

PRIDE

The Downfall of Man

1 Peter 3:8

What is pride exactly? Pride is a lie we believe about ourselves, entitling us to more than we actually deserve, whether material or praise. Pride is the subconscious belief that you are in the place of God, the belief that you determine your own destiny and the conditions declaring how good you are.

Where Did Pride Originate?

The first being to ever possess pride was Lucifer, the former high cherub of God. *Isaiah 14:12-15* "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.."

Ezekiel 28:13-17 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you."

Lucifer's name (morning star) was changed to Satan which means adversary, the arch enemy of good. Satan, filled with pride, looked down upon God and tried to overthrow Him.

Revelation 12:7-9 "Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the

dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

Satan, through the Serpent in the garden of Eden, deceived Eve (1 Timothy 2:12-14) into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As soon as Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit they disobeyed God by putting their own will above God's. Their eyes were opened, they did not become like God, but like the one they had chosen to follow, Satan. Since the fall of man sin spread to every person (Romans 5:18-19) and everyone is born into sin (Psalm 51:5). We all, unless we are chosen of God (Ephesians 1:3-14), are followers of Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4), walking in pride, lifting up ourselves as our own god. After man (Adam and Eve) disobeyed God, God confronted man about their sin, and instead of confessing their sin, they chose to blame someone else. *Genesis 3:11-13* says, “He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Man's pride deceives him and keeps him from taking ownership of his sin. No one will confess their sin while they are still holding on to pride. Pride has infected man like a virus from the time of the fall.

When women are choosing to live under the curse (pride) they will reject God's Word concerning their role as a wife, and try to control their husband (Genesis 3:16, Ephesians 5:22-24, 1 Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Peter 3:1-6). They will also desire independence and the place of authority (1 Corinthians 14:34-35, 1 Timothy 2:12-14). Men, instead of working to live, will live to work for the sake of prestige (1 John 2:15-17), neglecting their role as a husband and father (Ephesians 5:25-31, Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7, Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21). Christians who make excuses (complain) before other believers regarding why they don't have enough time for their families are self-righteously justifying their disobedience to the Word of God. People protect their pride by making what they believe are legitimate excuses, while totally ignoring their conscience (Hebrews 10:22, James 4:17). If the excuses that you make before others are not acceptable before God, then the motives of your heart for making them are arrogant. Christians should hate pride! Pride will only cause dissension between a person's relationship with God and others. Pride will only bring you down a road of misery and destruction (Proverbs 16:18).

Understanding Pride

The first and most important information we must understand about pride is: “Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.” - *Proverbs 16:5*. *James 4:6* says, “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” An abomination according to the Greek is, to^αe^αbah to^αe^αbah, which is properly something **disgusting** (morally), that is, (as noun) an **abhorrence**, especially *idolatry* or (concretely) an *idol*. Why are those proud in heart, an abhorrence to the Lord? When we are proud in heart we do not obey, trust or believe in the true God. We put ourselves in the place of God when we believe in our own way. When we are our own god, we break the first commandment that God laid out in the Ten Commandments, *Exodus 20:3*, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Pride keeps people from accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. A person possessing a prideful heart is unwilling to embrace the one who truly loves them enough to sacrifice His life for their sins.

If you are a child of God you will “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” - *1 Peter 5:6-7*. God commands His children to walk with an attitude of humility in *Ephesians 4:1-2*, *Philippians 2:3* and *Colossians 3:12*.

When God’s children choose to hold on to a prideful attitude their Heavenly Father disciplines them through His loving kindness (*Hebrews 12:5-7*). A person cannot have Jesus Christ as Lord of their life (*Romans 10:9-10*) and live with a proud heart (*1 John 3:9*). A proud heart resists Jesus Christ as Lord. Lord in the Greek is kuros, which means **supreme** in authority, that is, (as noun) **controller**, by implication *Mr.* (as a respectful title): - God, Lord, master, Sir. When you have Jesus Christ as your “Lord” you go from obeying yourself (*1 John 2:3-6*), trusting in your own understanding (*Proverbs 3:5-7*), and from believing in yourself to believing in Jesus Christ (*John 3:16*). You are no longer the master (Lord) of your life, Jesus Christ is! Jesus said, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? - *Luke 6:46*. *Matthew 7:21-23*, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ *John 15:14*, “You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Proverbs 18:12 says, "Before shattering, the heart of man is proud, and before honor is humility." Before salvation God shatters a person's proud heart and changes it from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh (*Ezekiel 11:17-21*, *2 Corinthians 5:17*).

