

Give Credit Where It's Due

Evangelist Billy Graham is well known for his humility. Despite worldwide fame, and at age 94, he still finds it difficult to say no to anyone approaching him, he is unfailingly pleasant to strangers, and he always credits God with the success of his ministry.

A spiritual adviser to several United States presidents, he was particularly close to Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon.

Graham has repeatedly been on Gallup's list of most admired men and women, appearing on the list 55 times since 1955 (including 49 consecutive years), more than any other individual in the world.

His guiding verse on the subject of personal humility has been Isaiah 42:8: "I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images."



Tragically, success often changes people. We see it especially in the athletic world. Someone gets to the top, makes the starting team, and experiences fame. Suddenly, he changes. His humble, submissive attitude is gone.

Writing on the subject, Dr. David Jeremiah, author and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., in his book *Turning Points*, asks: "Can you be humble in the face of success? Humility doesn't imply a lack of self-confidence, nor does it make us a doormat for others to walk on. It isn't having a low self-image or thinking poorly of oneself. Humility means not thinking of oneself very much at all, but thinking of Jesus Christ more and more."

Dr. Jeremiah is right on. Whatever we accomplish is due to the blessings of Christ. Whatever we gain comes from Him, for "every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17).

As an individual and as an associate in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we must remember to give Christ the glory, honor and praise for any success that comes our way.

– Beecher Hunter