

**Mt. 23:8-12** [Jesus speaking] “But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant. ***For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.***

**Lk. 14:8-11** [Jesus speaking] “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. ***For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.***”

**Lk. 18:9-14** To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself; 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. ***For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.***”

## **1. definitions**

**Pride** Pride believes that I am a humdinger. Pride's favorite topic of conversation is ***me***. And pride loves to talk about how much better I'm doing than others, or how much better I'm doing than I used to be doing, or my accomplishments, my recognitions or my possessions. Pride is quick to interrupt people when they are talking, because, after all, what ***I*** have to say is so much more important than what others are saying. Pride will even occasionally put self down just to get attention, because what's important is ***me***.

**Ps. 10:4** In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

**Pr. 13:10** Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

**Is. 16:6** We have heard of Moab's pride – her overweening pride and conceit, her pride and her insolence – but her boasts are empty.

**Ro. 12:16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**1Co. 13:4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

**Humility** “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.”

Hubert Lindsley used to go into violent communist protests in the late 1960s and preach Christ. Billy Graham once interviewed him and asked, “What’s the largest demonstration that you’ve ever broken up?” Lindsley replied, “35,000 people.” Billy Graham was amazed. “One man? Thirty-five thousand people?” Lindsley said, “Dr. Graham, Jesus was with me.”

Andrew Murray has said, “Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all. It is the displacement of self by the enthronement of God. Where God is all, self is nothing.”

God speaking to a teacher at Valley Forge: “You can’t even *walk* without me.”

**Jn. 3:27** To this John [the Baptist] replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.

**Dt. 8:17-18** You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

**Jn. 15:5** [Jesus speaking] “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

**Eph. 4:2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**Pp. 2:3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

**Col. 3:12** Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

**Tit. 3:1-2** Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

**1Pt. 3:8** Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

## **2. the outcomes that result from pride and humility**

**2Chr. 26:16** But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall.

**Pr. 18:12** Before his downfall a man’s heart is proud,

**Pr. 11:2** When pride comes, then comes disgrace,

**Pr. 15:25** The LORD tears down the proud man’s house

**Pr. 16:5** The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

**Is. 10:12** When the Lord has finished all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, "I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes.

**Pr. 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

**Zph. 2:9-10** Therefore, as surely as I live," declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, "surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah – a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land." This is what they will get in return for their pride...

**Pr. 29:23** A man's pride brings him low,

**Is. 2:11** The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled and the pride of men brought low;

**Is. 23:9** The LORD Almighty planned it, to bring low the pride of all glory and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.

**Is. 2:12** The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled),

**Jer. 13:9** "This is what the LORD says: 'In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.

**Jas. 4:6** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**1Pt. 5:5** Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**QUOTE** A pastor from the Midwest was ministering at a conference. He announced to the people that he was going to give them the name of the ruling spirit who was opposing God's people in their region. Just when he had them sitting on the edge of their chairs waiting to hear the name of what they assumed would be a demonic principality, he gave them the name, YHWH, which is the ancient Hebrew name for the Lord. Then, quoting the Scripture, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble," he called them to repent of their pride.

**QUOTE** I would rather have every demon in hell opposing me than to have God opposing me.

**Summary** Can you see that *nothing good* comes out of pride? **Nothing**. Pride is spiritually fatal. It will kill us. Andrew Murray once wrote, "Let us admit that there is nothing so natural to man, yet nothing so insidious, so dangerous, as pride." Pride is a stench in the nostrils of God Almighty. The tendency to be prideful is part of our fallen nature, but we can, and we must, overcome it by the power of God. He and He alone can deliver us from the pride that is in our hearts. Let us cry out to Him and trust Him to do just that.

**2Sa. 22:28** You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.

**Ps. 18:27** You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

**Ps. 25:9** He [the LORD] guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

**Ps. 147:6** The LORD sustains the humble

**Ps. 149:4** For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.

**Pr. 11:2** When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

**Pr. 18:12** Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

**Mt. 18:4** [Jesus speaking] Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**QUOTE** The highest rank in the Kingdom of God belongs to those soldiers who wear the cloak of humility and never take it off. The humble cannot be embarrassed. When we start to feel embarrassed, it's because we're operating in the realm of pride rather than in the realm of humility.

**Mt. 23:12** For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

**Lk. 14:11** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**Lk. 18:14** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**Pr. 3:34** He [the LORD] mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

**Jas. 4:6** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

**1Pt. 5:5b-6** All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

**Summary** Humility has never been popular in the eyes of the world. Part of the reason is that it's not easy. It's difficult. It requires dying to self, and self doesn't like to die. Romans 12 tells us that we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. Dead sacrifices never move. But living sacrifices have this tendency to want to crawl off the altar. They don't want to die. Death to self is painful, but it's worth it! Let the flames consume your pride. You'll be glad you did.