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." What does it mean to be "poor in spirit?" It can not mean financially poor in this world, but poor in the sense of the soul. *Psalms 51:17* says, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." "Poor in Spirit" refers to those who are humble before the Lord because, you cannot receive the kingdom of God unless you accept who you really are, a lost sinner. That is why Jesus goes on to say, "Blessed are those who mourn: for they shall be comforted." Those who mourn over (confess and repent of) their sin will receive forgiveness. In *Matthew 18:1-4* it says, "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

One of the biggest examples of God humbling or changing someone is seen in the book of *Daniel 4:28-37*, "All this came on the King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spoke and said, Is this not great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice fell from Heaven, saying, O 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 animals 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 will. The same hour the thing was fulfilled on Nebuchadnezzar. And he was driven from men, and ate grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of the heavens, until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws (*Proverbs 11:2*). And at the end of days, I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up my eyes to Heaven, and my understanding returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored Him who lives forever, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His rule is from generation to generation. And all the people of the earth are counted as nothing; and He does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the people of the earth. And none can strike His hand, or say to Him, What are

You doing? At that time my reason returned to me. And the glory of my kingdom, my honor and brightness returned to me. And my advisers and my lords came for me, and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and exalt and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth and His ways judgment. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble.”

The children of God succumb to pride when they forget about God and neglect the commands of God to meditate on His Word (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 1, Romans 12:1-2). Pride blinds them from the fact that there is nothing good within them, in and of themselves (Romans 7:18). The provisions God blesses His children with are no longer viewed as given to them out of His grace and mercy. Pride deceives people into thinking that they are prosperous in the world because of what they have done, and thus give neither thankfulness nor the full credit due God. Blessings become a stumbling block, a reason for boasting, and a new god. For example: *Deuteronomy 8:11-20* says, “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud, and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

God Protects His Children

God protected the Apostle Paul from becoming proud by giving him a thorn in the flesh. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 says, “[Indeed, it is not profitable for me to boast. For I will come to visions and revelations of *the* Lord. I know a man in Christ fourteen years before (whether in *the* body, I do not know; or outside of *the* body, I do not know; God knows) such a one was caught up to *the* third Heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), that he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not allowed for a man to utter. I will glory of such a one, yet I will not boast on my behalf, except in my weaknesses. For if I desire to boast, I shall not be foolish. For I will speak the truth. But I spare, lest anyone should think of me as *being* beyond what he sees me, or hears of me; and by the surpassing revelations, lest I be made haughty, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be made haughty. For this thing I besought the Lord three times, that it might depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may overshadow me. Therefore I am pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.”

Paul makes it very clear that when we are weak physically our pride is diminished so, we can be used by God effectively for His kingdom. For example, many people marvel at the testimonies of believers who reflect the joy of the Lord through a handicapped body. If a believer is weak in their physical body the power of the Holy Spirit shining through them is magnified before the world. The world relies on circumstantial joy and peace of mind. Believers depend on the Holy Spirit for joy, peace and contentment, which is illuminated in the midst of difficult physical circumstances, as well as verbal persecutions, indignities, and insults.

“...for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

Many times throughout a believers life, like the children of Israel, God will call them to repent if they have been walking in pride. If believers will not turn from their pride God will chastise them. Sometimes, however, God prevents us from becoming prideful by taking away the one thing in our life He knows will cause us to think more highly of ourselves. God will also, not answer a prayer for anything He knows will cause us to become conceited. For example: some believers become discouraged when God will not put them into a certain position of authority in the church. 1 Timothy 3:6 says, (Concerning the office of a deacon) “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.” Pride makes it difficult for a believer to trust God’s perfect timing and His every decision concerning their life. Thus, the anxiety which is manifested in pride can cultivate frustration

and discontentment for lack of achievement, status, or upward social or professional positions.

Pride Causes Disunity.

A. Among Believers.

Proverbs 13:10 says, "Only by pride comes argument, but with those who take advice is wisdom."

Proverbs 28:25 says, "He who is of a proud heart stirs up fighting; but he who puts his trust in Jehovah shall be made fat."

