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Arkansas

The Arkansas Capitol Devotional

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James 4.10

The Indispensable Step to Achieving True Success

Selfish ambition manifests itself in our culture as a ravenous appetite for applause, fueling endless attempts to make the next news cycle, to let them see you shine, to shock the world, to let them see what kind of stuff you're made of. We are all subject to daily temptations to lust after all that accompanies a reputation for greatness. Compelling as these temptations are, as a believer, you are called to embrace a world-view that keeps God at the center of things, where He belongs. You are to yearn that He be the object of praise rather than yourself.

Hmm...stop and reflect on the following question for just a moment. Have your actions over the past few days been aimed at putting God in the spotlight or yourself?

God made mankind to take dominion of the world and all that is in it. The pursuit of achievement is an inseparable aspect of being human. But since the fall, humanness has been twisted. The sin of pride is said to be the first of all sins. Lucifer wanted to be "like God" in that he wanted to be regarded as God, to be praised as God. The average person faces daily temptations to seek glory for themselves that belongs to God alone. Your situation is more difficult. As a state leader, you are continually being told how great you are. How do you counter such temptations?

James offers the following strategy--humble yourself. Rather than viewing yourself in some context that is favorable to your self-evaluation, evaluate yourself standing next to God. Provides kind of a different perspective on yourself, doesn't it? God is holy, you are not. God is all-knowing, you are not. God is all-powerful, you are not. Need we go on? When you abase yourself, make yourself small, consider the ways in which you are insignificant and lacking, God promises to lift you up. He will draw near to you, revive your spirit, provide the desire and the power to do His will, and grant your hearts desire, when you humble yourself before Him! You will walk in His power and victory when you take the indispensable step to achieving true greatness.

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Palermo". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jason Palermo

State Director, Arkansas