



Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

THE SPIRITUAL PRIDE TEST

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

God tells us that PRIDE in any form and in anybody is a dangerous thing.

Would you pass the Spiritual Pride Test?

Let's examine the spiritually proud affecting Christianity by dividing it into two classes: first, the spiritual pride of the professing, yet fake Christians; and second, the spiritual pride affecting true Christians.

The spiritually proud usually prefer the showiest places (i.e. cathedrals, mega-"churches", TV "churches", etc.). At the conclusion of the services they feel self-satisfaction. They think, "Have I not worshiped God? Shouldn't everyone worship Him like this? Everyone should be like me!" They feel a spiritual pride or superiority when comparing themselves with non-attendants or those from other denominations.

They didn't go for spiritual instruction; even if any were given in the places visited, they weren't in condition to receive such--not being Holy Spirit-filled. They had no real hunger for righteousness, or for truth. They had merely satisfied a feeling of duty. They had in a sense done penance, and hoped that somehow, sometime it would be to their advantage--perhaps saving them from some of the worst degrees of purgatorial sufferings-- perhaps even making them acceptable for Heaven. They think, "Shouldn't God feel grateful to me for having denied myself and wasted a few of my precious hours to go worship Him?"

They feel that God would be very unjust if He didn't reward them handsomely for their time.

They feel spiritually proud and self-satisfied, and as long as they're in that condition they're not open to the Truth. Nor need we suppose that the Great Adversary (satan and his army) would give any of his attention to them, for they are very safely under his influence. Was he not the first to manifest pride and to say in his heart, "I will ascend above the sons of God [I will take a higher position than others]; I will be as the Most High" Isaiah 14:14

Spiritual pride was satan's great mistake, which led to his complete downfall.

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Some of those who call themselves Christian have a sort of spiritual pride in another way as to their personal doctrine in life. Some pick and choose from the Bible; some follow dead doctrines spewed out by some false leader and most ignore most of God's Word. Many pride themselves on living a moral life, on being able to conduct life honorably and decently--such as never getting drunk, or never doing some of the seriously immoral and perverse things that many others do. In pride and boastfulness they say: "I'm just as good as anyone else." And by this they mean, "I'm a better person than most others, including other Christians that I know are doing worse things than me."

This is a huge trap of the devil that has taken and continues to take many billions (with a B) to their eternal doom!

Another form of this disease of spiritual pride manifests itself in a hypercritical attitude of mind. We can and should criticize or judge when teaching is false or misrepresenting God's Truth, but shouldn't just because we are jealous or prideful.

It's a special privilege, indeed, to tell the Message of God's grace to all who have a hearing ear. How thankful we are that it is not--as it was once supposed-- the exclusive privilege of some "accepted clergy", but that Father declares that all who are His consecrated children and who receive the Holy Spirit have, through Him, the anointing to preach the Good Tidings to the meek and to bind up the broken-hearted (**Isaiah 61:1**)! We are glad of this privilege to be God's ambassadors, and in Jesus' name to tell of the coming Kingdom, and of the great provision God has already made through Jesus.

The proper attitude is that the Lord's people should feel greatly humbled instead of greatly exalted or prideful in respect to these opportunities for sharing the Truth to others. We should feel our unworthiness. We should realize that the Plan is not ours; that we are merely aware of it ourselves; that it is really God's Plan; that we are honored as His servants to share it. If we allow any impression to go out that it is by any wisdom or skill on our part, beyond the beauty in the Message or the demonstrations of God's power that should accompany the message from Him, then to that extent we are prideful by taking glory to ourselves which belongs to the Lord, and doing injury to ourselves by failing to demonstrate our worthiness to be used by the Lord in the present and in the future. The wonderful privilege of speaking as ambassadors for the Lord, being a vessel to demonstrate His power, to tell of His greatness and Plan should humble us with the thought that He has privileged us. There's no room for spiritual pride in a true spiritual Christian!

Take the Pride Test!

1. Do you long for, expect or demand a lot of attention? (i.e. fame, fortune, glory, followers)
2. Do you become critical or jealous of people who succeed? (i.e. other Christians/ministries)
3. Do you always have to win? (i.e. conversations)
4. Do you have a pattern of lying?
5. Do you have a hard time acknowledging you're wrong? Difficult to accept responsibilities for your wrong/improper/sinful actions, repent or ask for forgiveness?
6. Do you have a lot of conflicts with other people? Very rarely there is conflict between the humble and the humble.
7. Do you expect the best spot or cut in line or ahead of others at the store, highway, etc?
8. Do you get upset when people don't honor your achievements? (i.e. insist/expect to be called pastor, deacon, bishop, prophet, apostle) The humble prefer to wait for Father to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant"!
9. Do you tend more to an attitude of entitlement or thankfulness? Humble say, "Thank you Lord"!
10. Do you honestly think you're a good person and superior to others?

If you scored 1-10 you are proud and if you scored 0 you are very proud!

Humility can lead to honor with God just like pride leads to dishonor with God... **"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."** Luke 14:11.

Many spiritual Christians and ministries start out humble, but become prideful and fail according to God's Standards. Remember that the evil realm is always hunting the true spiritual Christians to bring them down. They are at war 24/7 with spiritually successful Christians. They set many lures and traps to delay you, divert you, stop you and destroy you. Stay surrendered to Father's will, worship and praise Him in spirit and truth, be humble with others, accept no thanks or glory. Avoid pride in all its forms!