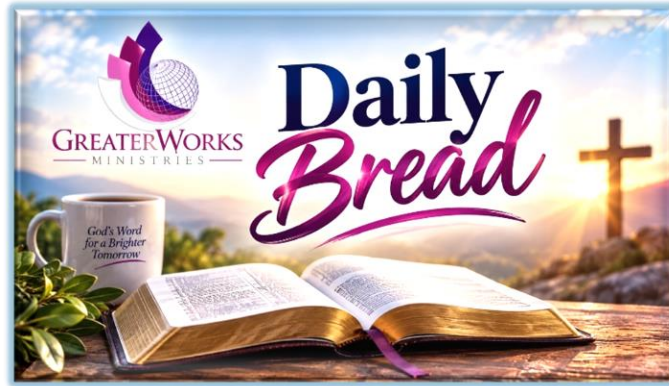




05/06/2020

THE TRAP OF PRIDE (PART 1)

Proverbs 16:18 (KJV) Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

The above scripture states what happens when a person has pride. Whenever you see a person who has pride always know that destruction is about to come into their lives. When you are a person filled with pride, God does not call Angels to help you but instead you will have attracted and opened a door for the devil to you where he will assemble his demons to destroy you. When your dress code is pride, your spiritual clothing and covering is removed making you an easy target for the devil.

The devil's fall from heaven was due to pride because he wanted to be like God. His proud heart caused him to fall. Pride caused the first Adam to fall when he was tempted to become like God, knowing good from evil. He disobeyed God and we all know what happened after that.

With pride comes arrogance. Anyone with pride is arrogant. Pride is being self-reliant, being dependent on your own capabilities and not God (which is very dangerous) Pride is a trap the devil uses to bring destruction upon our lives. Pride causes us to think highly of ourselves.

How to identify people with pride.

- 1.They think so highly of themselves and are not willing to associate with people of low position. Paul tells us to "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Romans 12v16 (NIV).
- 2.They think they are independent, capable and self-reliant. If God has blessed us with success, there is always temptation to become proud (this is where most Christians miss the mark).
- 3.They are manipulative, greedy, selfish
- 4.They threaten to boycott church events, family events, work events if things don't go their way.
- 5.They don't take advice from anyone, even spiritual advice from Pastors.

6.They don't submit to spiritual authority.

7.They rarely apologise, to them they think they are the ones who are always wronged.

8.They depend on their own abilities (which is a complete disaster).

9.They blame everyone else but themselves (Adam blamed Eve for leading him into disobeying God)

10.They struggle to admit where they are wrong.

They attack back when confronted with a mistake or wrong.

11.They defend their kids and attack anyone who addresses their kids' wrong behavior (because they think it reflects badly on them)

If you notice any of these traits in you, be honest with yourself and quickly seek help from God and other mature Christian brothers.

Pastors S&C

06/06/2020

THE TRAP OF PRIDE (PART 2)

Proverbs 29 v23 “A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.” (KJV)

Pride is a signal which signifies a coming fall, disaster and a coming evil upon one's life. Pride opens the door for the devil to come into our lives. Remember the devil always looks for an opportunity to bring us down using pride.

When we walk in pride God removes His spiritual covering upon our lives and this leaves us exposed to the devil. Pride is a sign that God's spiritual covering is no longer upon you. In James 4 vs 6 it says, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

When we become proud, God resists us. When God resists you, it is not a good place to be in. Yes, even though you are His child but because of your pride God will keep on promoting everyone else around you until you learn to humble yourself. David knew nothing about war being a shepherd boy. He was not qualified for war like his opponents were who were better equipped and had full knowledge of war but God gave him grace to defeat his prideful opponents. Pride tells you that, "I am better qualified," "I am better than that person," "I have a better title than that person," "I have more knowledge than he/she has," "It should have been me because I am better," etc Be very careful, especially when you are having pride towards someone who is backed by God.

How to resist pride in your life

1. Worship

Worship keeps us God centered and not self-centered. Self-centeredness is pride. If you are worshipping God, you will never be in pride. The devil lost his position in heaven as a worship angel because he developed pride and wanted to be like God. Pride tells you, you are invincible and at the same level with God.