James 4:1-10 says, "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

The root of every argument between two people is pride and selfishness. Selfish arguments degrade Christian relationships. Pride deceives one into thinking that they are more righteous than others so, anyone that corrects them or suggests a contrary point of view would appear to be over stepping their rights. For example: A "How dare you!" attitude is set in mind. The arrogant person who is corrected or questioned believes they have the right to act selfishly or have a negative attitude (Proverbs 3:4-7). Their pride blinds them into thinking that the error they are committing isn't error at all (Jeremiah 17:9-10, Obadiah 1:3). If an arrogant person is aware of their sin they will still argue against reproof (Proverbs 10:17; 15:31). Pride eliminates respect for others and without respect for the reprover no correction will be made (Proverbs 12:1).

The believer who tries to correct or judge someone with an attitude of pride is fulfilling what Christ said in Matthew 7:1-5 (the log in your eye is pride). Arrogant people do not reprove others out of love but criticism. Instead of praying for a believer caught in sin, arrogant people will try and reprove others in their own strength by arguing with them. God's Word makes it clear that believers are not to argue with other believers (Philippians 2:14, 1 Peter 5:6). Christians should humble themselves and depend on God through prayer for change in others. We should always see ourselves as sinners, and examine our own lives and our own transgressions against God just like everyone else (Romans 3:23). Only when we compare ourselves to others do we fall prey to the deception of pride (2 Corinthians 10:12). The truth is; our righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) and the only person we should ever compare ourselves to is Jesus Christ (Romans 7:18, Hebrews 5:9, 1 John 2:1-6). While in the flesh (Romans 8:8) believers will abstain from correcting others until they finally lash out at others in wrath. The person confronted will not only feel attacked but will be. God's Word says, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." - *James 1:19-20*.

B. In The Family

The role of the husband is affected by pride when he chooses to think of himself more highly than his wife (Romans 12:3). This is evidenced when the husband finds his wife increasingly annoying or foolish to him. It is not so much that his wife maybe foolish (Proverbs 21:9; 25:24), but that he chooses to complain about her rather than listen or contemplate her view, or pray for her. A proud husband will desire to escape or isolate himself from his wife seeing her as unworthy of his presence and alleged superiority. He will criticize his wife to others even his own children and will not consider himself as part of the problem. Most of all, confrontations between a husband and his wife will be, to him, unfairly instigated by his wife who is thought unreasonable. He will feel justified when he treats her with unkindness and will constantly see her as his cause of discontentment rather than his helpmate, who is to be honored, cherished, and loved by him.

Most men feel they are entitled to seeing their expectations for the home met after a hard day of work. As the 'chief breadwinner', men may feel that they are entitled to being treated like a king after working hard so, their selfish actions, as far as they are concerned, are justified. A husband will think to himself, "I worked hard all day, I deserve MORE from my wife right now!" Unmet expectations are why so many husbands end up arguing with their wives when they come home from work. Pride deceives men into thinking they have a right to be selfish and deserving of special or privileged treatment.

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,”
“Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.” -*Ephesians 5:25 and Colossians 3:19*.

A conceited father will not set a good example for his children by confessing sin and asking for forgiveness from them. Instead, he will live a secretive, guarded and hypocritical life, acting as though he is never wrong. A prideful father sets up a psychological wall between him and his children. Since he set the example of refusing to confess or live with an attitude of daily repentance, his children will most likely follow in his footsteps. His pride will deceive him from seeing that his example of arrogance has led his children to become arrogant, confrontational, and disobedient towards him. He will not understand why it is so hard for them to admit when they are wrong and why they are so secretive. His children will rebuff authority, and think more highly of themselves than they should and will look down on their siblings. If everyone in a family is looking down on each other it will be hard for them to consistently get along, or to resolve confrontations between one another. They will also find it very easy to gossip about one another and hardly ever see themselves as part of the problem. They will mainly desire to hear praise from their father and will find it very hard to receive disapproval of their decisions. Jealousy will result between the siblings of a proud father causing disputes and confusion over who their father loves more. “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.” - *James 3:16*.

Children of a proud father who have become proud themselves seek their father's praise and not for the sake of bringing glory to God. His children will love to be flattered and will use flattery to get what they want from others (Proverbs 29:5) A proud father's love is very conditional and based upon how his children make him look, and whether they live life according to his standards, not God's. Asking for prayer for himself or his children would not be the probable response of a father who cares more about how he looks before men compared to how concerned he is about his children's spiritual well-being. A proud father would rather keep his children's sins secret, rather than encourage confession, repentance and biblical counseling. A proud father who attends church will promote hypocrisy, training his children to act one way at church and another way when they are home.

