

## ***Humility—Philippians 2:3-4***

### **WWT Board of Directors Devotion**

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Our devotion today is about humility. As we begin, please allow me to share a story. Years ago, I was in a meeting discussing the importance of humility when a colleague announced to the rest of us that he was a very humble person, and in fact, he went on to say that many people had told him how humble he was! You could hear a pin drop. “Was he serious?” some thought. Others tried not to laugh. And that is the paradox of humility—as soon as we think we have it mastered, we probably haven’t! So, with that reminder to myself, please let me assure you that this devotion about humility is FOR me, not FROM me!

Humility is one of our core values here at WWT. Humility helps us stay grounded by reminding us where we came from and of those who helped us along the journey. Success can be the greatest threat to the future of a company or leader, if humility is replaced with arrogance. There is no question in the 30 years since its inception, WWT has experienced and, Lord willing, will continue to experience success in many ways. These expanding levels of success underscore the increased importance of humility.

Romans 12:3 reminds us that it is very important to stay grounded, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to.” Otherwise, as Proverbs 16:18 describes, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” In short, “First pride, then the crash, the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.”

These Scriptures outline the downside of NOT being humble. But there is also a definite upside to humility, just ask a fellow named Jim Collins. As you may recall, in *Good to Great* Jim shares his discovery of “Level 5 Leadership,” which is defined as the combination of steely determination and personal humility. All eleven of the “Good to Great” companies, which outperformed the market by three-times over a 15 year period, were led by a Level 5 Executive. As Collins explained, it’s an executive who “builds enduring greatness through a paradoxical blend of personal humility and professional will.”

What matters most to a Level 5 Leader is that their organization’s potential is maximized, not their ego. With this Level 5 Leader in mind, allow me to share a definition for humility that I heard several years ago. *Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.*

As I read Philippians 2:3-4, listen for the similarities between this definition and the attributes of a Level 5 Leader: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” The following verses Philippians go on to describe Christ’s example of humility and encourages us to have the same mind-set of Christ. Jesus exemplifies a Level 5 Leader. He demonstrated the power of humility by stating that He was intentionally sacrificing Himself for our sins.

Please join me in a prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your Son, Jesus, who modeled the ultimate example of humility by giving Himself to save us. Lord, please help us to live and lead in ways that honor His sacrifice. Help us to pursue your will for WWT for the blessing of the precious families and communities it represents and seeks to serve. I pray this in Jesus name. AMEN.