

DOCTRINE OF PRIDE (part 6)

(cont.)

52. To have victory over pride, the believer must first recognize it and confess it immediately (Job 40:1-4; Job 42:5; Ezra 9; Dan 9; 1 Cor 11:31; 1 Jn 1:9). Pride is one of the worst yet least recognized sins. Most confessions in the Old Testament were done with attitude of humility before God as per Ezra 9. Failure to confess the sin of pride leads to self-justification in some way or another. Recognition and confession of pride includes confessing apathy toward to the Word of God and the plan of God, or simply possessing an attitude of self-sufficiency. Without recognition of pride, a believer may even become involved in confessing sins with an arrogant or prideful or legalistic attitude.

Job 40:1 Then the LORD said to Job, 2 "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it." 3 Then Job answered the LORD and said, 4 "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth.

- ✓ Job finally recovered from his pride test. He had been trying to get God to deal with him on the basis of his own righteousness. Had God done so, Job would have been destroyed a long time ago.
- ✓ Believers often make war against God because they are not humble enough to accept God's plan.
- ✓ Believers should never allow their pride to motivate them into thinking "I do not deserve this."
- ✓ Regardless of how much doctrine a believer has, if he has pride or arrogance he is neutralized in the plan of God.
- ✓ Job shows his true humility in verse four. He recognizes that he is nothing before God and declares that he will lay his hand on his mouth: he will no longer complain.
- ✓ In humility a person stops complaining about God's plan.
- ✓ In humility a person recognizes that he deserves nothing and his very existence is by the grace of God alone; "I am what I am by the grace of God."

Job 42:5 "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees Thee; 6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes."

- ✓ In humility Job retracts all of his former accusations against God.
- ✓ In repentance Job changes the way He views God and life.
- ✓ The dust and ashes represent rejection of pride vis-à-vis his genuine humility before God.
- ✓ When a believer moves from pride to humility, he removes bitterness of soul. One cannot be bitter and be grace oriented simultaneously.

53. To overcome pride one must habitually walk by the Holy Spirit, Gal 5:16-17, 22-23. The fruits of the Holy Spirit all involve humility. This is in contrast to the old sin nature which produces arrogance, bitterness, and vexation of soul (Gal 5:19-21).

Galatians 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit [as a reward] the kingdom of God.

- ✓ All of the deeds of the flesh are related to pride in some way or another. They are all manifestations of rejection of the plan of God, Gal. 5:17.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- ✓ All aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit are antithetical to pride. In spiritual love there are no mental attitude sins, like pride; in spiritual joy the believer does not have the attitude that he deserves more; in peace the believer accepts his lot in life; in patience the believer humbly waits on God; kindness requires the humility of thinking of others; goodness requires humility of living under the Spirit; faithfulness requires humility before God instead of doing things one's own way; gentleness/humility is grace orientation; self-control requires humility, it is in pride that we lose control.
- ✓ All aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit were complete in Jesus Christ as He *humbled* vis-à-vis God the Father, Philip. 2:5-11.

54. **To overcome pride one must understand that everything in him that is good is but a product of the grace of God.** It is stunning how pride can corrupt believers. Some of the most intelligent and talented doctrine believers I have been over the last thirty years continue to brag about their gifts as they run down others. They know better, but once one orients to self, no matter how much Bible doctrine one has, all wisdom becomes corrupted—just like with Satan in Ezekiel 28.

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

- ✓ Paul wrote more N.T. epistles and suffered more hardships than all of the other apostles combined. Apart from grace orientation, the Apostle would not have been filled with the joy that you see in him, e.g. Philip. 4:4.
- ✓ We are all here by the grace of God. Never take credit apart from God for any accomplishment in life, no matter what they are. In grace orientation you live in appreciation of God who gave you the various talents and blessings.

55. **To overcome pride you must put yourself under the authority of the Word of God (James 1:21).** You must be serious about Bible doctrine!

James 1:21 Therefore **putting aside** all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, **in humility receive the word** implanted, which is able to deliver your souls. 22 But become yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one **who looks intently** at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and **abides by it**, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

- ✓ There are four steps in becoming a true doctrinal believer in this passage (in bold)—a doer of doctrine rather than just a listener of doctrine who forgets about doctrine after Bible class.
 - a. Put away sins. This involves confession and attitude adjustment.
 - b. Welcome the Word in humility. Accept what it says without reservation.
 - c. Regularly reflect on the Word throughout the details of life.
 - d. Abide in the Word. Apply doctrine to the details of life.

In, by, and through 'Ehyeh
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