Concerning the role of the wife, women who refuse to obey God by refusing to submit are falling to pride. Women who choose not to submit to their husbands are basically saying, “I don't care what God's Word says! I know better!” God's Word is clear. *Ephesians 5:22-24* says, “Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.” One good indicator of a woman who struggles with pride is her reaction to these verses when brought up in conversation. A prideful wife will also criticize her husband

before others and even to her own children. A proud wife who believes that she is the most spiritually responsible one in the family will be reluctant to leave the leadership role up to her husband, usurps him, and enables her husband to abandon his God-appointed leadership role in the family.

God has declared the husband head of the wife providing physical and spiritual protection. When a wife chooses not to listen to her Godly spiritual discerning husband regarding avoiding certain so called biblical teaching she is leaving herself open for deception. *1 Timothy 2:11-14* says, "Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor." Only a prideful wife who sees herself as more spiritual than her husband will resist her husband's spiritual guidance and choose to believe what she thinks is best. Not only will she be disobeying God, she will be causing division in her marriage and a great deal of confusion for her children.

When a married couple keeps secrets from one another they are too proud to admit or confess to their spouse something they have done. Secret sins committed against your spouse without confession and forgiveness are blocks of separation that keep building up over the years. Eventually, even if a couple is still married by law,

in their hearts they have already signed the divorce papers. They will no longer be cleaved as one in an intimate, Godly relationship, but two individuals who have learned to put up with each other's existence. It is pride that keeps us from confessing our sin to one another. *James 5:16* says, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." When you do not confess sins to your spouse you are enabling them to put their trust in you instead of God. Without the constant reminder that you are an imperfect human in need of prayer and forgiveness, neglecting God will become very easy. If Christ is not your spouses source of love he or she will fall under the curse. Keeping secrets from our spouse is not what protects them, it is the source of what separates you from them. *Jeremiah 17:5-9* says, Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand

it? Even though you are a professing believer, you still sin. If we do not confess our sins to one another we will have a false view of each other. Believers will develop high expectations of each other. This is why believers are so shocked when they find out their spouse committed a sin because, the kind of trust that we should only have in God is placed upon our spouse. We should never be shocked or surprised when someone confesses their sin! Believers should rejoice! If your spouse or someone you know confesses their sin, asking for forgiveness, they have just obeyed God by humbling themselves. Only an attitude of arrogance would cause anger towards a person who has confessed their sin and asked for forgiveness.

C. In the Church

Pride causes contamination of the body of believers. One example of this is found in *1 Corinthians 5:1-2*, "It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst."

The Corinthian church, like many churches today, willingly chose to disobey God by not practicing church discipline. They feared men more than God and by joining "The Nice Club" they forfeited church purity. *Proverbs 29:25* says, "The fear of man brings a snare: but whoever puts his trust in the LORD shall be safe." They either cared too much about what others would think if they found out about this professing believer's sin or they didn't want to lose members for the sake of church growth (money).

The perspective of believers put in authority in the church has diminished to the point of seeing pastor's and elder's authority over others as optional. While the role of pastors, elders and deacons still exists, the thought of them exercising authority over church members is looked at as some mere idea. The majority of modern churches today seem to think of their pastors, elders and deacons as those made to accommodate the congregation. Pride keeps people from seeing those put in God ordained authoritative positions in the church as leaders. Believers are obligated to submit to church leadership (Ephesians 4:11-14). *Hebrews 13:17* says, "Yield to those leading you, and be submissive, for they watch for your souls, as those who must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you." *1 Timothy 5:17* says, "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching."

The apostle Paul warned the elders of the church in the book of Acts to watch out for men among them who would resist their authority. These arrogant men that Paul warned the

elders of the church about are why so many different denominations of the church of Jesus Christ exist today. When men become puffed up in themselves they resist the authority of the church and form their own new denomination. *Act 20:28-30* says, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them."

