

Walking In Love . **Love is not proud.**

1 Corinthians 13 : 4. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy is not jealous, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Question: If someone was suffering from pride, what sort of behaviour or attitude would you expect to see from them?

King James version says "Love vaunteth not its' self, is not puffed up".

Meaning, does not boast in the sense that it over inflates its own importance, greatness, ability or achievements.

At the center of the word pride is the letter "I". If pride is present within me, then I will always be found at the center of things. Where ever I is, there, pride will be.

Descriptions and explanations of pride.

Pride is regarded by many as the basis of all sin. There are many Hebrew words that describe the deep seated and far reaching nature of pride, such as Arrogance (sense of superiority), Presumption, vanity (over inflated self esteem), boasting (bragging) and haughtiness (loftiness, stuck up, snobbish, elitist). All are rooted in pride.

Pride can be summed up in this way. It is an undue confidence in and attention to one's own skills, intellect, accomplishments, state (meaning your needs and desires), possessions or position.

The origin of Pride. (scriptures that are believed to describe the history of satan)

Ezekiel 28 : 12-17. You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13You were in Eden, the garden of God; every

precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your timbrels and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. 16Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

Thinks to note about Satans' beginnings.

1/. He was the model of perfection.

Someone to aspire to. Someone to have as your mentor. Someone to imitate. To look up to.

2/. Full of wisdom.

He knows what is what. If you wanted answers to all your questions, no question is too hard for him. He had them all. Wisdom for every occasion. He knew what to do, how and when to do it. He had responsibilities to perform and did them perfectly.

3/. Perfect in beauty.

Adorned with, clothed with every incredibly precious, rare and beautiful stone. Held onto him by mountings of pure gold. He looked great, whenever he moved he glistened and glided with grace and elegance.

He had percussive instruments built into him. Timbrels. He had a rhythm about his being. Whenever he made a sound it was the right one to make and it sounded great.

Question. If satan had all these things going for him, why do you think he fell into pride? What got satan to this point?.....Use your imagination here of what this may have look like being played out.

Satans downfall was his pride. "I WILL".

Isaiah 14 : 12-15. 12How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." 15But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

a/. "I will ascend to heaven".

Here the word heaven can refer to both the place of the celestial bodies or the arch of the sky where the clouds move. The first heaven referred to by Paul. This is his goal. His ambition. His aim was to better himself.

b/. "I will raise my throne above the stars of God".

Stars here can be translated princes. The princes of the power of the air. My throne, my place of authority. The servants of the most high.

c/. "I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain".

The mount of assembly. Refers to a mountain where the mythical gods would assemble. On the utmost heights. "The highest place on the mountain is where my throne will be."

d/. "I will ascend ABOVE the tops of the clouds".

Being on the top of the mountain is still not enough.

e/. "I will be like the most high".

Finally it dawns on satan. He is totally overtaken by thoughts and feelings of grandeur. He wants to be like God. Number one.

God called Satan the "MODEL OF PERFECTION" (Some angels have free will) Satan was believed to be the leader of worship in heaven. He was the most beautiful of all God's creations. The angelic host were to look at satan and give God glory due God's name for His greatness and His awesome power. I believe God had created him for the purpose of inspiring worship from His angelic creation.

There are things satan should have remembered that WE can learn from.

1/. God created him. "on the day you were created".

As a person..... Whether we were born in a mansion or a side alley somewhere, we can be tempted to think we are something special because of our status. The wealthy person can take pride in their affluent lifestyle thinking they are blessed because of their obedient spirituality and look down upon the not so well off, or the religious poor person can take pride in their humble environment (false humility believes it is more

spiritual to be poor and therefor takes pride in their lack or poverty .)
Either is dangerous ground to be on.

James 1 : 9-10. The brother in humble circumstances ought to rejoice in his high position. 10But the one who is rich should rejoice in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

James instructs the poor to rejoice in their position in Christ. Though poor on earth for a time, they are rich in heaven. The rich on earth are instructed to rejoice in their position under God. Though they have wealth on earth, they are to remember they are poor without God and in comparison to God's greatness and yet He still loves them. Jesus was born in a barn not a mansion, yet He didn't boast about his humble birth. He was born a King. Yet He did not lord it over others and expect to be served.

Contrasting life between Satan and the Christian.

Satan came into being through God's will and power. Not his own. He is a created being. He is merely a speck of dust floating around in an immeasurably huge universe which exists and is held together by an even greater and awesome God of limitless power and magnitude. We as Christians were not born of our own will. We did not come into being because of anything we have done or said. We were not good people being favoured by God. It was not even our own faith that saved us. We are a Christian because God made us one.

