrifice of His Son and the profound care He has for all creation. It was here that I started to see the importance humility lends to peace, love and understanding (to quote the song by Elvis Costello). Is there truth with a capital T? Of course, there is. Is it relative? Not in the least. But we humans all amble forth, seeking through a glass darkly in the search of it, and along the way, from what I can tell, are called by God to love. The contrite heart and broken spirit God loves serves to bring us to another valuable trait found in His children – faith. It only stands to reason that if we don't really know a whole lot of things relative to God, life and this world then we would naturally look to God in faith and trust, accepting that His is all knowing and therefore

understands what is best. It seems, then, that there is then an irrefutable relationship between the human lack of knowledge, God's call for humility and the human choice of faith. Since God is in possession of all knowledge, and since we opt to humbly place our faith in Him and His will, we come to the actionable part of our faith – love. See, our all-knowing God, having a firm grasp on all the facts of history, creation, humanity and life, tells us to love – first Him and then neighbors like we love ourselves. From this perspective it seems to me that if or when a person can get to the place where they really understand how little they know, and then they choose humility before God, who calls for His children to have faith, we discover the process where we can love more fully as commanded.