Sometimes true obedient followers of the Word of God have to break away from a church body because their local church has resisted the authority of the scriptures. For example; the great reformer Martin Luther broke free from the Roman Catholic church. Martin Luther may have resisted those put in authority over him in the Catholic Church, but they were resisting the authority of God and the absolute truth of scripture. Such circumstances call for standing up against those resisting the authority of the Word of God and breaking free from serving under them if they do not confess and repent of their own sin.

D. In Our Prayer Life

Our prayer life is effected when we no longer are praying to God with a "Not as I will but as you will" mentality (Matthew 26:39). When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray He said, "Therefore pray in this way: Our Father, who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. - *Matthew 6:9-10*. Pride causes us to view God as if He is our own personal genie; as though we have the power to change God's will through prayer (1 John 5:14). *Numbers 23:19* says, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" Prayer is not meant to direct God into doing what we want. Prayer is meant to change us, to keep His Word constantly in our mind (1 Thessalonians 5:17), so our every decision is based upon His direction. God does answer prayer (James 5:16-18), however, it is always according to what He has already determined to do (Matthew 6:7-8). *1 John 5:14* says, "And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." Since Jesus Christ is perfect, we should only want what He desires (Psalm 37:4).. We are corrupt and imperfect humans. Does it make sense to expect God to give us what we want if we are corrupt sinners? Believers should only pray that their desires will be the same as their Heavenly Father's (Proverbs 3:5-6). God, Jesus Christ, is the one that is perfect and makes perfect decisions concerning your life, not you! Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-- yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and

then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. -*James 4:13-16*

Pride Brings destruction.

Proverbs 15:25 "The LORD tears down the house of the proud but maintains the widow's boundaries."

God is perfect, and every decision that He makes is perfect. Nothing happens apart from God's Sovereign will, so when we give in to the deception of pride, we believe that our way is better than God's way. Since God's way is perfect, and our way is flawed, our way causes destruction in the end (James 1:14-15, Proverbs 16:25). Jesus Christ during His ministry on earth gave a parable concerning putting our trust in our own wisdom in *Matthew 7:24-27* "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock. And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house. And it did not fall, for it was founded on a rock. And everyone who hears these sayings of Mine and does not do them shall be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house. And it fell, and great was its fall."

The destruction or the fall, which follows after pride can apply in many circumstances in life ranging from everyday mistakes to the fall of great leaders. King David was influenced by Satan to put his security in the number of the people of Israel rather than in God. God quickly brings David to his knees for his act of pride, turning him back to a state of humble dependence (1 Chronicles 21:1-17).

2 Chronicles 32:24-28 says, "In those days Hezekiah was sick to death, and prayed to Jehovah. And He spoke to him, and He gave him a sign. But Hezekiah did not give again according to the good done to him, for his heart was lifted up. And there was wrath on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. And Hezekiah was humbled for the pride of his heart, he and the people of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of Jehovah did not come on them in the days of Hezekiah. And Hezekiah had exceedingly much riches and honor. And he made himself treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all kinds of pleasant jewels. And he made storehouses for the increase of grain and wine and oil, and stalls for all kinds of animals, and stalls for flocks." *Proverbs 29:23* says, "A man's pride shall bring him low; but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit."

Having a high view of yourself is like coming to the edge of a cliff, which is too far for you to jump across but, you say to yourself, "I can make it across this thing!" Even though those around you assure you that you will not make it across, you jump anyway and plunge to your death. *Proverbs 16:18* says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Pride Causes Hypocrisy

First Corinthians 8:1 says that, "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies." The Pharisees possessed knowledge of the scriptures, but did not apply what it said to their lives (John 8:39). Wisdom is knowledge of God's Word applied to a person's life. When a person walks with Godly wisdom they fulfill God's commands by loving others. Knowledge of God's Word without application is rebellion.

Jesus Christ in *Matthew 23:2-12* said, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do. But do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy and hard-to-carry burdens and lay them on men's shoulders. But they will not move them with one of their fingers. But they do all their works in order to be seen of men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. And they love the first couch at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the market-places, and to be called, Rabbi! Rabbi! by men. But you must not be called Rabbi, for One is your teacher, Christ, and you are all brothers. And call no one your father on the earth, for One is your Father in Heaven.. Nor be called teachers, for One is your Teacher, even Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he who shall humble himself shall be exalted." Pride causes us to desire the praise of men, which belongs only to God.

Proverbs 30:32 says, "If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth." *Proverbs 27:2* says, "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips." *Proverbs 25:27* says, "It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory."

