

Sin of Pride

As we are told in **II Timothy 3:2,4**: “Men shall be lovers of their own selves, boasters, proud, heady, high-minded.” So I believe this is a timely message, warning men of the sin of pride, of God’s hatred for it and His judgment against it.

What it is: Pride is excessive belief in one's own abilities that interferes with the individual's recognition of the grace of God. It has been called the sin from which all others arise. Pride is also known as Haughtiness, arrogance, conceit, inordinate self-esteem, vanity, and vainglory

As I search the Word of God, I find that God hates the Sin of Pride seemingly more than any other sins. Truly he hates all sin, and will punish all sin; for God cannot condone anything contrary to His holy nature. But His hatred seems to go out more forcibly against this sin of pride, for it robs Him of His glory; and through rebellious, sinful creatures, pride even tries to take Him off His throne.

The sin of pride is the sin of sins. It was this sin, we're told, which transformed Lucifer, an anointed Angel of God, the very seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, into Satan, the devil, the father of lies, the one for whom Hell itself was created. We're warned to guard our hearts against pride lest we too "fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

It was the sin of pride that led Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. In Genesis we read, "Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." The serpent who first introduced Eve to this sin of pride? It was the devil himself.

The sin of pride is a preoccupation with self. It is very fitting that the middle letter in the word is "I." Pride is all about "me, myself, and I." So even as the word "pride" is centered upon an "I," the sin itself is also centered upon "I.

We read of Lucifer's fall, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars

of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. **Isaiah 14:12-15**. Satan's fall began with "I". And so it is with us. If you are preoccupied with yourself, you are suffering from the sin of pride.

The Apostle said, "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies

The six things the Lord hates

Pride heads the list of the seven deadly sins held to be fatal to spiritual progress, which are: Pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and slothfulness.

If you notice carefully you will see that number one on this list of sins which God hates is the sin of pride - "a proud look". Why is that? Consider; pride is the sin that turned an archangel into a devil. Pride is the sin that led Israel to reject all the prophets that God sent to warn them of their evil ways. A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." **Proverbs 6:16-19**.

So we see then that God's Word plainly declares that He hates pride, for it is an abomination to Him as we read in **Proverbs 16:5**: "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD." That word "abomination" means that God loathes, abhors, and is disgusted with every one who is proud in heart. Pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" **Proverbs 8:13**. And to show you that God's anger burns against this sin of pride, we find it included in the list of sins given in **Revelation 21:8** under the word "abominable." Listen to God's Word and hear the doom of every proud man who dies outside of Christ! "The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Pride is a sin, a wicked sin. "A high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin" **Proverbs 21:4**. You see, pride merits no divine response. Yea, God revolts from it: "Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off" **Psalms 138:6**.

Therefore we read that destruction accompanies pride, **Job 26:12**: “The LORD will destroy the house of the proud. **Proverbs 15:25**” Also in **Proverbs 16:18** we read: “Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Oh how we need to hear God’s Word that he hates the proud in heart, and that if he turn not in repentance, God will cast the proud man into hell.

The Scriptures not only abound with references which show the Lord’s hatred of this sin, but they also describe a proud, haughty, conceited, vainglorious, boastful man as being a child of the devil, a child of Satan. Why? Because when Satan was in heaven as the highest created being in the universe, when he was known as Lucifer, the head angel, his heart was lifted up in pride and he fell to become Satan, the deceiver.

Also the Word of God describes pride as being the source of contention among men: “Only by pride cometh contention...He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat” **Proverbs 13:10; 28:25**.

"Thus says the Lord: 'In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This evil people who refuse to hear My words, who walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing'.... Hear and give ear: do not be proud, for the Lord has spoken....But if you will not hear it, my soul will weep in secret for your pride;" **Jeremiah 13: 9,10,15,16**

Pride is the sin that caused the Pharisees to reject Jesus as their Messiah and crucify Him instead. Pride is the sin of the church of Laodicea that led to their incredible blindness. What a horrible sin is this thing which turns angels into devils, rejects God's servants, and leads us into a completely false view of ourselves!

Parable of Nebuchadnezzar

The great Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, suffered from the sin of pride and lost his kingdom for it. His story is given to us so that we might learn our lesson from him, the lesson being: God is quite able to humble the proud and more than happy to do so. After being warned by Daniel the prophet of God, Nebuchadnezzar looked out across the great city of Babylon and said in his pride, "Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?"¹

While the words were still in his mouth, a voice spoke from heaven, "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." And at "that very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws."

