

THEME: SEVEN DEADLY CONTROLLERS

TOPIC: THE CONSEQUENCE & BREAKING FREE FROM PRIDE

TEXT: ROMANS 8:5-8, 14, JAMES 4:6, PROVERBS 16:5

Introduction

We have looked at what is pride and ‘why people walk in pride’. Today we will be concluding our study on pride by exploring ‘the consequence and breaking free from pride’.

WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF PRIDE?

1. In Daniel 4:37 – The great King Nebuchadnezzar built one of the wonders of the ancient world. He took such pride in what he built and declared, “Is it not Babylon which I have built with my own hands!”
His pride made God to make him lose his mind, walk the bushes, crawl on all four, and become a resident of the wilderness for several seasons of life.
2. Pride brought Satan down so that the one whose name Lucifer meant “the illuminated one” fell so low, lost his position in heaven. His name and residence changed. He became Apollyon, Abaddon, or the destroyer, Satan, the deceiver, the slanderer, the accuser of the brethren.
3. Once people are set in motion by pride their fall becomes inevitable. **Proverbs 29:23, 16:18.**
4. Pride makes it impossible to talk to people who walk in it. You suddenly are made to look and feel lesser than them. **Proverbs 13:10**
5. It shuts the door of favour, closes the opportunities of relationships, and blocks the flow of friendship. **Daniel 5:20**
6. It is my conviction that pride shuts the heavens and makes one’s prayer to come back to them unanswered by the Lord. **James 4:6**
7. Once people begin to walk in pride, they lose a sense of hunger for the things of God. They no longer pursue God and they are not burdened to operate in the realm of the Spirit.

BREAKING FREE FROM PRIDE – Philippians 2:5, Ephesians 3:20

How do you overcome a negative habit or controller?

There is a side to pride which is of dignity, value and self-respect. This is the kind of pride God wants you to have. It is the feeling that you are important to God, called by Him, bought with His precious blood, saved by His grace, your name in the book of life. This kind of good pride is the kind Jesus Himself had.

1. Positive pride will make you not to feel lesser because you have a different face, race, grace or place.

2. A positive pride helps you to be able to handle compliments properly. You are able to receive the appreciation of other people without swinging the pendulum to either sides of putting yourself down or thinking too highly of oneself.
3. Positive pride possesses a strong self-esteem. It gives one a sense of dignity in bearing even things that are negative - embarrassing situations.
4. A positive pride in who you are makes you not to fall apart. Taking pride in what you are doing and who you are must be a distinguishing feature of your personal nature. God created everything, and took pride in what He had made.
5. Jesus signed off His work on earth with a powerful statement, "It is finished, I have accomplished what I came to do" (I have completed my assignment).
6. A positive pride helps you to see the humour in the doings of God in your life. It helps you to stop and rejoice in the wonder of nature, the beauty of achievement, the glories of progress, the impact of relationships, the romantic feeling of friendship.
7. A positive pride makes you, even in the midst of a lack to be able with your family to laugh at yourself and not take life or this world too serious.
8. Positive pride is necessary to confront the devils of this world.

Conclusion

You cannot break free from pride unless you acknowledge the wrongfulness of pride and the destruction it brings, the division it causes among people. You cannot make progress until you confront the spirit of pride.

Confrontation must be followed with repentance and confession of the sin of pride. What will make Judas end up in the pit of hell is not the fact that he betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ but that he did not repent or ask for the Lord's forgiveness.

Pride has made some people who much later in life have found that God is real, not to be able to acknowledge their wrong, their wicked ways and to make a public confession of their newfound faith in Christ. **Romans 10:9-10**

Once there is a confession of the sin of pride, there must be repentance and a conversion **Acts 3:19**. A moving away and a pursuit of a humble lifestyle.

If God looks at the proud afar off, He also tells us how He sees the humble **Isaiah 57:15**. Humility is necessary to overcome the devil himself. We are instructed in scripture to humble ourselves before we begin to resist the devil and his demons because they are spirits of pride. **James 4:7**.