

## Facing and Overcoming Pride

### I. Introduction

A. The premise of this lesson is based on several Bible passages, but this one might well sum it up: Proverbs 16:18

1. at the very core of being a servant of God is the trait of humility, the opposite of pride
  - a. Matthew 20:20-28
  - b. Matthew 18:1-4
2. pride is destructive
  - a. many have allowed it to hinder them from obeying God
  - b. we must deal with it if we are to become all that God wants us to be in his service

B. Scope of this study

1. sometimes we use the word “pride” in a positive sense such as when someone accomplishes something (“I’m so proud of you”), but that’s not the usage of the word we’re concerned with here
2. we are focusing on that pride thinks and says things like, “No one can tell me what to do” or that easily takes offense when someone tries to correct the proud individual
3. we’re going to look at Bible words such as proud, pride, haughty, haughtiness and even vain and vanity and more to see what they mean and how they’re used in their context
  - a. some are actually used in a positive sense
  - b. focus will be on the usage in a spiritually destructive sense
  - c. there is a great deal of space in the Bible devoted to this subject
4. we’re going to look at men and women of the Bible, their pride and how they dealt with it or did not deal with it
5. we’re going to present Bible-based principles on how to face pride and overcome it

### II. Some Questions About Pride

A. What is pride?

1. “a high or inordinate (unreasonable, mg) opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in bearing, conduct, etc.; a becoming or dignified **sense of what is due to oneself or one's position or character** (emphasis mine, mg)”
2. other definitions

B. How does pride manifest itself?

1. not taking any type of correction
2. being on the defensive, ready to argue when corrected
3. thinking we know more than anyone else
4. not listening to others or taking their input

C. Why do we show pride?

1. don't want to look bad
2. don't want to admit we're wrong

### III. Old Testament Words

A. Pride

1. gobahh (Strong's #1363)
  - a. “exaltation, height, grandeur, haughtiness”
  - b. Psalm 10:4
2. ga'own (Strong's #1347)
  - a. “pride, arrogance”

- b. Proverbs 16:18
- c. Ezekiel 16:49
- 3. zadown (Strong's #2087)
  - a. "pride, insolence, presumptuousness, arrogance"
  - b. Proverbs 11:2
  - c. Proverbs 13:10
- 4. ga'avah (Strong's #1346)
  - a. "pride, haughtiness"
  - b. Proverbs 29:23
  - c. Isaiah 16:6
- 5. gevah (Strong's #1466)
  - a. "pride, a lifting up"
  - b. Jeremiah 13:17 (read with the two previous verses for context)
- 6. zuwd (Strong's #2103)
  - a. "to act proudly, be presumptuous"
  - b. Daniel 5:20
- 7. ge'ah (Strong's #1344)
  - a. "pride"
  - b. Proverbs 8:13
- B. Proud
  - 1. gadowl (Strong's #1419)
    - a. "great" (mostly used in a positive sense, but also used negatively)
    - b. Psalm 12:3
  - 2. rahab (Strong's #7295)
    - a. "proud, defiant"
    - b. Psalm 40:4
  - 3. zed (Strong's #2086)
    - a. "arrogant, proud, insolent, presumptuous"
    - b. Proverbs 21:24
    - c. Jeremiah 43:2
    - d. Malachi 4:1
  - 4. ge'eh (Strong's #1343)
    - a. "proud"
    - b. Proverbs 16:19
    - c. Isaiah 2:12
  - 5. rachab (Strong's #7342)
    - a. "broad, wide"
    - b. Psalm 101:5
    - c. Proverbs 21:4
    - d. Proverbs 28:25
  - 6. gaboahh (Strong's #1364)
    - a. "high, exalted, proud, haughty"
    - b. Psalm 138:6
  - 7. ruwm (Strong's #7311)
    - a. "to rise, rise up, be high, be lofty, be exalted"
    - b. Proverbs 6:17
  - 8. gabahh (Strong's #1362)
    - a. "high, proud, haughty"
    - b. Proverbs 16:5

- c. Ecclesiastes 7:8
- C. Haughty, haughtiness (Old Testament only)
  - 1. ruwm (Strong's #7311)
    - a. "to rise, rise up, be on high, to exalt oneself, to magnify oneself"
    - b. often used in positive sense
      - i. Exodus 15:2 talks about "exalting" God
      - ii. context determines if it is used in a positive or a negative sense
    - c. II Samuel 22:28
    - d. Isaiah 10:33 – here translated "high ones"
  - 2. ruwm (Strong's #7312)
    - a. Isaiah 2:11,17
    - b. Jeremiah 48:29
  - 3. gabahh (Strong's #1361)
    - a. "to be high, exalted"
    - b. Proverbs 18:12
    - c. Isaiah 3:16
    - d. Ezekiel 16:50
  - 4. gobahh (Strong's #1363)
    - a. "exaltation, height, grandeur, haughtiness"
    - b. Proverbs 16:18
  - 5. yahiy (Strong's #3093)
    - a. "proud, arrogant, haughty"
    - b. Proverbs 21:24
  - 6. marowm (Strong's #4791)
    - a. "height, elevation, elevated place"
    - b. Isaiah 24:4
  - 7. ga'avah (Strong's #1346)
    - a. "pride, majesty, a rising up"
    - b. Isaiah 13:11
    - c. Isaiah 16:6
- D. Lifted up
  - 1. ruwm (Strong's #7311)
    - a. "to rise, rise up, be on high, to exalt oneself, to magnify oneself"
    - b. Deuteronomy 8:14
    - c. Deuteronomy 17:20
    - d. Daniel 5:20,23
  - 2. gabahh (Strong's #1361)
    - a. "to be high, exalted"
    - b. II Chronicles 26:16 (see entire chapter for context)
    - c. II Chronicles 32:25
    - d. Ezekiel 28:2,5,17 (include other verses down through verse 6)
    - e. Ezekiel 31:10 (verses 1-9 for context)
  - 3. nasa (Strong's #5375)
    - a. "to be lifted up, exalted"
    - b. Psalm 24:3-4
    - c. Proverbs 30:13 ("lofty" here is "ruwm", #7311)
- E. Arrogancy
  - 1. ga'own (Strong's #1347)
    - a. "pride, arrogance"

