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Re: Week 7 Reflection

by [Steven D Reece](#) - Thursday, 16 October 2014, 1:26 PM

Thank you for sharing these qualities of humility Catherine and for the Scripture verse.

I would like to add six complementary aspects of humility from two different sources: Johnson (2012) states that humility is made up of three basic elements (p. 88):

1. Self-awareness – “a humble leader can objectively assess her or his strengths and limitations”
2. Openness – is a result of “knowing one’s weaknesses” and having humility “means being open to new ideas and knowledge”
3. Transcendence (exceeding in excellence) – transcendent leaders realize “that there is a power greater than the self,” which keeps them from “developing an inflated view of their importance” and enables them to appreciate “the worth and contributions of others”

Telushkin (2006, p. 213) identifies three sources of humility, which relate to what academic researchers and ethical theorists like Johnson have proposed:

1. “An ongoing awareness of God: ‘*I am always mindful of the Lord’s presence*’ (Psalms 16:8)”
2. “The awareness that every human being with whom we interact is created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), and therefore is as valuable as we ourselves”
3. “. . . Suffering, which can make even self-confident people aware that they are not the masters of their fate”

Telushkin echoes the truth of 2 Corinthians 3:5 and points out that we are not "masters of our fate;" we are limited and insufficient as human beings. We must be aware of God. When we see ourselves in comparison to God's sufficiency, it allows us to be humble and thereby able objectively to see ourselves as we truly are. As leaders, being mindful of “one’s weaknesses” allows us to be “open to new ideas and knowledge” (Johnson, 2012, p. 88).

References

Johnson, C. E. (2012). *Meeting the ethical challenges of leadership: Casting light or shadow*. United States of America: Sage Publications, Inc.

Telushkin, J. (2006). *A Jewish code of ethics: You shall be holy* (1 ed. Vol. 1). New York: Bell Tower (Crown Publishing Group).