

## The Humbled Soul

*“Lord, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me.” (Psalm 131:1)*

Some questions may well be asked as we contemplate this psalm:

Could it ever be proper for one to think such thoughts as these?

Is it ever proper to speak them aloud?

If so, to whom? In whose presence? One’s self? Other people? God?

May these things ever be truly said of anyone? If not, then why are they here? The nature of the whole psalm precludes them being Messianic. Why are we being admonished to these thoughts?

First, it must be clear that these words are fitted to be spoken only to God, not to men, for three reasons. We dare not, cannot speak hypocrisies, pretenses to God. Our souls are an open book before His omniscient eyes. We may speak to Him only what we sincerely perceive as truth. We are what we say we are before God, not before men. And what we are before God we are before men; not the other way around.

This psalm sets before us the state of the psalmist. And it is surely a mighty ascent! The state of the heart is the state of the man.

1. He is humbled, not proud. We must be very careful to say this. Only diligent and unsparing soul-searching in the light of the Holy Spirit will suffice. For if this be true there can be no high thoughts of one’s self.
2. That being true there can be no contemptuous thoughts of others (“I am better”).
3. Such a one dares not harbor so much as self-righteous hint before God.
4. One cannot be boastful of the past or ambitious for the future.

The eyes may not be lifted up, arrogant. These “windows of the soul” will betray us. What we desire, covet, aim for, we keep looking at. Contempt, haughtiness, looking down on others burns forth in the eyes. God hates a proud look.

This man does not aspire to involve himself in great matters. They are beyond him. He is not qualified, up to it. He is not a jealous critic of every superior, certain he could do a better job. He is not over-estimating himself.

He is completely content to take the low station, to serve there, not chafing for the high position. He thinks others superior, better qualified, better persons. Nor does he despise the work that God has assigned and fitted him for.

He is no “know it all”, ready to take on the knottiest problems, plumb the deepest mysteries and answer every question. He knows his limits and is content in them. His security is in his Mighty God and Able Savior. The lot of the proud is a hard, grievous, laborious, restless, insecure one. The true saint has found sweet rest in a broken spirit, contrite heart and humbled soul. – C. M.