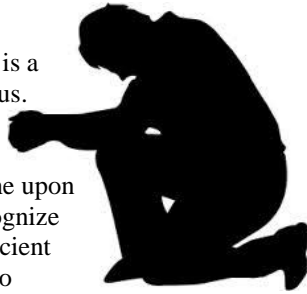


# G:love 4

## EGO: Edging God Out!

Focused Living Ministries

Enshrined inside a cathedral in Bethlehem is a small cave that marks the birthplace of Jesus. Because there was no room at the inn, the 'stable' in which He was born was most likely a cave. In this cave silver lamps shine upon an embedded silver star in the floor to recognize the birth of our King. You can enter the ancient church standing tall, but to enter the cave to worship at the place of Jesus' birth you have to humbly stoop because the entrance is so low. The same is true when you partner with God to do His work. You might enter each day standing tall on your own efforts, wisdom and abilities, but by the end of the day, you must stoop to humble yourself just as a glove humbly 'stoops' in order to respond to every movement of God's hand as He does the work. **Why is humility always the first and best 'attitude' of a glove? Why is pride so destructive in our lives?**



At 40, Moses had a world class **EGO** (**E**dging **G**od **O**ut) and did not yet understand the G:Love principle. Though his goal of freeing God's people from slavery seemed admirable (Acts 7:22-28; Heb 11:24-26), the results were a disaster, ending in murder and a cover up as he tried to do God's work pridefully in his own way. "Humility" is rooted in the Egyptian word meaning 'low Nile' and carries the core idea that just as the Egyptian people were absolutely **DEPENDENT** on that river for everything in life so we also are absolutely dependent on our Father God. The English word 'humble' is from the word 'humus' (dirt/earth) and carries the same idea in that we are absolutely dependent on earth to sustain life. In the same way the root word for 'human' is from 'humus' meaning that we came from the dirt (Gen 2:7) and are totally dependent on God for all aspects of life. Humility is a good thing as the Lord is not out to humiliate, but to humble us. Is there anywhere in life where you are saying to God, "I'll call if I really need You; I can handle this on my own?"

In TAG Teams, what insights/principles can you discover about humility from the following verses. (**Duet 8:1-3, 11-20; Num 12:3; 29:7; II Chron 7:14; Phil 2:3-4, 13; I Peter 5:5-6**)

## My Declaration of Dependence

*When in the course of human events it becomes necessary to dissolve the enslaving bonds of pride which have kept me from growing in and finishing well with my Lord Jesus Christ, in heartfelt humility I solemnly renounce the arrogance of living independently of the Spirit by my own strength. I now humbly proclaim my declaration of dependence on the power of my Creator God to live the life of faith to which He has called me. I hold the following basic truths of Scripture to be self-evident....*

- **True humility always starts at the Cross when I confess the sinfulness of my hard heart, receive His grace to make me righteous before my Creator God, and confess Christ as rightful Lord of my life.** (Gal 2:20; Titus 3:4-6; Romans 5:8)
- **True humility is my absolute dependence upon God for everything in all aspects of life.** (John 15:1-5; Acts 17:28a)
- **True humility is not negotiable. If I do not humble myself by living a life of daily dependence upon Him, He will humble me and show me how dependent I really am.** (I Peter 5:5-7)
- **True humility means doing things with God, not doing things for God.** (Mark 3:14-15; Eph 3:20-21; Col 1:28-29)
- **True humility is best lived out in heartfelt obedience as I depend upon Him for the desire, wisdom, endurance and strength to live out His commands which are a delight not a duty.** (Philippians 2:8; John 14:15; Psalm 40:8)
- **True humility was perfectly modeled by Jesus Christ after Whom I long to pattern my life.** (John 5:19-20, 30; 6:38; Phil 2:3-8; Eph 5:1)

*Lord God, I make now my declaration of dependence on You!*

Signature

Date