



No Growth - Boast

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:9

Brag - 1 John 3:18

observant - Proverbs 27:1

Arrogant - James 4:16

Show off - Matthew 6:1

Taunt - Habakkuk 2:6

Why do people boast? The opportunity to feel important and get attention from society. To be seen by others for their personal achievements, status, or position. To boast is the source of pride. Satan is the author of that proud, carnal disposition in the ungodly.

The verse "Not of works, lest any should boast" comes after the stanza that describes by grace, people gain salvation, which is a gift from God. The section at the beginning of verses one through eleven explains the new life in Christ for a recent convert and reminds the current believer. However, the stanza still applies to people that boast. They cannot control themselves when encountering the public and desire to show something to draw approval from others nearby.

Boast begins with bragging. To celebrate oneself for others to hear and praise over the accomplishment. To receive appreciation from people around that are there in the moment. Nothing is more satisfying for a boastful person to receive positive feedback about

what they have done from the public. That kind of response will only boost the boaster's ego. An example of bragging came from one of the sons of David. Adonijah, David's fourth son, was born in Hebron, as in Second Samuel chapter three, verse four, self-proclaiming to be the next king in First Kings one verse five. "Then Adonijah, the son of Haggith, exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots, horsemen, and fifty men to run before him." However, the response from his younger brother, King Solomon, did not approve in the following chapter in verse twenty-two of chapter two. "And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also; for he is mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar, the priest, and Joab, the son of Zeruiah."

To boast is to be observant. A person who is a boaster will tend to look around for something of interest to ignite their bullying or intimidation to get the upper hand. The truth is the person boasting is intimidated by the challenge that presents itself to them. What they observe in reality makes them skeptical if they can do better than what they see. Therefore, using the boastful way to boost their confidence whether they follow through or not.

The prime example of an observer that boasts and is unable to sustain is in Judges chapter nine, the opposition to Abimelech. In verse twenty-six, Gaal, the son of Ebed, came with his men and went over to Shechem, whom they decided to put confidence in. Then he displays his boasting in verses twenty through twenty-nine, "And Gaal, the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is not he the son of Jerubbaal? And Zebul, his officer? Serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem: For why should we serve him? And would to God these people were under my hand! Then would I remove Abimelech? And he said to Abimelech, Increase thine army, and come out."

Zebul, an officer of Abimelech, got angry after the response. However, they plan for him strategically the following morning. When Gaal saw the people, Zebul said in verse thirty-eight, "Where is now thy mouth,

wherewith thou saidst, Who *is* Abimelech, that we should serve him? *is* not this the people that thou hast despised? go out, I pray now, and fight with them." Verses thirty-nine through forty, "And Gaal went out before the men of Shechem and fought with Abimelech. And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many were overthrown *and* wounded, *even* unto entering the gate."

To boast is to be arrogant. To have an attitude of proclaiming that what is said will happen. However, verbally boasting to predict something to result described by a boaster is no guarantee it will happen. The one that boasts is displaying overconfidence: Only thinking about themselves.

An example of talking the talk and not walking the walk is Amaziah, the King of Judah, who sends a letter to Joash. The reply from the king of Israel, "Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldst thou meddle to *thine* hurt, that thou shouldst fall, *even* thou, and Judah with thee?" To boast with arrogance will cause some people to bluff and not follow through with what they say.

To boast is to show off. There is always someone that attempts to stand out above the crowd. Whether in looks, wearing unique clothing, or how they talk or carry themselves to get attention or recognition from the public. Some people will go above and beyond to be an attraction.

The perfect example is Goliath in the First Samuel, chapter seventeen, verse ten, "And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. Later in the chapter, verse forty-three, "And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. However, Goliath's boasting and showing off only made him look worse than the Philistines expected.

To boast is to taunt. People who rely on provoking others to the point where the individual gets mad usually bring out the best or worst of them, which does not work out in favor of the instigator. In First Samuel, chapter seventeen, verse forty-four, Goliath states to David, "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh

unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field." The reply from David, "Thou comest to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."

David continues, "This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee, and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." People boast with the intent of an advantage. Instead, they end up losing ground. Boasting is pride and being on the side of the enemy. A believer who intends to follow Christ must resist the temptation to boast oneself but remain humble so that God will exalt us in due season.