

DEALING WITH THE DEADLY SIN OF PRIDE

Text:

I John 2:16: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Leviticus 26:19: “And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass.”

Pride was the first sin committed. God says of Satan in Ezekiel 28:15, “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” And how do we know it was pride? Please notice 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.”

Satan used the same temptation that brought him down to tempt Eve when he said in Genesis 3:5, “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” It is as if the Devil was suggesting, “And don’t you want to be as God?” The Bible tells us, “...And there is no new thing under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9c). Even in modern cults we find these exact words in their teaching: “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become” (Lorenzo Snow, fifth LDS President).

1. GOD IS GOD AND YOU ARE NOT.

Isaiah 45:22: “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”

Isaiah 46:9: “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.”

Isaiah 43:10 says, “Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.”

2. PRIDE IS BELIEVING YOU HAVE NO NEED OF GOD.

Psalm 10:4: “The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God; God is not in all his thoughts.”

3. SELF EXHALTATION IS THE ESENCE OF PRIDE

Luke 14:10, 11: “But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

Daniel 4:30: “The king (Nebuchadnezzar) spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?”

Dan. 5:20-22: “But when his (Nebuchadnezzar’s) heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this.”

4. UNREPENTANT PRIDE NEVER HAS A GOOD ENDING.

Prov. 13:10: “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”

Prov. 16:18: “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

5. GLORY BELONGS TO GOD ALONE.

Isaiah 42:8: “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven image.”

I Corinthians 1:29: “That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

I Corinthians 1:31: “That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

II Corinthians 10:17: “But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24: “Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches. But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth

me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”

Psalm 90:16, 17: “ Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.”

6. EVERY BLESSING WE HAVE COMES FROM GOD.

I Chronicles 29:11-14: “Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.”

James 1:17: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

7. THE WAY UP IS DOWN.

Proverbs 15:33: “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.”

Proverbs 25:7: “For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.”

Proverbs 27:2: “Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”

Proverbs 29:23: “A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

James 4:10: “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

Conclusion:

I Peter 5:6: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11: “He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.”

Leo Tolstoy said, “The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.”

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in black ink and features a large, decorative initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.