Lust for vain recognition will influence us to portray ourselves as though we are something we are not. Since we are deceived by our pride, we ignore our sin and criticize others for their sin. Those deceived by pride believe they are righteous because of how they view themselves, which is not righteousness at all (Luke 18:9-14). Jesus Christ is the source of love that flows from a believer through the Holy Spirit. Pride cuts off the love that flows from us through the Holy Spirit turning us into selfish, defensive, offended, annoyed Christians, and people with high expectations of others. Pride removes us from living the life of a servant

and replaces it with expectations of glory, praise, recognition, honor, fear, love, service, perfection, and humility from others. *Ezekiel 16:49* says, "Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom; **Pride**. Fullness of bread and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters. Nor did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Other people are not as important to those who walk with a prideful attitude.

Those who do not live with an attitude of daily repentance cannot understand why God would call King David, a man after His own heart, when David committed adultery and murder. King David, after sinning against God, confessed and repented of his sins. After the sin a believer has committed is forgiven by God upon confession, only the righteousness that God works through them is taken into account by God. A hypocrite cannot understand the process of confession, repentance and forgiveness because, they are still hiding their sin. A hypocrite is deceived by pride and relies on comparing themselves to others for their spiritual security. Confession, repentance, and forgiveness is foreign to a hypocrite. If a person does not understand the process of humbling themselves before the Lord, they will not understand the Bible. *1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6* says, "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk (*live out the Word*) in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say (*Matthew 23:28, live hypocritically*) we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say (*live hypocritically*) we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Professing believers who live a secretive life, or in other words, a hypocritical life, will usually think that these verses are addressed to unbelievers. However, 1 John was written to the church. Believers are supposed to live in a constant state of confession and repentance. *1 John 5:16* says, "Therefore, confess your sins, to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." When a person is born again, they do not say a prayer and go on living life the way they

think it should be lived. A hypocrite says a prayer, professes Christ, continues to sin and confesses it to no one. The mindset of a hypocrite is basically, “*Well, I confessed my sin to God and I just can’t stop sinning. There is no way I am going to tell anyone about this sin so, God will just have to keep on forgiving me.*” Hypocrites are too proud to admit their sin to anyone, to seek biblical counseling, or admit to themselves that they need more help. Rather, they consistently (secretly) ask God to forgive them for a sin they know they are not going to stop practicing (1 John 3:9).

Concerning confession and repentance in the early church, *Acts 19:18-20* says, “Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all (true repentance). And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

A prideful heart that does not confess sin, repent and ask for forgiveness is the very reason why Jesus said, “*If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.*” - to the Pharisees in John chapter nine. The Pharisees were so arrogant that even though they witnessed miraculous proof that Jesus was the Son of God, they would not accept Him as the Messiah.

“*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, “*Go, wash in the pool of Siloam*” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘*Go to Siloam and wash.*’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He

said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out (*Pure arrogance on behalf of the Pharisees*). Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see (those who are humble) may see, and those who see (those who are arrogant) may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt (they have guilt because of unconfused sin); but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

After reading John chapter nine your first reaction to the Pharisees might be something like, "What is wrong with these guys, are they ludicrous?" The Pharisees like so many others are blinded by the sin of pride. *2 Corinthians 4:3-4* says, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world (Satan) has blinded

the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

When Pride is Present Love is Absent

Pride gives birth to jealousy, bitterness, un-forgiveness, un-confessed sin, hypocrisy, a critical spirit, unkindness, impatience, complaining, high expectations of others, self-deception, selfishness and hate.

Love is the opposite of Pride. 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 makes it very clear that good deeds done to bring glory to yourself instead of God profits you nothing spiritually. “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing (*John 15:5*). If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Without the Holy Spirit dwelling within a person agape love will never come from them. 1 *John 4:7-9* says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”

Pride prevents people from loving one another because it produces selfish expectations of others. A person resists their God given design to serve by making themselves god. When a person has the mindset that they are their own god they “WANT,” have expectations, that need to be met, and desire worship. Expectations (wants) rob people of gratitude, joy and contentment. People were designed by God to love one another by obeying Jesus Christ as Lord or doing just what He commands. Pride and agape love cannot co-exist.