- b. Proverbs 8:13 (notice how two different words are used for “pride” and “arrogancy”)
- 2. ga’avah (Strong’s #1346)
  - a. “pride, majesty, a rising up”
  - b. Jeremiah 48:29 (5 different Hebrew words used here)

#### IV. New Testament Words

##### A. Pride

- 1. hyperephania (Strong’s #5243)
  - a. “pride, haughtiness, arrogance, the character of one who, with a swollen estimate of his own powers or merits, looks down on others and even treats them with insolence and contempt”
  - b. Mark 7:22
- 2. typhoo (Strong’s #5187)
  - a. “to make proud, puff up with pride, render insolent, to blind with pride or conceit”
  - b. I Timothy 3:6
- 3. alazoneia (Strong’s #212)
  - a. “empty, braggart talk, an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources and shamefully despises and violates divine laws and human rights, an impious and empty presumption which trusts in the stability of earthy things”
  - b. I John 2:16
  - c. also, “boastings” (James 4:16)

##### B. Proud

- 1. hyperephanos (Strong’s #5244)
  - a. “showing one’s self above others, overtopping, conspicuous above others, pre-eminent, with an overweening estimate of one’s means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty”
  - b. Romans 1:30
  - c. II Timothy 3:2
  - d. James 4:6
  - e. I Peter 5:5
- 2. typhoo (Strong’s #5187)
  - a. “to make proud, puff up with pride, render insolent, to blind with pride or conceit”
  - b. I Timothy 6:4

##### C. Puffeth, puffed up

- 1. physioo (Strong’s #5448)
- 2. “to inflate, to blow up, to cause to swell up, to bear one’s self loftily”
- 3. I Corinthians 4:6
- 4. I Corinthians 4:18
- 5. I Corinthians 4:19
- 6. I Corinthians 5:2 (how could one be “puffed up” about sin? fallen Christians who proudly speak against the church; fallen Christians who flaunt their error)
- 7. I Corinthians 8:1
- 8. I Corinthians 13:4
- 9. Colossians 2:18

##### D. Highminded

- 1. hypselophroneo (Strong’s #5309)
  - a. Romans 11:20
  - b. I Timothy 6:17
- 2. typhoo (Strong’s #5187)

- a. "to make proud, puff up with pride, render insolent, to blind with pride or conceit"
- b. II Timothy 3:4

## V. Case Studies

- A. Genesis 3:5
- B. Samson (Judges 15:14-19)
- C. Edomites (Obadiah 1:3,4)
- D. Paul (II Corinthians 12:1-10)
- E. Luke 7:36ff
- F. Luke 14:1-11
- G. James 2:1-7
- H. Luke 18:9-14

## VI. How to Overcome Pride

### A. Look at your life in the light of God's Word

- 1. Luke 17:10 (is there a more humbling verse than this?)
- 2. we are God's highest creation (Genesis 1:26-27)
  - a. the emphasis is on us being GOD's highest creation
  - b. we are of great value, but it's because of the fact that God created us
  - c. we need to understand who we are in relation to who God is
  - d. He created us; we did not create Him
  - e. He is greater than we are; we are not greater than Him
  - f. therefore, it is His will that we want to do and not ours
    - i. Matthew 5:3
    - ii. James 4:10
- 3. Job 38-41
  - a. we will never be God
  - b. background verses - Job 32:1; 35:1,5-8; 37:14
  - c. 40:8,14

### B. Listen to and learn from others, but measure their words by God's Word

- 1. what kind of life would we have if we did everything that everyone told us to do?
- 2. we can learn from the rebukes, corrections and criticisms of others, but we need to consider if their remarks are valid
- 3. again, God's Word is the standard for our lives
- 4. Paul
  - a. Galatians 1:10; I Thessalonians 2:4-5
  - b. what did some think of him? (II Corinthians 10:10 and the context of chapters 10 through 13)
- 5. whenever you stand up for anything that's right, there will be those who will call you arrogant, prideful
  - a. you're bothering their conscience
  - b. they want you to crawl back down and stay quiet
  - c. confidence and assurance of God's Word are not inherently prideful or arrogant traits
  - d. every correction that is offered to us should be listened to and examined but then compared to what God's Word says

### 6. James 1:19

### C. Psalm 51:17