

# PRIDE

By Tolu Afolabi and Christabel Koledoye

Philippians 2: 3-5 says “let nothing be done through strife and vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”.

Pride wrecks and ruins your relationship with God. Pride replaces God and arrogantly takes its reign in our hearts. Pride is always of the world and never of God. You cannot have an intimate relationship with God and have a heart full of pride. 1 Timothy 3:6 talks about how pride causes us to fall into the snare of the devil where he can use us at his will and purpose.

Pride was the cause of Satan’s fall from heaven as he said in his heart, “I will climb to the highest heavens and be like The Most High” (Isaiah 14:14). Satan wanted to become like God and be worshiped like God. In Ezekiel 28, God draws comparisons between the Prince of Tyrus and the Devil in this chapter and figuratively, the Devil is referred to as the Prince of Tyrus. Pride in the most basic definition is lifting up your heart and declaring yourself God in some way, shape or form. It is a glorification of self and a casting down of God. It is to say to God, “You are not needed! I can do this! Look at my achievements, look at my accomplishments! Who needs God!” That is the heart of pride. Pride is to set your heart as the heart of God and that is exactly what the devil did.

1 Peter 5:5 says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” If you are resisted by God, that means that you are now an enemy of God. Your protection is cut off, help is cut off. If the devil attacks you, you cannot cry out to God because you are now his enemy. Pride is a trait of the devil. The Bible says that you cannot serve two masters, you either have to follow the devil or follow God. If God opposes you, that stands as a barrier to God working in you. If he hates you, why would he want to work in you?

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Some of the ways that pride grows in our hearts are entitlement and prayerlessness. The core of the gospel is that we are not entitled to anything except into punishment for our sins (Romans 3:26; 6:23). Yet, we deceive ourselves into thinking we are better than we are and deserve better than we have. We think we deserve God's mercy. We think we deserve people's praise. We think we deserve love, success, comfort, and accolades. We certainly don't think we deserve suffering, heartbreak, or discipline.

Prayerlessness is also another way pride can grow in our hearts. Pride deceives us into thinking that we can "do life" on our own- we are capable, independent, unstoppable, and self-reliant. We think that we do not need God every hour, that we don't need his help, grace, mercy, courage, and hope. So, surely, we do not need to pray. When God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah's response was not to go to God in prayer. Instead, he fled, his heart furiously and arrogantly silent (Jonah 1:3). Only when God humbled him in the fish's belly did Jonah finally cry out in prayer (Jonah 2:1).

To overcome pride, you can read the word of God, know the mind of God, and pray. Philippians 2:3-11 talks about how nothing should be done out of selfishness or to impress other people. We are to esteem others above ourselves. Jesus Christ, the only begotten son, made himself of no reputation. He served God, he obeyed God, he served others, and he humbled himself. God deserves all the glory, not us.

