

## Prayer Study #121

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:8 NLV*

### **THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF PRIDE & THE POWER OF HUMILITY**

*Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.*

Proverbs 16:18-19

Manifestations of the Spirit of Haughtiness, which of course is the spirit behind pride, include **resisting submission to authority**(1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5: *In like manner, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yes, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisted the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*), **bragging or a proud look**(Proverbs 6:16-17: *These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*), **stubbornness**(Proverbs 29:1: *He that, being often reprov'd, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*), **gossip**(Proverbs 21:23-24: *Whosoever keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles. Proud and haughty scoffer is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.*), **contention**(Proverbs 13:10: *Only by pride cometh contention, but with the well-advised is wisdom.*), **control**(1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:1-3: *The elders who are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight of it, not by constraint but willingly, not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.*). It also exhibits a "HOLIER THAN THOU" attitude and is always ready to correct others, especially those in authority. It is often the push behind a religious spirit and pharisaical religion.

**Leviathan is one of the main scriptural symbols of pride.** According to Isaiah, in the Day of the Lord, "*In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword shall punish Leviathan, the piercing serpent, and he shall slay the sea monster that is in the sea.*" This crocidillian creature of the sea,

according to Job, “...beholdeth all high things; he is a king over all the children of pride.” Job 41:34

This visible fruit of this demon’s presence is that Leviathan twists communication to cause damage to relationships. Jane Hamon from Christian International in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, puts it this way: “*The root that enables Leviathan to operate is pride in competence. When someone is excellent in their field, a pride in their own excellence can open the door for Leviathan to skew what is said or heard, hence this massive fragmentation in the body. So many times one leader does not trust another leader so they won’t let their followers partner with the other organization either. There are actual ethics-based problems at times, but if you trace most divisions among leaders back to the point of deviation, it was a discussion that went awry. One person walked away from the relationship convinced that the other person’s motives stunk, and they arrived at that conclusion because of miscommunication.*” Dr. Paul L. Cox writes: “*Leviathan is a devouring spirit that tends to break apart and leave living residue with the person. We have found that you must pray that no parts be left behind or that it must not be reconnected to the person. It seems to be against worship; therefore, it affects the throat down to the stomach. Leviathan may be like a curse. The dominion effects emotions and thoughts. It modifies how someone sees and hears. It affects giftings. It appears to be in control of addiction and compulsive activity.... It appears to be directly in charge of spiritual death.*”

Pride also causes men to:

1. **Persecute the poor:** Psalm 10:2: *The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor; let them be taken in the devices which they have imagined.*
2. **Not seek 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. **Finally in the end to come to shame:** Proverbs 11:2: *When pride cometh, then cometh shame, but with the lowly is wisdom.*
4. **Say foolish things:** Proverbs 14:3: *In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.*
5. **Look bad in the Day of the Lord and be drunk on the things of this world:** Isaiah 28:1: *Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of those who are overcome with wine!*
6. **Lose their joy and gladness:** Jeremiah 48:29 & 33: *We have heard the pride of Moab(he is exceedingly proud), his loftiness and his*

*arrogance and his pride and the haughtiness of his heart....And joy and gladness are taken from the plentiful field and from the land of Moab, and I caused wine to fail from the winepresses; none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no more shouting.*

- 7. Walk in deception:** Jeremiah 49:16: *Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill; though thou shouldst make thy nest as high as the eagles, I will bring thee down from there, saith the Lord. (See also Obadiah 3)*
- 8. Become fat and lazy:** Ezekiel 16:49: *Behold this was the iniquity of thy sister, Sodom; pride, fullness of bread and abundance of idleness were in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*
- 9. Become abased:** Daniel 4:37: *Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all Whose works are truth and His ways justice; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.*
- 10. Fall into condemnation:** 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:6: *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*
- 11. Be worldly:** 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:16-17: *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. And the world passeth away, and the lust of it, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. King James*

*For everything in the world-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. NIV*

*Practically everything that goes on in this world-wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important-has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from Him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out-but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity. The Message*

The greatest example of pride and its destructiveness is the history of Lucifer. Lucifer means the shining one or light bearer. He was described as the king of Babylon by Isaiah in Isaiah 14 and was further discussed in Ezekiel 28 as the King of Tyre. From this latter passage, we see that apparently Lucifer, a cherub[not an archangel as we have been taught] anointed by God, was very beautiful and extremely talented and once led the

heavenly worship assembly into the glory of God's presence. He was "full of wisdom, perfect in beauty, covered with precious stones, created with timbrels and flutes built in, and perfect in his ways until iniquity was found in him. His name was changed to Satan when he waged war against his Creator whom he proudly supposed that he could overthrow.