Nebuchadnezzar was later given the opportunity to repent and upon doing so he was given back his kingdom by God's grace. This is what he learned through his ordeal: "At the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have you done?' At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. Now I,

The lesson we are to learn from Nebuchadnezzar's experience is this: "those who walk in pride He is able to put down."

Parable of Belshazzar

Nebuchadnezzar was extended God's grace and he repented of the sin of pride. His grandson however was not given the same opportunity. Perhaps that is because Nebuchadnezzar's experience was meant to serve as a lesson to us all, and Belshazzar, who knew of his grandfather's rebuke, refused to learn his grandfather's lesson. On the night of King Belshazzar's demise, Daniel the prophet stood before him and said, "O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of

men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses. But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven.' That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain."

How Pride Works

By looking at the lives of these two men we can learn how the sin of pride might work in our own lives. Nebuchadnezzar, on the one hand, didn't acknowledge God for what He had given him, in this case the throne upon which he sat. He gave himself credit for his success and in doing so he compounded his sin by robbing God of the glory which He was due. Belshazzar, on the other hand, was so arrogant and foolish as to deliberately insult and provoke God. He defiled the vessels of gold and silver which had been dedicated to God by using them in a drunken orgy and he did so knowing full well how the Lord had rebuked his grandfather not many years before.¹

From these two examples we see how pride can distort our perceptions of reality. Pride must obscure the truth simply because the truth is often very humbling, something contrary to the sin of pride. Nebuchadnezzar's pride deceived him into thinking something that wasn't true: he believed that he had built the great Babylonian empire by his own wisdom and by his might when in fact it was God who made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.

Belshazzar also suffered from a distorted perception of reality. His pride gave him sense of security. He felt safe upon his throne, behind his high walls; safe enough to mock God! But he was a fool to think that he could exalt himself against his Maker.

And so we see that pride can blind us to the reality of our situation. We also see that pride can lead us into further sin against God. Pride led Nebuchadnezzar to rob God of the glory due His name while pride led Belshazzar to insult God to His face. But God will not be mocked by man nor will He be robbed by us. "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me! You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed me," and "do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

The sin of pride is such a dangerous enemy simply because it pits you against your Maker and God is an enemy to be feared! "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world that is, whoever chooses to embrace the 'lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life makes himself an enemy of God.

For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world," **1 John 2:16** a world which was, like Lucifer, created absolutely perfect, but has since like Satan departed from its Creator God and has created for itself its own abominable ways.

Spiritual Pride

In **Genesis 4**. God had revealed unto Cain and Abel that the only approach to a Holy God was to be upon the basis of the shedding of blood, upon the basis of substitution, and that in God's appointed way, by the offering of a lamb. Scripture says that Abel came this way, admitting he was a sinner offering his blood-sacrifice, but Cain in the pride of his heart brought of the fruit of the ground. By bringing an offering of his own hands, he thus said to God that he was not a sinner and that God had judged him wrongly. And did you know, man is still saying the same thing today? 'No need for me to come by the way of blood redemption, for I am not the sinner God says I am.' Yes, spiritual pride lifts a man up to defy God saying he is not a sinner.

God in His sovereignty has put us into the family into which we were born, the nation into which we were born, the color of our skin He gave us, the environment and all that goes to make up our lives. We receive nothing, spiritually or physically, except it comes to us from above; so how can we be proud? If we have received anything in this life, it has come from God! **I Samuel 2:6** says: "The LORD killeth, and maketh alive...He bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them." Again we read in **Psalms 75:6,7**: "Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge; He putteth down one, and setteth up another." Yes, all things are in the hands of our sovereign God, and all things come from Him, so of what do we have to be proud?

How Pride Manifests Itself in Our Lives

if you happen to think that you're worth more to God than some other person, you've fallen victim to the sin of pride. It's distorted your view of reality, because the truth of the matter is, "there is no partiality with God,"¹ "nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands. Or if you look down on others because you think you're more righteous than they are, consider the parable which Jesus gave to those "who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else:

Do you know that pride comes in many forms? One prides himself in his humbleness. Another prides himself on his learning. Another prides himself on his ability to do things others cannot do. Another prides himself on the fact that he is not like other men, and yet he commits the same sins the other men commit! Another prides himself on the fact that he is not a drunkard, but yet he gambles. Another prides himself on the fact that he is not a wife-beater, but yet he is a tyrant in his home. Another prides himself that he would not steal, and yet he robs his soul of heaven by staying away from Christ. Another prides himself on his ability to invent and make things while he cannot control his own passions. Another prides himself on having the truth of God's Word and yet he will not share it with others; he holds it to himself and his friends. Another prides himself on the fact that he is not as other men; he looks down upon the weak and sick, poor and needy, and gives them no helping hand; he cries, "Let them get it the way I got mine, I worked hard for what I have. Do you think I'm to share it with someone else?"

