

BEWARE OF PRIDE, BE HUMBLE

OCTOBER 24, 2021

WORSHIP

King Jesus, Eternal God,
Yet Not I But Through
Christ

WELCOME

Which moment of your
life did you feel the
proudest? What made
you feel proud?

WORD

1 PETER 5:5-6

⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time,

In this last message of the LIFE DETOX series, we learn that PRIDE is the most dangerous spiritual toxin. Why is it dangerous?

1. GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD

1 Peter 5:5-6 says that God is opposed to the proud. Opposed is a military term which connotes assembling an army to go against something. It is in present tense which means God is always and will continue to oppose proud people. Why is God against proud people?

God knows what pride can do. **Proverbs 16:5** and **18** show the reality that every proud person is an “abomination”. God detests and is angry towards proud people. The danger of pride is a certainty. The problem is that we can be proud without knowing it. Pride is about the self—self-glory, self-importance, and self-will. It gives priority to ego. Someone defined E.G.O. as “Edging God Out”. Pride and ego were the first sins ever committed by Satan/Lucifer (**Isaiah 14:12-14**). Pride is all about exalting yourself. As C.S. Lewis wrote, “Pride is the complete anti-God state of mind. It is the great sin that leads to all other sins, because pride is the exaltation of self above all authority, even God’s authority.” JN Darby also said, “Pride is the greatest of all evils that beset us, and of all our enemies, it is that which dies the slowest and hardest.”

Pride is the hardest sin to get rid of. You can even end up being proud if you try to be humble on your own terms! The pursuit of humility then becomes a vain pursuit.

2. GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

The word “grace” means something “undeserved”. Grace is the power that God gives us to live a sanctified life. With grace, we can endure trials and continue in the desire to live a life pleasing to Him. Humility is a choice; it is recognizing who God is. It is acknowledging that we are dependent upon God. It is God who will exalt you in His own time. Humility is not thinking low of ourselves or demeaning ourselves. It is not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of our selves less. If you are God-centered, you are empowered to think of others. Humility is also seeing ourselves as God sees us. It is recognizing that all that we are and all that we have come from God. Humility is when you surrender to His will. You trust Him fully knowing that He knows better than you. In humility, E.G.O. means “Exalt God Only”.

Here are 4 biblical examples that show the contrast between pride and humility:

a. Haman and Mordecai

In **Esther 3:1-2**, Haman was exalted by people around him, except Mordecai. When Haman saw this, he was filled with rage (**vv. 5-6**). He was not satisfied with power and felt entitled to respect. **Esther 5:9-11** shows how he was still bothered by Mordecai. Enamored by himself, he also allowed somebody to steal his joy. Ill-advised, Haman plotted to hang Mordecai. Haman’s pride led to many other sins including anger, bitterness, and even the desire to kill Mordecai. On the other hand, Mordecai did something great for King Ahasuerus without calling attention to himself (**Esther 2:21-23**).

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Yet the LORD allowed the king to see this recorded event (**Esther 6:1-3**) and he commanded Haman to honor Mordecai (**vv.6-10**). When it was revealed that Haman planned to kill Mordecai (**Esther 7:9**), Haman ended up the one hanged! Meanwhile, Mordecai was given power and was exalted.

b. King Uzziah

Pride will slowly and naturally creep into us. You can be humble, but possessions and success could make you proud. In **2 Chronicles 26**, we see Uzziah's great success, but "his heart was so proud... he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God..." (**v.16**). Pride is an issue of the heart. Uzziah thought he was above the law and felt entitled to do what he wanted to do. When corrected and rebuked, he responded in anger. When you have negative emotions, ask yourself why. For Uzziah, he was smitten by the Lord because he forgot his responsibilities that God has given him. He was no longer dependent on God and ended up having leprosy and disgraced in the eyes of men.

c. King Manasseh

In **2 Chronicles 33**, this evil king took the throne and claimed that his "name will be in Jerusalem forever". He ended up misleading Judah. God punished him by giving him over to the Assyrians who treated him disgracefully (**vv.10-11**). He entreated and prayed to God in humility and God restored him back to Jerusalem (**vv.12-13**). It is never too late to repent or humble oneself. Humility is making a choice to repent. God responds to a humble heart. He "gives greater grace" (**James 4:6**).

d. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Jesus gave the story in **Luke 18:9-14** to rebuke those who "trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt" (**v.9**). The Pharisee exalted himself as he prayed. His pride was in his self-righteousness. He ruthlessly compared himself to others, pointing out their lapses to lift himself up. The tax collector, on the other hand, asked for mercy and acknowledged his sin (**v.13**). Humble people experience salvation! Jesus declares the tax collector justified.

Check yourself using these 8 marks of humility:

- Are you rested in God's sovereignty?
- Are you thankful?
- Are you forgiving of others?
- Are you teachable?
- Do you have a servant heart?
- Are you judgmental?
- Have you surrendered your rights?
- Are you focused on God's glory?

If we learn to be like Jesus—gentle and humble in heart, we will find rest (**Matthew 11:28-29**). Rest is something we all long for but proud people are restless, always have something to prove. All the toxic things we talked about in this series can be traced back to PRIDE. In HUMILITY, we find complete and true restedness. May we make that choice to be humble in the presence and grace of our God!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Self-Check.

Why is pride dangerous?

2. Setting It Right.

How do you rate yourself in the 8 marks of humility? What can you do to improve?

3. Living It Out.

In what ways do you commit to sharing this truth, including the gospel, to others?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for proud hearts to be humbled before God—that people will acknowledge their sin of pride and come to repentance. Show humility to all people, even to those who belittle you. Share your humbling experience of coming to Christ and how they too can humbly receive God's grace of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

1 PETER 5:5-6

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