THE STRONGHOLD OF PRIDE

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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I. Proud Thoughts

A. **II Corinthians 10:4-5** – Let the Word pull down the mental stronghold of PRIDE.

B. **Romans 12:3** – Don’t think more highly of yourself than you should.

1. Realize your gifts are a manifestation of His grace.

2. All good is God.

3. God is Love (**I John 4:9-12**).

4. **James 1:17** – All good comes from above.

C. **Pride** (defined) – To be lifted up, high-minded. To indulge in self-esteem or self-confidence. To glory in self-achievement.

1. **Boast** (defined) – The practice of quackery, pretending to be something that a person is not. Created by high-mindedness. Thinking one knows when they don’t, thinking we are something we are not. Produces boastful, bragging words.

   Other familiar words: Haughty, puffed up, vainglorious

II. God Helps The Humble And Opposes The Proud.

A. **James 4:6** – Gives grace to the humble (help) and resists the proud
B. **1 Peter 5:5** – Opposes, frustrates, and defeats the proud

1. Independent, self-sufficient boasters must be humbled.

C. **Daniel: Chapter 4** – The king who is proud must be humbled.

D. How can a person know if they have a stronghold of pride?

1. **Know the fruit (results) of pride.**

III. **Stronghold Of Pride Causes People To Mistreat People.**

A. **Galatians 6:2-3** – Don’t THINK you are too important to endure other’s faults.

B. Causes impatience

1. People not moving fast enough

2. Making mistakes

C. **Quick to get angry (Ephesians 4:26)** – *When angry, do not sin; do not let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down.*

1. Indignation is an attitude that says I am far too good to have to put up with this

D. Lack of patience causes complaining.

1. **I Corinthians: Chapter 10**

2. **Philippians 2:14**

IV. **The Stronghold Of Pride Causes Reasoning.**

A. Humility trusts – pride wants to know.
B. **I Corinthians 1:19** – Brings us to nothing
   1. Must be bankrupt of self.
   2. Reach point zero – the place where God begins.

C. **I Corinthians 2:2** – Paul resolved to know nothing except Christ and Him crucified.
   1. Make a DISPLAY of the knowledge of nothing.

D. Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
   1. Satan said, “You’ll be like God, knowing all.”
   2. **I Corinthians: Chapter 13** – We know in part. Some things are not ours to know.

E. **Proverbs 3:5-7** – Give up reasoning. Be not wise in your own eyes.
   1. Deliverance from reasoning was one of my greatest blessings from God.

F. **I Corinthians 8:1-2** – Knowledge puffs up while love edifies.
   1. Even knowledge can cause us to mistreat people.

V. **The Stronghold Of Pride Causes Judgment.**

A. **Matthew 7:1-6** – Opens a door for the devil – brings up a harvest of judgment due to seeds you sow

B. **Isaiah 58:9** – Adversely affects answered prayer
   1. **Isaiah 58:6** – Fast to break the oppressive yolk of pride, plus other bondages
C. **Romans 2:1** – We do the same things we judge other people for.

D. Tree of knowledge of good and evil

1. When we eat (think, ponder, become aware, and meditate on) what we think is our good, it causes us to be high-minded and filled with comparisons – always detecting evil in others.

2. **Galatians 6:4** – We can be free of boastful comparisons.

3. **Colossians 1:27** – What good God does through us is a manifestation of **Christ in us “the Hope of glory.”**
   
   Glory = good.

   **Glory** – The manifestation of all the excellencies of God – His goodness displayed

E. Freedom from judgment requires not only NOT seeing their wrong, but also NOT seeing our own right.

1. There is no righteousness apart from Christ.

F. We judge others sternly because we have not yet met ourselves.

1. **Luke: Chapter 22** – Peter meets himself.

VI. Closing Thoughts

A. **Philippians 3:3** – Put no confidence in who we are in ourselves. It is pride.

B. **Proverbs 13:10** – By pride only comes contention (strife).

C. God gets the glory or He can’t keep using us.

D. **Psalm 36:11** – Let not the foot of pride overtake you.

1. When pride chases you, run to God.