Psalm 100:3 Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

John 1 : 12-13. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right (authority, exousia) to become children of God-- 13children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Ephesians 2 : 8. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

We should not take pride in what we think is our decision to follow Christ. By God's desire we are a part of His family. By His power we are able to walk and talk Jesus. By His grace we stand or fall. We have nothing to boast about. He chose us, we didn't choose Him. He has created us.

2/. God prepared for him. "every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your timbrels and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared".

Satan was adorned, clothed with every kind of beauty there is. He had a radiance about him that everyone noticed. He was the model of perfection in his own eyes for everyone in the heavens to aspire to. Vanity is the indiscriminate desire for admiration. Pride is thinking you deserve it.

Jesus is now the model of perfection. We have been clothed with His robes of righteousness. The righteousness of Christ. We have been arrayed with His glory and majesty.

We should want people to see Jesus in us, not US in Jesus. We should never think we are better than the unsaved. Satan would like nothing more than to sow into our hearts a holier than thou attitude. A self righteous aura that follows us where ever we go.

The model of perfection for everyone to look up too. To aspire too. When we move, people should see the grace of God, the majesty of Jesus. When we speak, people should hear the grace of God and be touched by His voice. The only difference between us and the sinner is Jesus. We are what we are by the grace of God. Pride of ones own character will end up in calamity. (disaster)

3/. God anointed him. “You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you”. To be anointed is to be given a position of authority. Satan was given responsibility for a given task. He was the guardian cherub. He was a guardian, a protector or coverer. We can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking we are something or someone because of our position in life. Never forget it is God who gives us our authority and position in life. We must be careful not to get our self esteem from that job we have, from the position we have been given in church. The responsibilities we are in charge of?

4/. God empowered him. “You were anointed as a guardian cherub” Satan was empowered by God to fulfil his function. The energy, strength and ability he needed to do what he did came from God. We must never make the mistake of thinking the ability we have to do what we do comes from our own efforts. When people comment on how good our witnessing is. How good our playing that musical instrument is. our singing voice. our administration skills. our organisational skills. our ability to endure hardship and suffering. our preaching and teaching abilities. (ME ME ME). We are being set up for a fall. Pride of ones own capabilities can be the door to ones own abasement. (degrading)

We can not do or give anything from what we did not first receive.

1 Corinthians 4 : 7

5/. God honoured him and gave him success. "You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones". Satan had favour among the angelic beings. He walked where no other beings could walk. He was given a place of honour within the heavenly creation. The Holy mount of God. "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created". In his position and with the anointing and favour of God, Satan became very successful. He had everything. Looks, wisdom, position and ability. Though as his pride grew, so his wisdom became corrupted.

16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence,
As his success grew so his pride deepened and he eventually forgot who was giving him the success. The word violence means injustice and cruelty. Pride will corrupt wisdom. As a result his ways became unjust and cruel. So God expelled him. He lost his God-given position.

17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. PRIDE WILL CORRUPT WISDOM. Judgement is impaired. We must not allow pride to affect our lives or our wisdom will become corrupted. **Humility is always associated with the wise. Pride is always associated with the foolish.**

Questions to ask ourselves.

What abilities do we have, our skills for life and ministry? Am I being tempted to believe that they are the result of my doing. My hard work. My time and effort? My special talents?

Ones own skills must be attributed to the one who gives the skill.

What successes have I had. Do I see great results in my work, my education, my ministry, my family? Have I attributed them to my intellect. My wise choices.

Ones own accomplishments must be attributed to the one who gives the success

What hardships have I gone through and survived? What do I think I am capable of enduring? Do I think it is because of my strong character? My will power. My ability to endure?

Ones own ability to endure hardship is the result of spiritual strength given to us according to His glorious riches in Christ.

See Colossians 1 : 11 / Ephesians 3:16 / Philippians 4:13

Do I think I deserve better treatment from others? Why? Am I someone special? Should I be recognised as someone important? Should people respect me? Don't they know who I am?

One's own emotional state must be surrendered to the one who makes us stand.

See Psalm 23:3 / Psalm 121:7

What possessions do I have? Do I own them or do they own me? Do they belong to me or do they belong to God?

One's own possessions must be relinquished to the one who is our provider.

What position do I have? Does it give me a sense of importance or could I let it go tomorrow?

One's own position must be placed before the one who we serve.

What opinions do I have? Do I have opinions about things or other people that are not very nice? Am I being unjust or cruel in the way I think about people?

One's own opinion must be tossed aside for the wisdom of the Truth giver

Things that follow pride.

Satan loves to lift people up as high as he can before throwing them down on the rocks. Pride always goes before some other demonic attack.

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

Contention. Proverbs 13 : 10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

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

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

Deception. Obadiah 3. The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?'

God resists the proud. He arranges Himself against them. Opposes them.

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Let's learn from the word how to avoid the consequences of pride.

Proverbs 14 : 3. In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.