

Ye Are Superior to Me

by Ignatius of Antioch

We are called to cultivate a humble spirit, recognizing our limitations and dependence on God, in order to be exalted and experience spiritual growth.

Scripture: Proverbs 22:4, Luke 18:13, Philippians 2:3, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6

Topics: "Humility", "Godly Exaltation"

Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of humility and self-awareness in the eyes of God, drawing examples from biblical figures like Abraham, Job, David, and Moses who acknowledged their unworthiness before the Lord. He encourages the congregation to embrace a humble spirit, recognizing their own shortcomings and weaknesses, as true exaltation comes from God when one humbles themselves. Ignatius reminds them that even the righteous should see themselves as sinners in need of God's mercy, echoing the sentiment that what is esteemed by men may be abominable in God's sight.

Transcript

May I enjoy you in all respects, if indeed I be worthy! For though I am bound, I am not worthy to be compared to one of you that are at liberty. I know that ye are not puffed up, for ye have Jesus in yourselves. And all the more when I commend you, I know that ye cherish modesty of spirit; as it is written, "The righteous man is his own accuser;" and again, "Declare thou first thine iniquities, that thou mayest be justified;" and again, "When ye shall have done all things that are commanded you," say, "We are unprofitable servants; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

For says [the Scripture], "God be merciful to me a sinner." Therefore those great ones, Abraham and Job, styled themselves "dust and ashes before God.

And David says, "Who am I before Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast glorified me hitherto? " And Moses, who was "the meekest of all men," saith to God, "I am of a feeble voice, and of a slow tongue." Be ye therefore also of a humble spirit, that ye may be exalted; for "he that abaseth himself shall be exalted, and he that exalteth himself shall be abased."]

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