The Perfect Example of Humility

Philippians 2:1-11 says, “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry

or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Jesus Christ is the best example of one who walks in humility. Jesus never gave into pride throughout his whole earthly life before the cross. How can we justify our actions that result from a prideful heart when the King of kings humbled himself and left us with the perfect example of how to live a humble life? We have no excuse for any prideful thought or action! *1 Peter 2:23* says, "When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly." Does *1 Peter 2:23* describe the way you react towards others outwardly and inwardly? Do you react to unkindness from others with civility on the outside but on the inside with contempt? *Proverbs 26:18-26* says, "Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, 'I am only joking!' For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases. As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife. The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are fervent lips with an evil heart. Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart; though his hatred be covered with deception, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly."

Born again believers understand that every human being on this earth sins whether saved or not saved. Unbelievers are slaves to sin and born again believers are slaves to righteousness encompassed by fallen human flesh.. In other words, born again believers have to choose to sin and unbelievers have to choose to do good (Romans 6). We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck

out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." - *Matthew 7:1-5.*

Pride causes us to forget about the fact that we have no right, no matter what, to criticize, ridicule, or view others with contempt.. You are no better than anyone else! If Jesus Christ, the King of kings, not only commands humility, but sets the example of it, then believers have no excuse. Believers have to humble themselves in order to love others, in order to follow God's commandments and in order to be saved. - John 13:34-35. For example, in Matthew 19:16-22 a young man asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, and Jesus reveals the man's heart by telling him to go and sell everything he has to give to the poor. First, the young man through pride lies and claims to have kept all the commandments of God. Second, the young man's true god is revealed when he refuses to give up all he has to follow Christ. The young man's god was his wealth, the things of this world. Pride blinded the young man from seeing who Jesus was, and kept him from seeing eternal life as more valuable than his earthly treasures. "And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? No one is good except the Father. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."

What is the End Result

A. Pride Causes us to Hate Others.

When someone you know treats you with unkindness, and you choose to criticize them, you are thinking more highly of yourself. If you dislike them, (not just what they do) you basically hate them (Hate - From a primary word misos; to *detest (to dislike somebody or something very much)*; by extension to *love less*). The words dislike and hate are fueled by the same emotions when pertaining to others. If you dislike them, you have no desire to be around them, which is the same as hating them. If you could care less if they moved away, or if you never had to see them again, you hate them. The opposite of love is hate. Jesus warned us about this type of prideful attitude towards others when He said, "But I say to you that

everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell." - *Matthew 5:22*.

There are no words to justify actions that stem from a prideful heart. *Proverbs 10:18* says, "He who hides hatred with lying lips, and he who speaks a slander, is a fool." "He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart." - *Proverbs 26:24*. You might be saying to yourself, "*I don't do that!*" If you act with kindness toward others when you are around them, but when they are gone slander or belittle (*Proverbs 11:12; 14:21*) them, you do. You can't say to yourself, "*Well..., they're unsaved, that is why I have no desire to be around them or like them*" (*Proverbs 13:10*). That is the attitude of a proud Pharisee (*Luke 18:9-14*), which is contrary to Christ. If you are filled with the Spirit you will have a desire to share the gospel with them, not only with words, but by your actions. You will have a desire to be with them for the same reason Christ desired to be around the unsaved (*Luke 5:30-32, Isaiah 53:6*).

Right now, you are probably thinking, "*How is it possible to like people I really cannot stand to be around?*" First, you have to humble yourself. Do not see yourself as better than anyone. Contemplate what God has commanded you to do. *1 John 3:23*, "And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us." Second, keep in mind that your hatred should be directed towards their influencer (the army of darkness), who has deceived them into sinning or living in sin. *Ephesians 6:10-12*, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." Thirdly, remember, when you are tempted to hate (dislike) others, you need to renew your mind with the Word of God. *Titus 3:3-9* says, "For we ourselves WERE once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. BUT when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to

good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Read and meditate on passages such as Ephesians chapter four because, it is time away from the Word of God that allows our mind to slip back to our prideful way of thinking.

B. The Pride of Men Will Come Back to Haunt Them.

Proverbs 14:3 says, "In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise shall keep them."

