

Letting
Go...
of **PRIDE**

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time."
—1 Peter 5:6

Me. Me. Me! We are instinctively self-centered. We want to be noticed, we want to be in control, we want things to go OUR way... we think we are better than everybody else! We get defensive if someone questions us. We become argumentative because we want to be RIGHT! We get consumed with the: "me, my, I" syndrome. This is a result of pride and selfishness in our lives. "Self" always seeks to promote itself and impress others. It's all about ME. My desires, my dreams, my goals... "They hurt MY feelings" "I need MY space." "Why did this happen to me?"

Living by our pride is exhausting! It requires so much energy and the burden of how everything turns out then rests on our shoulders. This weight is too heavy and eventually we are crushed under the pressure of it all. God never intended for us to have control... in fact, the Bible tells us that He "opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

Our response needs to be that of a humble heart. We need to let go of our pride as we seek to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3). Humility is the special attire that God wants us to wear as He says we are to clothe ourselves with humility (1 Peter 5:5). It is this special quality that gets God's attention, allows us to grow, enables us to have great relationships with others, and is the foundation for true success in our lives.

The TRUTH is... it's not about me. It is all about JESUS. Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

What are the seven things that the Lord hates as mentioned in Proverbs 6:16-19? _____

The Beginning of Pride: Satan's downfall

Isaiah 14:13-14 (NIV) "You [Lucifer] said in your heart, 'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make **myself** like the Most High.'"

We see in Isaiah 14 that Lucifer allowed his high position and beauty to lead him away from being content and grateful... he was deceived and thought more of himself than he should have! The same thing can easily happen to us... Paul writes a warning to us in Romans 12:3 "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."

PRIDE is consumed with being right... it doesn't want to apologize or admit mistakes...it ruins relationships... it doesn't respect authority... it clouds the truth of God's Word... it exalts itself!

Pride defined by dictionary.com

noun:

1. a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in bearing, conduct, etc.

Look up the following verses and write out what the Bible has to say about pride.

Proverbs 11:2 _____

James 4:6b _____

Proverbs 16:5 _____

Proverbs 16:18 _____

Proverbs 29:23 _____

Read Hosea 13:4-6, why did the people become proud and what was the result of their pride?

According to Isaiah 2:12 what will happen to the proud?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What was God's purpose in giving Paul the thorn in the flesh?

HUMILITY frees us from having to be right... rejoices in the success of others... it is quick to admit wrong attitudes...it's the foundation for life and good relationships... it's the mark of a genuine believer and it results in holiness!

Hu-mil-i-ty defined by dictionary.com

noun:

1. the quality or condition of being humble; modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc.

1 Peter 5:6 commands us to humble ourselves. Why is that so hard to do? What can you do to put this into practice? What is God's blessing as a result of your obedience? _____

What's the point of the Parable Jesus told in Luke 14:7-11 and how does it relate to the verse we just read in 1 Peter? _____

Look up the following verses and write out what the Bible has to say about humility and what you need to do in response to them.

Proverbs 15:33 _____

James 4:10 _____

Luke 1:52 _____

Psalm 51:17 _____

Psalm 25:9 _____

What are the requirements of living by Philippians 2:3? How can you put this into practice this week? _____

According to Philippians 2:5-11, how does Christ demonstrate the attitude of humility that we need to have? _____

A major part of letting go of pride to walk humbly is surrendering YOU. Read Matthew 16:24 and Luke 9:23-25. What does Jesus say we must do to truly follow Him? _____

How can you put this into practice? _____

Wrap up:

I must let go of _____ and replace it with a heart of _____.

Passage Index (NIV 1984 unless otherwise stated)

Proverbs 6:16-19 “There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, ¹⁹a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.”

Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”

James 4:6b “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Proverbs 16:5 “The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 29:23 “A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.”

Hosea 13:4-6 “But I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. ⁵I cared for you in the desert, in the land of burning heat. ⁶When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.”

Isaiah 2:12 “The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)...”

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 “...or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

1 Peter 5:6 (NLT) “So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.”

Luke 14:7-11 (NASB) “Now He began telling a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, ⁸ ‘Whenever you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, ⁹ and the one who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then in disgrace you will proceed to occupy the last place. ¹⁰ But whenever you are invited, go and take the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are dining at the table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.’”

Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”

James 4:10 *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*

Luke 1:52 *“He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.”*

Psalms 51:17 *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”*

Psalms 25:9 *“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”*

Philippians 2:3 *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”*

Philippians 2:5-11 *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Matthew 16:24 *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”*

Luke 9:23-25 *“Then he said to them all: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?’”*