

beware of pride, be humble

Why is PRIDE the most dangerous spiritual toxin?

God is opposed to the proud (1 Peter 5:5-6)

Why is God opposed to proud people? Proverbs 16:5 and 18 tells us that every proud person is an “abomination” to God. God is always and will continue to oppose proud people. He detests proud people, and their path certainly leads to destruction. Pride is the first sin ever committed by Satan/Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-14). Pride is about the self — self-glory, self-importance, and self-will. 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.”

God gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5-6)

Humility is 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 we surrender to His will and trusting in Him fully knowing that He knows better than us. Humility is not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less. The Bible says God gives greater grace to the humble. 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.

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. He felt entitled to power and respect. Ill-advised, Haman plotted to hang Mordecai. Haman’s pride led to many other sins including anger, bitterness, and 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). 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 being 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

this week’s memory verse

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

ROMANS 12:2



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 the responsibilities that God had given him. He was no longer dependent on God, so he ended up having leprosy and being 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 gives greater grace and responds to a humble heart (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.

Evaluate 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?

Jesus is our ultimate example of humility, and He invites us to come and learn from Him for He is gentle and humble in heart. When we humble ourselves before Him, we will find true rest for our souls (Matthew 11:28-29). Let’s forever make the choice to pursue humility and give glory to God!

discussion questions

Why is pride dangerous?

How do you rate yourself when it comes to the 8 marks of humility?

How can you improve?

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