Where there is pride in the heart, and no wisdom in the head to suppress it, it commonly shows itself through our speech or body language.. *In the heart there is pride*, proud boasting, proud censuring, proud scorning, proud commanding and giving law. Pride grows from a root of bitterness which is in the heart; it is a rod from that stem. The root must be plucked up, or it will grow into a rod of pride which strikes others. The proud man with his mouth ridicules, criticizes and slanders others, but it will in the end be a rod to himself. The proud man will come under humiliating correction by the words of his own mouth and will be beaten with his own rod (Psalm 64:8). The lips of the wise shall preserve them from speaking foolishness against others which proud men do, and from bringing that mischief on themselves which haughty scorers often do. *Proverbs 3:33-34* says, "The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous. Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor."

C.. The Pride of Man leads him to Hell.

Isaiah 5:14 says, "So hell has enlarged itself, and opened its mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pride, and he who rejoices in her, shall go down into it."

Those who are proud in heart will be humbled, abased, and all their honors laid in the dust. The pride of man will fall effectually by death and the grave. Their glory shall descend, not only to the earth, but into it and it shall not descend after them (Psalm 49:17). *Matthew 25:29* says, "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will abound. But from him who has not, even that which he has shall be taken away from him." Did they glory in their numbers? Their multitude shall go down to the pit, *Ezekiel 31:18*; *Ezekiel 32:32*. Did they glory in the figure they made? Their pomp shall be at an end; their shouts with which they triumphed, and were attended. Did they glory in their mirth? Death will turn it into

mourning, *Jeremiah 13:16* says, "Give glory to Jehovah your God, before He causes darkness, and before your feet stumble on the dark mountains, and, while you look for light, He turns it into the shadow of death, setting up deep gloom." So, the worldly wise man and the mighty man will meet together in the grave and under mortifying judgments. If a man sets himself high, death will bring him low, *Isaiah 5:14-16*. *Isaiah 23:9* says, "Jehovah of Hosts has purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory and to bring into contempt all the weighty of the earth."

Conclusion

How do we go from a prideful attitude to a humble mindset?

First, we must always compare ourselves to Christ; to perfection (*Hebrews 5:9*). *2 Corinthians 10:12* says, "Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding."

Second, always remember that the only thing we deserve is hell. *Lamentations 3:22-23* says, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." The only good and righteous thing in your life is Jesus Christ (*Galatians 2:20*).

Third, Jesus Christ will not share His glory because no one deserves glory (exaltation) except Him. *1 Corinthians 1:27-31* says, "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and God has chosen the base things of the world, and things which are despised, and things which are not, in order to bring to nothing things that are; **so that no flesh should glory in His presence.** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who of God is made to us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; so that, according as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." *Jeremiah 9:23-24* says, "So says Jehovah, Do not let the wise glory in his wisdom, nor let the mighty glory in his might; do not let the rich glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am Jehovah, doing kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth; for in these I delight, says Jehovah." *2 Corinthians 10:17* says, "But he who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

God will not share His glory with anyone, not even the prophet Moses. *Numbers 12:3* says, "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth."

Moses was humble, however, he was not perfect and in one instance chose to react to the people of Israel with pride. "Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them, and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him. Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." - *Numbers 20:6-12*. The key word in this passage is "WE." Moses should never have made himself out to be equal with God. Moses, in humility could speak to God one on one (*Numbers 12:6-8*) but, because of his irrational moment of pride he brought shame upon himself (*Proverbs 11:2*).

Fourth, Consistently remember, apart from Christ you (*Romans 7:18*) are worthless, a sinner meant to be cast into hell (*Revelation 20:15*). Pride is a high view of ourselves that is not true (*1 Corinthians 10:12*). If you keep the right view of yourself, and remain in Christ (*John 15:5*, **Psalm 1**), you will walk in humility (*James 1:21, 25-26*). "**Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**" - *Matthew 10:39*.

Fifth, how much you love Christ depends on how much you love your brothers and sisters in Christ (*Matthew 25:31-46*).

Sixth, to fulfill every commandment given by God requires humility on the part of His followers. *1 John 2:3-6* says, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."

Believers accomplish obedience to Christ through meditating on God's Word daily and by living with an attitude of daily repentance from sin. *Romans 12:1-2* says, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Seventh, your desires must change from desiring sin, to desiring obedience to Christ! Now, you might be saying to yourself; "How is it possible to walk in the same manner as Jesus walked if I still have a desire to sin?" If you delight yourself in the Lord, your desires will change. *Psalms 37:4-5* says, "Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act." Only Jesus Christ can change your desires from sin to humble obedience to His Word.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

-1 Peter 5:6-9