

**PRIDE
AND
ARRO-
GANCE**

WHEN PRIDE COMES, THEN COMES
DISGRACE, BUT WITH HUMILITY COMES
WISDOM. *_PROVERBS 11:2 (NIV)*

Pride and arrogance are defined as “*overly high opinion of oneself; self-absorbed; exaggerated self-esteem; conceit; giving oneself an undue degree of importance; haughty.*”

When we live out of unbelief, we:

- live only for our own benefit;
- see ourselves as more important than others;
- think and act selfishly;
- create strife, division and chaos;
- gossip and tear down others;
- are arrogant and rebellious;
- are jealous of others;
- take offense easily;
- become angry when our “rights” are violated;
- view ourselves above others; we will not “lower” ourselves to serve others;
- display a “my way or the highway” attitude;
- find it difficult to bend or be flexible (this is often rebellion).

Evidence of pride and arrogance:

- unable to see myself for who and what I really am;
- put my trust and confidence in myself (my capacities, my position, my deeds, my thinking and my experiences) rather than in God;
- cannot see others as God sees them;
- exalt myself instead of letting God “raise me up;”
- promote gossip and slander toward others;
- numerous obstacles to life change and improvement;
- stimulate strife, division and chaos;
- discontent; seeking pre-eminence for myself; insubordination;

Pride and arrogance are the foundations of Satan’s kingdom. Little wonder, then, that pride and arrogance keep us from experiencing God’s blessings and seeking His best. In fact, they can cause us actually to work against God!

DIAGNOSING PRIDE

- I find it easy to see the shortcomings and sins of others, but I often cannot see my own;
- I am critical of the positions, blessings, and gifts of others;
- I want others to know how wonderful I am, and I drop frequent hints - some subtle, some not so subtle - in praise of myself;
- I am willing to gossip and tear down others so I will look better than them;
- I am unwilling to “give in “ for the sake of others;
- I find it easy to follow my own advice, my own direction, and my own wisdom;
- I find it hard to receive and accept “godly advice, wisdom and correction” from others;
- I see myself as my own “leader and authority;”
- I am self-sufficient; I do not need others - and sometimes I don’t need God;
- I tend to get involved in arguments and conflicts;
- I consider myself “independent;”
- I often refer to my own “Christian” activities, “religious background”, or “spiritual life” as a benchmark for others.

2 Chronicles 26 tells of the life of Uzziah, who became king of Judah at the age of sixteen and ruled for fifty-two years. He sat under the spiritual mentoring of the prophet Jeremiah, and followed Jeremiah’s counsel. King Uzziah led Judah to many great conquests, strengthened the walls of Jerusalem, built cisterns, and caused the land to prosper. “As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.” (2 Chronicles 26:3)

The connection seems very clear. Uzziah relied on the Lord for direction, help and strength. He humbled himself - king or no king. God is not impressed with titles that we humans bestow on each other. God was then - and still is - more concerned about our ability to understand that we can do NOTHING without Him. Our foolish plans, our weak strength, and our inability to see the future continually point to our need to depend on the Lord.

As Uzziah’s story continues, his army became “a mean, lean fightin’ machine” with all the latest technology; the surrounding armies feared them. “His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.” (2 Chronicles 26:15)

Check out the turning point for Uzziah: “But after Uzziah became powerful, his PRIDE led to his downfall, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God.” (2 Chronicles 26:16) In his pride, Uzziah placed himself above God’s established authorities (the priests). He went into the temple and presented his own offerings before God - something only the priests were allowed to do. Pride convinced him that he was above everyone else and answered to no one; he was the king, after all, and could do whatever he wanted.

Notice God’s strong response to Uzziah’s pride and arrogance. Eighty courageous priests confronted him in the temple as he offered incense to the Lord. His reaction? “He flew into a rage and while raging the Lord struck him with leprosy.” (2 Chronicles 26:19) The chapter closes with Uzziah clinging to pride right up to his sad and difficult end of his life. “King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house, leprous and excluded from the temple of the Lord. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.” (2 Chronicles 26:21)

What did Uzziah’s pride and arrogance do for him? It brought God’s judgment, separation from the house of God, separation from those he loved, and greatly reduced the scope and length of his reign as king. In a sense, Uzziah became a prisoner of his own pride and arrogance.

Compare Uzziah’s life, eventually destroyed by pride, with the life of Moses, who scripture describes as “very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3). Moses always came to the Lord on behalf of the people of Israel, but could see himself for who and what he was in God’s eyes, always willing to confess his own sinfulness and his need for God.

THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT - “HUMILITY”

All of us would like God to pour out His blessing and favor on us - wouldn’t we? Consider that “God sets Himself up against the proud, but He shows favor to the humble.” (James 4:6, New Living Bible) What does this verse mean? Let’s check it out.

Resist means “withstand; oppose; fend off; stand firm against, withstand the action of, oppose actively; work against.” Imagine God resisting those of us who continue in a spirit of pride and arrogance. No wonder our lives lack power and the favor of God!

Now look at what God does for the humble of heart and mind. Webster defines favor as “approve, support, endorse; regard or treat with special advantages, special privileges, preferred treatment.” Wow!! Who doesn’t want to receive that from the Lord?