2. Learn to associate with people of low position and hold them in high regard.

Learn to hold them in high esteem them and value them. Wanting to associate with high people is pride. We are not saying you shouldn't befriend them but if your selection of people around you is based on who they are and what they have, then you are proud.

3. Celebrate others when they have done something good.

Your turn will come to be celebrated in due season. So, when you celebrate others, you are setting yourself up to be celebrated soon. Make this culture of celebrating people. Even when their success is not that big or even if you have done far better than them in that same area you still have to celebrate them without mentioning your own success. Make it about them not about you.

Don't allow God to withdraw from you because of pride. Always know when you have pride, God is withdrawing from you and when God withdraws from you, the devil steps in. The devil then uses pride to destroy you and shame you the same way he was thrown out of heaven and shamed. It was pride that got the devil banished from heaven.

We will continue with our final Part 3 in our next blog where we will touch on the power of humility which is the opposite of pride.

Bless you all

Pastors S & C

08/06/2020

THE TRAP OF PRIDE (PART 3)

Proverbs 16:5 (KJV) Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

We are concluding our series on pride identifying the various forms of pride.

Types of Pride

1. Pride of Pomposity

This involves displaying self-importance. A pompous person is arrogant. Every time you are around them, they talk about themselves. He or she can walk or arrive at a place and is always ready to tell people how important they are. When they arrive at a place, they feel they are too important to wait in a queue or if it's in church, they feel they deserve the best seat and you find them even being offended when the ushers tell them where to sit. You hear them saying "Do you know who I am?" Pomposity also comes with arrogance and stubbornness.

2. Pride of Abundance

Being proud of wearing fine clothes or driving a fine car. It also involves being proud of being clever as well as well educated. Being vain about your beauty and be careful of this as this can become a snare to you. Absalom's fine hair led to his downfall. He was so consumed with it. (**2 Samuel 14 vs 25**).

3. Pride of I am Special

A person with this type of pride always wants the spotlight wherever they go be it at family events, in church, work, with friends etc. They always want attention to be centered around them. When they arrive at a place, they immediately expect people to stop what they are doing give them attention. In church, if the Pastor does not mention their contribution in church, they get offended. Even if they are not mentioned in any vote of thanks at an event, they helped plan, they get offended. Brethren, even if your name is not mentioned don't get offended. Even if you took part in helping someone succeed, or helping someone or your siblings or a family member with school fees, or helping someone when they went through a trying time. Even if people forget to mention you. Do not get offended if you are not acknowledged. God will acknowledge you. If someone is celebrating a testimony in which you helped them succeed and they don't mention you it does not matter. Celebrate with them. So many times, we hear "Aaah I am the one who actually helped them." Or "If it wasn't for me?".

Some make it a big issue if they don't get a personal invite to an event. Are you really that special? Avoid the spotlight as much as possible. In church or at any event, they want the best seat because they feel they are special. (**Luke 14 vs 12-14**)

4. Pride of Being Invincible

With this type of pride, one does not accept or take suggestions from people lower than them because one thinks they are invincible. They don't even take advice from spiritual authority, their pastors. The person then moves away from people who try to give them advice or challenge them. They don't like maintaining eye contact with people who they see to have better potential than them. They get offended when others seek help from others and not them. During church altar calls, they only go to be prayed for when a specific Pastor is there praying for people. They question the Pastor when he assigns another Pastor, elder or Minister to pray for them (this is where most believers have missed their breakthrough).

5. Spiritual Pride

This one you will find interesting. One will be on fire for the Lord. Doing all the right things the Word of God requires us to do, bringing souls to Christ, praying for people to be healed and delivered. Your Pastor may have made mention of you in church. Your perception about other brethren then changes. You expect other fellow church members to be up to speed. You even start analysing who the Pastor appoints to preach and appoints in positions in the church. You even do an analysis of guest speakers that come to preach in church. Spiritual pride is dangerous. In **Revelations 3 vs 14** the Church in Laodicea was being rebuked for that.

Thank you, saints.

Pastors S & C