What gives us the right to look down on others? Why would we boast of our skills or abilities? "For what makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive from God? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast?" Be careful not to take credit for God's work in your life. "Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture." Never presume to say to yourself, "My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth," but instead, "remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth." He is "the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways."

It was God who gave you your natural skills and abilities, and he didn't do it so that you can despise others. Believe it or not, God gave you your skills and abilities so that you can serve others. That's what He wants from us: for us to love each other. Jesus came, not to be served, but to serve. Jesus taught, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant and whoever desires to be first among you let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men - extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a

sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. **Luke 18: 9-14**

The Apostle John tells the story how one night Jesus "rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ...So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.'

Therefore, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or with a prideful arrogance, but in humility consider others more than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being God, made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross! If God so loved us this much, we also should love one another.

How to Fight Pride

So how do we fight against the sin of pride? First we need to recognize that we have a problem with Pride. This might be the hardest part, because as we have seen that pride skews our perception of reality, It lies to us. It says to us, "You don't have a problem with pride; you're not being proud, you're just being honest with yourself! You are better than everyone else and you deserve all the glory. You've established yourself by your wisdom and your might. You, you, you..." And it feels good. It's hard to see the truth when your own heart is lying to you. It's hard to stop and think, "No, I'm not worth more than anyone else, God loves us all the same and His opinion is the only one that really matters. And as for my glory, I didn't establish myself by my wisdom and might, I've just used the gifts which God has given me to do his will!

It's hard to humble yourself like that when you're stuck in pride. And it's hard to see the truth when you're lying to yourself. So you're going to need help. The Lord says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the

LORD, search the heart; I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." Your heart might be able to trick you, but it can't trick God!

So the very first thing to do is to get on your knees and pray. Search me, O God and see if there is any pride in me, I Ask God for mercy please Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness; according to your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me and cleanse me from my sin.

By asking for God's help you're actually humbling yourself before Him and God will honor that. The Scripture says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." This isn't just a warning to the proud; it's a promise to the humble. If you humble yourself before God in prayer,

God will pour His grace upon you. And while sin might be able to overcome you, it's no match for God's awesome power. So pray. Pray, pray. By praying you're, not only petitioning God to intercede on your behalf, which He'll do by His grace if you're sincere, you're actually combating the sin of pride yourself by humbling yourself before God, humility is the opposite of pride.

The next thing to do after God starts to show you areas where you're proud is to fight it mentally. When you experience sudden pride and you recognize it for what it is, mentally expose it. Admit to yourself that you're being proud and ask the Lord to forgive you.

The third and final thing to do is to tell your brothers and sisters in Christ that you're struggling with pride and ask them to pray for you. "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Let us examine ourselves regularly in this regards and learn to spot the workings of pride in our heart. One quick test; how do you react when someone criticizes you for something? Is your initial reaction one of resentment; how dare they say this to me. Then pride is at work in your heart. You see anger is a fruit that grows on the root of pride. Why do we get angry when someone criticizes us? Our pride is hurt. The fact that the accusations may not be true really doesn't matter. Your reaction is what matters. If the accusation is unfounded don't worry about it, God knows the truth and the truth will set you free. Our Lord Jesus was falsely accused and committed His case to His Father and ask him to forgive them for they know not what they do.

"God resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble". **James 4:6**

“The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee” **Obadiah 3.**

Yes, every proud person must be brought down: “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down; and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up, and he shall be brought low”
Isaiah 2:11-12.

IF YOU MISS HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION, YOU MISS REPENTANCE; IF YOU MISS REPENTANCE, YOU MISS SAVING FAITH; IF YOU MISS SAVING FAITH, YOU MISS CHRIST; IF YOU MISS CHRIST, YOU MISS HEAVEN; AND IF YOU MISS HEAVEN, YOU ARE ON THE ROAD TO HELL TO PAY FOR YOUR OWN SINS THROUGHOUT ETERNITY