

Pride and Humility
Devotional

The Bible frequently talks about pride and humility. Pride is most often used in a negative way and humility is always seen in a positive light. There is certainly the talk of Paul's pride in those who have turned to faith in Jesus Christ. More often, though, the Bible uses the words pride and proud referring to man's unduly high opinion of himself.

In the book of Proverbs there are seven different verses that tell us what the Biblical viewpoint on man's pride is.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

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

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin.

Proverbs 21:24 "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

Proverbs 29:23 One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

Sadly, pride is an issue for most people. Even those who seem so giving and kind to others often do it because it feels good to them. The fact that someone else benefits is a nice bonus but the one they are pleasing is themselves. As we'll see as we look into the scripture pride can be evident in a number of ways from independence to total dependence, from anger and greed to violence. Just when we think we've finally conquered it, we see it in our pride in our new found humility!

Please take a minute and ask God to show you areas where pride may be affecting your relationship with Him.

Pride:

1. What is the dictionary definition of pride?

2. How would you define spiritual pride?

3. Leviticus 26:18-20 says, “And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, (19) and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. (20) And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.”

What does God say is the sin His seven-fold discipline is for and why He will break Israel’s pride of power (from verse 18)?

4. God sent Moses and Aaron to see Pharaoh with this message. “Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go so that they may serve Me.’” (Exodus 10:3)

God had repeatedly sent Moses and Aaron to the Pharaoh of Egypt to seek the release of the Israelites. He repeatedly refused to let them go. In this verse what sins do Moses and Aaron accuse the Pharaoh of Egypt of committing?

5. What have you learned from God through the Bible that you have repeatedly refused to do – or not do? _____

6. A. In Genesis 11:4, who did the people want to make a name for?

B. What was God’s response to this prideful act in Genesis 11:5-9?

7. In Genesis 12: 10-16 how is Abraham asking Sarah to say she is his sister an act of pride? (Not directly answered by the verse, who do you think Abraham is trusting?)

8. What does Ezekiel say was the problem in Sodom in Ezekiel 16:49 which says, “Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy”?

9. In the following verses (listed on page one) what words are related to pride? Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 21:4; 21:24; and 29:23.

10. How did pride lead to trouble for the people of the following verses:

A. 2 Kings 20:14 – 19

B. 2 Chronicles 26: 16

C. Psalm 123:3-4

D. Isaiah 13:11

E. Jeremiah 13:17

F. Ezekiel 16:49

11. Write a brief prayer asking God to show you how pride is manifested in your own life. If there is an area you have already seen you may want to confess it and seek God’s forgiveness.

12. 1 John 1:9-10 say, “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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” Why is it prideful to say we have no sin?

Humility: “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience”, Colossians 3:12.

1. What is the dictionary definition of humility?

2. Why do you think that the Bible sometimes refers to humility as being “broken” (some versions say crushed or destroyed)? You may refer to Psalm 44:19; 51:17; Proverbs 29:1; and Isaiah 1:28.

3. A. James 4:7-10 says, “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.” What do these verses call Christians to do?

B. What does God promise if we obey these commands?

4. Read Isaiah 57:15

A. Who does God reside with according to this verse?

B. What does this verse say God will do for them?

5. In Psalm 51:16-17 what does David identify as the sacrifice that pleases God?

6. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” Matthew 5:3?

7. Then he (Saul) said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD your God." I Samuel 15:30. In this verse Saul is responding to Samuel who has confronted him with his sin. How does Saul’s response show pride or humility?

8. In 2 Samuel David responds to the confrontation of his sin with Bathsheba like this, David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. How is David's response different from Saul's? See also Psalms 32 and 51.

9. Once God's work of humbling His people has begun that humility will be evident in our relationships. In your personal relationships what set of circumstances are you facing that you now see your own pride as a part of the problem? How could you begin to demonstrate humility towards the others involved?

10. What words does the Bible associate with humility in the following verses?

- A. Psalm 69:32 _____
- B. Psalm 149:4 _____
- C. Proverbs 15:33; 18:12 _____
- E. Colossians 3:12 _____
- F. 1 Peter 5:5 _____

11. What do the following verses say the Lord will do for those who demonstrate humility in their lives?

- A. Psalm 18:27 _____
- B. Psalm 25:9 _____
- C. Psalm 147:6 _____

12. Proverb 22:4 says, "The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life." What is God's reward for you if you are humble?

13. What do you need to change in your life in order to receive these rewards?
