



No Growth - Pride 2

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well-advised is wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10

Power - Lev 26:19

Recognition - Psalms 37:35

I - Idle Matt 20:6 or Idol I Corinthians 10:9

Devil - 1 Tim 3:6

Evil - Proverbs 17:13

Pride is a very impressionable topic, and often the expression of demonstration is found more in men than women. The effort to prove oneself to be better than the other to themselves and hopefully the opportunity of an audience witnessing the matter. The early stages of pride begin with the desire for competition: which derives from pridefully comparing self to another that has their attention. The cause of such attraction could be something they saw, heard, smelled, touched, or felt to set the prideful one in the wrong direction.

Pride is the craving for power, and there are many examples of pride in the Word of God. However, the only instance that stands out above the rest is the one that happened back in heaven with Lucifer, who was known as the son of the morning. Isaiah fourteen, verses thirteen through fourteen, is a statement example. "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 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."

Lucifer was known as the son of the morning in heaven, but now is Satan on earth, and his trademark is darkness and imposing sin on the creation of God in an attempt to ruin humanity. Why? He is trying to convince others that he is better than God. Never! God creates and saves souls while Satan tries to destroy them: the founder of pride!

Pride begins in the heart. The reason is the prideful one sees something they covet, which is the tenth or last commandment in the Word of God from Exodus twenty, verse seventeen. They want to be in the position or situation that seems to attract their attention. There is something unique or fascinating for the prideful person that automatically becomes a priority over other things. They will continue to compete until a change occurs one way or another.

Pride is the desire for recognition. In Daniel chapter three, Nebuchadnezzar, a Babylonian King, was a powerful and arrogant ruler. He built temples and shrines for his pagan gods. Nebuchadnezzar also made a golden statue that he required others to worship. He punished followers of the true God, such as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, for refusing to bow.

Throughout his arrogance, Nebuchadnezzar, in his attempts, did not receive the recognition that he felt he deserved. Instead, in a dream, Nebuchadnezzar was alerted of his prideful heart and was prompted to repent or endure the judgment of God. The vision reveals that his arrogance would be the cause of his destruction. Unfortunately, Nebuchadnezzar did not heed the warning and lost his kingdom. Luckily, once he repented and humbled himself before God, the King's kingdom did receive restoration and increases in Daniel chapter four.

Pride is about the letter I: which is the middle letter in the word itself. Speaking out to the public to express exultation to oneself opposes God because that is not His nature. The reference to pride is of the devil. In the same verses earlier in Isaiah fourteen, verses thirteen through fourteen, Lucifer expresses several times in the beginning for each statement. "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 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."

Pride is about me, or myself, and I. People who speak about themselves so much will tend to stand idle, so others may hear them talk. In Exodus, chapters five through fourteen depict the King of Egypt, the defiant Pharaoh. Pharaoh held absolute power in Egypt.

Besides being the supreme commander of the army and navy, he was chief justice of the royal court and high priest in religion for the country: considered a god by his people.

Pharaoh was full of pride, full of himself that when Moses and Aaron came by God to ask to free the people of Israel, his response: "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?" Pharaoh trusted in himself rather than God, deliberately opposing His ways and refusing to repent after experiencing the ten plagues. The arrogant mindset of the King of Egypt developed through his accomplishments. Pharaoh, who opposed Moses, came from a long line of kings who turned Egypt into a strong nation. The country excelled in medicine, engineering, trade, astronomy, and military force. Using the Hebrews as slaves, this Pharaoh built the store cities of Rameses and Pithom.

Pride is of the devil. He used it first on Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden to seduce them by taking the form of a serpent: his approach was simple yet deadly. Then the devil tried to tempt the Son of God in the wilderness in Matthew chapter four, one through ten. The enemy will use relationships and situations to sneak pride into the heart to get Christians to sin and fall from grace. Believers must be aware of where they are and what they are doing to avoid the opportunity for pride to set in. Remember, the devil's approach is simple, sneaky, and deceptive: we must be vigilant in whatever we do daily and not allow the flesh to tempt us to encourage ourselves over accomplishments or things we already have. Pride can produce evil inside the heart. The story of Haman in the book of Esther provides another prime example of self-destructive pride. The mighty Xerxes of Persia learned that a Jew named Mordecai had saved his life from an assassination plot. Xerxes wanted to honor Mordecai, but Haman, who had recently

received a promotion of high honor from the King, had become angry with Mordecai because the devout Jew would not bow before the haughty noble. Haman became so mad that he wanted to kill all the Jews in the land. Pride, a distorted mirror that obstructs clear thinking and reason, causes Haman to see only himself. Filled with conceit, "Haman thought in his heart, 'Whom the king delight to honor more than me?'" The king said to Haman, "Make haste ... as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew. ... Let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken." The king commands Haman to honor the man his pride so desperately wanted to murder. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had built for Mordecai.

For believers, pride is a sin. When God gives us a direction to go, we opt to do things differently. Like choosing your own wisdom instead of the insight of God is saying, "I know better" than Him? Pride is not a good ride: it is about time to get off it.