GERRY FRY DEFINES HUMILITY AS:

- a. *willingness to be known for who we really are;*
- b. *total dependence on God’s sufficiency;*
- c. *complete submission to the Lordship of Christ;*
- d. *absolute obedience to the Word and truth of God;*

WALKING IN HUMILITY

- I will view myself as a servant to everyone;
- I will grow in the character of Christ;
- I will look for the opportunity to see others “lifted up;”
- I will see myself in accord with the ways God sees me;
- I will acknowledge my shortcomings and sins in the presence of others so I can be encouraged in my walk with the Lord;
- I will acknowledge that all that I am, all that I have, and all that I do come to me from the Lord, and I can take no claim for myself;
- I will pray consistently for God to reveal to me any pride or arrogance that may be hidden in my life;
- I will understand that my only hope is in complete dependence on God and obedience to Him.

SCRIPTURES

YOU RESCUE THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLE,
BUT YOU HUMILIATE THE PROUD.

[_PSALM 18:27](#)

HE GUIDES THE HUMBLE IN WHAT IS RIGHT
AND TEACHES THEM HIS WAY.

[_PSALM 25:9](#)

TO FEAR THE LORD IS TO HATE EVIL; I HATE
PRIDE AND ARROGANCE, EVIL BEHAVIOR
AND PERVERSE SPEECH.

[_PROVERBS 8:13](#)

PRIDE ONLY BREEDS QUARRELS, BUT WISDOM IS FOUND IN THOSE WHO TAKE ADVICE. [_PROVERBS 13:10](#)

PRIDE GOES BEFORE DESTRUCTION, A HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL. [_PROVERBS 16:18](#)

PRIDE ENDS IN HUMILIATION, WHILE HUMILITY BRINGS HONOR. [_PROVERBS 29:23](#)

FOR FROM WITHIN, OUT OF A PERSON'S HEART, COME EVIL THOUGHTS, SEXUAL IMMORALITY, THEFT, MURDER, ADULTERY, GREED, WICKEDNESS, DECEIT, EAGERNESS FOR LUSTFUL PLEASURE, ENVY, SLANDER, PRIDE, AND FOOLISHNESS. ALL THESE VILE THINGS COME FROM WITHIN; THEY ARE WHAT DEFILE YOU AND MAKE YOU UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD." [_MARK 7:21-23](#)

PEOPLE WILL BE LOVERS OF THEMSELVES, LOVERS OF MONEY, BOASTFUL, PROUD, ABUSIVE, DISOBEDIENT TO THEIR PARENTS, UNGRATEFUL, UNHOLY, WITHOUT LOVE, UNFORGIVING, SLANDEROUS, WITHOUT SELF-CONTROL, BRUTAL, NOT LOVERS OF THE GOOD, TREACHEROUS, RASH, CONCEITED, LOVERS OF PLEASURE RATHER THAN LOVERS OF GOD.

[_2 TIMOTHY 3:2-4](#)

BUT IF YOU HAVE BITTER JEALOUSY AND SELFISH AMBITION IN YOUR HEART, DO NOT BE ARROGANT AND SO LIE AGAINST THE TRUTH. [_JAMES 3:14](#)

FOR SPEAKING OUT ARROGANT WORDS OF VANITY THEY ENTICE BY FLESHLY DESIRES, BY SENSUALITY, THOSE WHO BARELY ESCAPE FROM THE ONES WHO LIVE IN ERROR, PROMISING THEM FREEDOM WHILE

THEY THEMSELVES ARE SLAVES OF CORRUPTION; FOR BY WHAT A MAN IS OVERCOME, BY THIS HE IS ENSLAVED. [_2 PETER 2:18-19](#)

WATCH WHAT GOD DOES, AND THEN YOU DO IT, LIKE CHILDREN WHO LEARN PROPER BEHAVIOR FROM THEIR PARENTS. MOSTLY WHAT GOD DOES IS LOVE YOU. KEEP COMPANY WITH HIM AND LEARN A LIFE OF LOVE. OBSERVE HOW CHRIST LOVED US. HIS LOVE WAS NOT CAUTIOUS BUT EXTRAVAGANT. HE DIDN'T LOVE IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING FROM US BUT TO GIVE EVERYTHING OF HIMSELF TO US. LOVE LIKE THAT. [_EPHESIANS 5:1 \(THE MESSAGE\)](#)

DON'T FORGET THIS

You must conduct a serious campaign against pride/arrogance. Use the following "4 R's" to guide you:

REPENT of the sin of pride/arrogance; name it and confess - specifically - how it has been evidenced in your life. Receive God's forgiveness;

REBUKE Satan's influence through your life because of your pride/arrogance, and renounce the lies surrounding pride/arrogance;

REPLACE the sin of pride/arrogance by walking in the opposite spirit (humility). This occurs as we affirm the truth, renew our minds in it continually, and memorize and meditate on what the scriptures say about it;

RECEIVE the infilling and empowering work of the Holy Spirit to live in the truth of humility.

Seek it and depend on it at all times to walk in the spirit of Christ. This is crucial. Receive the work that God has done and is doing in us (and live in it) in faith!