The greatest example of pure humility is the life of Jesus, who, although He was God, chose to come to earth as a pattern Son to show us the way and allowed Himself to be tempted in all areas that we can be tempted with and to die an agonizing death on a cross as an innocent lamb, taking on Himself all our sin and shame. The 52 chapter of Isaiah verse 14 says that "his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men." What this means literally is that His body was so beaten that he did not look like a human. Isaiah 53 tells us that he had no physical beauty that would make people desire Him. He allowed Himself to be despised and rejected of men, to know grief and sorrow. Yet he did not open his mouth when we as a race of people rejected Him and said He was evil and smitten by God. He was killed between two wicked men who did deserve their punishment. He died for us who deserve nothing better than Hell so that we might live. It was for crimes that we have committed that nailed Him to the tree. His life is the epitome of humility.

#### THE BLESSINGS OF HUMILITY

1. **He will heal our land.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14-*If my people, who are called by my name, shall HUMBLE themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

2. [Unless He comes before you die] **He will allow you to die in peace.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 34:27-28-*Because thine heart was tender and thou didst HUMBLE thyself before God, when thou heardest His words against this place, and against its inhabitants, and HUMBLEDEST THYSELF before Me, and didst tear thy clothes and weep before Me, I have even heard thee also, saith the Lord. Behold I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place and upon the inhabitants of the same....*

3. **He helps you overcome your enemies.** Psalm 9:12b-*...He forgetteth not the cry of the humble.*

4. **He causes the humble person to be very sensitive to hear the praises of God from others making the humble person's heart be filled with gladness.** Psalm 34:1-2-*I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall*

*continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it and be glad.*

5. **The humble ones will receive honor.** Proverbs 29:23-*A man's pride shall bring him low, but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

6. **He gives the humble access to His presence and revives the humble one's heart and spirit.** Isaiah 57:15-*For thus saith the high and lofty One who inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

7. **He considers the humble greatest in the Kingdom.** Matthew 18:4-*Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

8. **He exalts the humble.** Matthew 23:12-*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.* AND James 4:10-*Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.* AND 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7-*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you.*

9. **He gives grace to the humble.** James 4:6b-... *God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.* AND 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5-*In like manner, ye younger submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

### **How To Get and Walk in Humility**

1. **Apprehend to know Him and recognize that we walk in His righteousness and not our own:** Philippians 3: 7-11&13-14-*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death, if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead....Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things*

*which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

*Isaiah 64:6-But we are ALL as an unclean thing, and ALL our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we ALL do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

The goal of Paul's life was to know Him. This was a man who was caught up in the third heaven, but, so unlike the prophets and evangelists of the present day, he considered it so sacred and holy and he himself so unworthy that he did not even speak of it for 14 years, and even then he did not reveal that he was that man. As he grew in his knowledge and intimacy with Jesus, his whole outlook of who he was really changed. Brother Don Van Hoosier shared this with me many years ago:

24 years after Paul's conversion, he said, "I am the least of the apostles.

30 years after his conversion, he said, "I am less than the least of the saints."

39 years after his conversion, he said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief."

2. **Accept the leading of the Holy Spirit to go into the wilderness and get back to basics.** Deuteronomy 8: 15-16: *Who led thee through the great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might test thee to do thee good at thy latter end.*
3. **Humble yourself, pray, seek the face of the Lord, and repent:** 2<sup>ND</sup> Chronicles 87:14-16: *If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open and mine ears attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place. For not have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.[The Lord spoke this latter part of this passage to me as a Rhema Word on August 5<sup>th</sup> of 1987.]*

4. **Become like a little child:** Matthew 18:4-*Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*
5. **Cast ALL your cares on Him:** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7-*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you.*
6. **Submit to authority place over you and serve the members of the Body:** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5-*In like manner, ye younger submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble.* King James

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*You younger men accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for God sets Himself against the proud, but He shows favor to the humble.* New Living Translation  
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