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THE STRONGHOLD OF PRIDE

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THE STRONGHOLD OF PRIDE

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. **I 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.
 - 3. God works best with nothing.

- 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. **Psalms 36:11** – Let not the foot of pride overtake you.
 - 1. When pride chases you, run to God.