And humility is difficult because as soon as we think we have attained it, we have already lost it. For us to say or believe that we are humble is, in an of itself, pride.

- ill: old deacon, “most humble person in the church” pin
- We **can** have confidence in God to continue.....

### **3. humility modeled in the life of Jesus**

**Pp. 2:5-8a** Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself...

**Jn. 5:19** "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself;

**Jn. 5:30** By myself I can do nothing;

**Jn. 5:41** "I do not accept praise from men,

**Jn. 6:38** I have come down from heaven not to do my will...

**Jn. 7:16** "My teaching is not my own...

**Jn. 7:28** I am not here on my own...

**Jn. 8:28** I do nothing on my own...

**Jn. 8:42** I have not come on my own...

**Jn. 8:50** I am not seeking glory for myself;

**Jn. 14:24** These words you hear are not my own.

**QUOTE** This life of entire self-abnegation, of absolute submission and dependence upon the Father's will, Christ found to be one of perfect peace and joy. He lost nothing by giving all to God.

This is the true self-denial to which our Savior calls us, the acknowledgment that self has nothing good in it, except as an empty vessel which God must fill, and that its claim to be or do **anything** may not for a moment be allowed. - Andrew Murray

Is it not the most humbling thing to see ourselves as utterly dependent?

**Mk. 10:42-45** Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**Jn. 13:3-5** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**verses 12-17** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that

you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

**Lk. 22:25-27** Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

**QUOTE** Pride wants to be served. Humility *delights* in serving others. There is nothing so divine or heavenly as being the servant and helper of all.

**QUOTE** Humility before God is nothing if not proven by humility before men. Our thoughts and feelings toward others are God's test of our humility toward Him.

**1Jn. 4:20** If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

**Pp. 2:3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

**QUOTE** The question is often asked, *How can we consider others better than ourselves, when we see that they are far below us in wisdom, in holiness, in natural gifts, or in grace received?*

The question proves at once how little we understand what true humility is. True humility comes when, in the light of God, we have seen ourselves to be nothing, have consented to part with and cast away self, to let God be all. The soul that has done this, and can say, “So have I lost myself in finding thee,” no longer compares itself with others. It has given up forever every thought of self in God's presence; it meets its fellow-men as one who is nothing, and seeks nothing for itself; who is a servant of God, and for his sake a servant of all. A faithful servant may be wiser than the master, and yet retain the true spirit and posture of the servant. The humble man looks upon every – even the feeblest and most unworthy – child of God, and honors them and prefers them in honor as the son or daughter of a King. The spirit of him who washed the disciples' feet, makes it a joy to us to be indeed the least, to be servants one of another.

### **JOY for today**

**Mt. 20:28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**Pp. 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

## **4. pride as seen in various biblical characters**

**Ex. 10:3** So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, “This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

**Ac. 12:21-23** On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

**Dan. 4:1-37** King Nebuchadnezzar,  
To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world:  
May you prosper greatly!

It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in my bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)

I said, “Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me. These are the visions I saw while lying in my bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the beasts of the field found shelter, and the birds of the air lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

“In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven. He called in a loud voice: ‘Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field.

“Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.

“The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.’

“This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you.”

Belteshazzar answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the beasts of the field, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds of the air – you, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

“You, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass

of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live like the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

"This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes. The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;  
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.  
All the peoples of the earth  
are regarded as nothing.  
He does as he pleases  
with the powers of heaven  
and the peoples of the earth.  
No one can hold back his hand  
or say to him: "What have you done?"

At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

**Dan. 5:18-21** [Daniel speaking] "O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. Because of the high position he gave him, all the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the King wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled. But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. He was driven away from people and give the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes.

## **QUOTE**

Pride takes credit for what God has done.

The more gifted you are, the more you will have to fight pride in your heart.

### **Ac. 5:1-9**

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

### **Mt. 26:31-35**

Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

### **Lk. 10:17-20**

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

### **Lk. 22:24-27**

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

### **Is. 14:12-15**

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star ["Lucifer" in the KJV], son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

**Ez. 28:17** Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

**QUOTE** “So much as you have of pride within you, you have of the fallen angel alive in you; so much as you have of true humility, so much you have of the Lamb of God within you.”

“Evil can have no beginning but from pride, and no end but from humility. The truth is this: pride must die in you, or nothing of Heaven can live in you.”

## **5. some manifestations of pride**

**Jn. 6:60-61** On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you?”

**1Pt. 2:13a** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men:

**1Sa. 15:20** “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.

**Pr. 26:12** Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

**Ps. 36:2** For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.

**Est. 5:11-12** Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. “And that's not all,” Haman added. “I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow.

**Jsh. 9:14** The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.

**Dt. 8:14** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

**Ps. 10:4** In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

**Hos. 13:6** When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.