

God Opposes the Proud

In James 4:5, we are told that, “--- God opposes the proud---.” This verse tells us very clearly that God does not sanction or approve of pride in our lives. Pride is based on a person allowing himself to be the master of his own destiny without any need for God or others. *Webster* defines pride as an unduly high opinion of one’s self (worth, merit, superiority).

That is why God says that pride is a sin, it separates man from Him. In fact, in Proverbs 8:13, He says that, “---He hates pride---.” He also states in Proverbs 16:18, that, “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

If God detests pride, then why do we allow pride to enter into our lives? It certainly is not listed as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23). Pride came into the world through Adam and Eve when they desired to be like God and ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of good and evil. Ever since, pride has been a real temptation for man in his choices. We can allow it to rule in our lives and live like the world or we can reject it and live as Jesus would have us to live, free from pride. Wasn’t pride what caused Satan to fall from God’s grace and to be banished from Heaven?

Knowing that God detests pride, then what does He desire us to replace it with? Again, we look to Scripture. In the latter portion of James 4:5, He, “gives grace to the humble.” Oswald Chambers in his devotional “My Utmost For His Highest” states that, “a true disciple is one who has his new name written all over him - self interest, pride and self sufficiency have been completely erased.”

In James 4:10, we are told to, “Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

If pride is a natural fleshly response for man, then how do we achieve the characteristic of humility? The Bible says in Galatians 2:20, that when we are born again, “I(we) have been crucified with Christ and I(we) no longer live, but Christ lives in me(us) ---.”

In Matthew 11:29, Jesus sets the example, “--- for I am gentle and humble in heart,---.”

I believe pride can enter into our lives when we do not develop a consistent life of intimacy with God (Word, Prayer, Fellowship). It has little to do concerning how many times we attend church or how long we have been a Christian, but has everything to do about having an intimate child-like relationship with Jesus.

Pride can also creep in when we are seemingly blessed beyond measure and focus on our blessing(s) rather than God. By so doing, intimacy with God, becomes a secondary goal rather than a primary or priority one.

You may be gifted or talented in a specific area(s), so you find yourself depending on self rather than God. Hence, pride can easily enter in.

If God hates pride, then we must focus on Him rather than ourselves.

The following formula helps us to understand how to live a life of humility:

Death to Self + Intimacy With God = Walking in the Humility of Christ

“It is a joy to Jesus when a disciple takes time to walk more intimately with Him. The bearing of fruit is always shown in Scriptures to be the visible result of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ (John 15:1-4).” *Oswald Chambers*

As we start this New Year of 2005, let us renounce the temptation to allow pride to enter into our lives and purpose to walk intimately with Jesus in humility. Thereby, setting an example for our families and others to follow.