

INTRODUCTION: Our study today focuses on the sin of PRIDE. Read over the following quotes to prepare you for the lesson. "Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense. The essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison; it was through Pride that the devil became the devil; Pride leads to every other vice; it is the complete anti-God state of mind."--- C.S. Lewis

"Until this disease is cured, medicines are applied in vain to heal all other diseases"--- Jonathan Edwards

In your own words, what idea are these two famous writers attempting to convey?

READ Genesis 3:1-8

1. In what way do you see pride evidenced in this scripture passage?
2. How is the following statement at the heart of what Eve fell prey to?

"The desire to lift up and exalt ourselves beyond our place as God's creature lies at the heart of pride. As people lose or suppress the knowledge of God, spiritual darkness grows and a psychological inversion occurs: in their thinking God becomes smaller and they become larger."

READ 2 Chronicles 26:1-5; 15-21 (if time permits you can read the entire chapter)

1. What was the source of Uzziah's success?
2. What was the cause of his destruction?
3. How can spiritual pride lead to unfaithfulness in our lives?
4. What do you think are the steps to a believer becoming 'unfaithful'?
5. In what ways can the chronic preoccupation with self in our culture become a gateway for pride to dominate the lives of believers?

READ Luke 18:9-14

1. How is pride expressed in this story?
2. Where do you see this type of behaviour in Christians today?
3. Where you see any of this in your own life?

READ Philippians 2:5-8

1. Discuss the elements of humility that you see in this passage.
2. In what specific ways could you behave that would mirror the behaviours of Christ in your life and circle of influence?
3. In what ways does the following quote speak to you?
"Christ is the humility of God embodied in human nature; the Eternal Love humbling itself, clothing itself in the garb of meekness and gentleness, to win and serve and save us."--- Andrew Murray

READ Romans 12:3

1. Explain how this verse can bring balance to our lives?
2. In your opinion what is 'healthy' pride and what is 'unhealthy' humility?

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. What are the areas of your life that are out of balance? Either prideful, arrogant, needing too much affirmation, demanding attention or recognition etc.
2. What are the areas of your life where your attempts at humility are really masking a heart full of pride?

Here are the next steps in the AA program. Read them over and measure your life against them and your willingness to allow the Lord to grow you and mature on your Journey to Freedom. What next step do you need to take this week?

STEP 5 Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

STEP 6 Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

STEP 7 Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Make a list of the areas in your life the Lord through His word and the Holy Spirit is revealing to you that are rooted in pride.

Find someone you trust and go and read your list to them. Ask them to pray with you that you may be healed. (James 5:16)