

1. LifeLines on 5/1 will be Philippians 4:19.
2. If you agree, we will meet through 5/22 & resume 6/5 – 6/26. What do you think?

LifeLines April 24, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

SOME DEFINITIONS

PRIDE: A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction from one's own achievements; consciousness of one's own dignity, encompassing everything from one's own honor & self-respect to an inflated ego.

HUBRIS: Excessive pride or self-confidence, conceit.

DESTRUCTION: The action or process of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exists or cannot be repaired; the process of ruin or of killing something.

HAUGHTY: Arrogantly superior & disdainful; proud, vain.

FALL: A downward movement or collapse; a rapid descent, freely without control.

CONTEXT

[As a reminder from last week, the Book of Proverbs, usually accredited to Solomon, is a collection of wisdom sayings & lessons. Its purpose is to bring divine truth into proper focus, enabling us to look at life through God's eyes (from His eternal, omniscient point of view), & then live accordingly. It

teaches us to gain wisdom from God's reproof so that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will obey & lead a life pleasing to God.]

Pride has been around since the beginning of time & is said to be one of our biggest sins. Satan was a prideful angel! A proud heart & a haughty spirit were the root of his *fall* from heaven. He was determined to be like God. He wanted to be worshiped as God is worshiped!

The Proverbs' verses surrounding our LifeLines verse promote wisdom, allowing God to plan our way with righteous living, avoidance of evil, being upright, being attentive – all good character traits. Is there a fine line between being pleased/proud of one's humble work & being boastfully insolent? Proverbs' verses are intended to guide us in the way of righteous living. *It is righteous living that pleases our Lord!*

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

CEB (Contemporary English Bible)

Pride comes before disaster, & arrogance before a fall.

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

Too much pride will destroy you.

CJB (Complete Jewish Bible)

Pride goes before destruction, & arrogance before a fall.

CSB

Pride comes before destruction, & an arrogant spirit before a fall.

ERV (Easy-to-Read Version)

Pride is the first step toward destruction. Proud thoughts will lead you to defeat.

GNT

Pride leads to destruction, & arrogance to downfall.

GW

Pride precedes a disaster, & an arrogant attitude precedes a fall.

KJV

Pride goeth before destruction, & an haughty spirit before a fall.

MSG

First pride, then the crash – the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.

NCV (New Century Version)

Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin.

NLT (New Living Translation)

Pride goes before destruction, & haughtiness before a fall.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

Pride ...Pride precedes sin! Negative, sinful pride is an excessively high opinion of one's worth, importance or ability. It suggests arrogance & a spirit that says, "I have no need of God or anyone else." This is rebellion.

Arrogance puts a person at risk for disaster. This kind of prideful person doesn't fear God. Self-pride reflects an arrogant attitude toward God. Are we proud of & boasting in our own ability & power, or do we boast in the power of our God? It is *His* power at work in us; not our own! A prideful heart forms a barrier between the individual & God. Arrogant people speak often of themselves, reject advice or warnings, always have an excuse for bad actions, & rarely seek help.

*goes before destruction...*A bad attitude usually leads to finite earthly consequences, failures & mistakes. Destruction, ("sheber" in Hebrew) means breaking, fracture, crushing, breach, crash, or ruin, as if the mind is blinded to dangers & risks. With no caution, foolish choices are made. In our verse, pride is a fracture between God & us. It's something that was never intended for those living close to God & following the Holy Spirit.

We practice pride in tiny ways when we overestimate our physical or athletic ability, in which case destruction could mean severe injury & broken bones. Even cocky behavior & smug self-assurance can result in huge tragedy. We practice pride when we assume we can tackle our overly busy schedule & still be prepared & appear calm as we rush in - late - to a meeting!

a haughty spirit before a fall... Remember the transgression of Adam & Eve is frequently referred to as “the fall” of Adam & Eve. *Fall* refers to more than physically falling down. *Fall* refers to sin, error, humiliation. Adam & Eve haughtily allowed Satan to undermine God’s trustworthiness & authority. This resulted in the tragedy of a broken relationship.

A haughty spirit steals the peace we’re intended to enjoy. The pedestal we make for ourselves proves a precarious foundation. God doesn’t want us to find our significance in public esteem, showing off or attempting to be self-sufficient. He wants us to experience peace & significance *as His children*. There are people whose haughty spirit convinces them they have no need of God’s merciful forgiveness or of the Holy Spirit’s counsel.

Because of pride & self-sufficient arrogance, many Scribes & Pharisees refused to believe in Jesus as their Messiah. Instead of trusting in His redeeming blood, they were confident they would be justified in God’s eyes through their own good works & following the law.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Psalm 139:23, Search me, O God, & know my heart; test me & know my thoughts.

Proverbs 8:13, The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride & arrogance & the way of evil & perverted speech I hate.

Proverbs 11:2, When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but wisdom is with the humble.

Proverbs 16:2, All one’s ways may be pure in one’s own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.

Proverbs 18:12, Before destruction one’s heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor.

Proverbs 29:23, A person’s pride will bring humiliation, but one who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

Proverbs 15:33, The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, & humility goes before honor.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone & falls & does not have another to help.

Isaiah 13:11, I will punish the world for its evil, & the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant, & lay low the insolence of tyrants.

Jeremiah 49:16, The terror you inspire & the pride of your heart have deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, who hold the height of the hill. Although you make your nest as high as the eagle's, from there I will bring you down. (This is the Lord's judgment against Edom.)

Jeremiah 50:32a, The arrogant one shall stumble & fall, with no one to raise him up,

Luke 14:8-9, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; & the host who invited both of you may come & say to you, 'Give this person your place,' & then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place."

Luke 14:11, "For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, & those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Romans 12:3, For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has given you.

Romans 12:16, Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

2 Corinthians 12:10, Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, & calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Galatians 3:11, Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for “The one who is righteous will live by faith.”

Ephesians 3:20-21, Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more that all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church & in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever & ever. Amen.

James 1:14-15, But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured & enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, & that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death,

James 4:5-6, Or do you suppose it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that He has made to dwell in us”? But He gives all the more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Peter 5:6, Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time.

SUMMARY

What is the real issue behind prideful behavior? It *can* be embarrassment or insecurity. Prideful people are trying to prove something about themselves to others, even to God! Do we think others will judge us poorly if we can’t do something on our own? How often do we find ourselves trying to prove what we are capable of doing *all by ourselves*? Do we ever refrain from asking for help because we want to receive all the glory?

Have we ever used the excuse that we didn’t want to bother or inconvenience someone by asking for help. Maybe we live alone & hesitate to call for help if the hour is late. Maybe we’re new to an area, haven’t reached out to make new friends & don’t know whom to call. Think of people in a new school or at a new job who want to prove themselves so they’ll be noticed by others. There may be many reasons for trying to prove ourselves or demonstrate our self-sufficiency - and the *real* reason might be a surprise.

We are weak – pride comes from weakness. We may think “*I am able to do all things,*” but do we remember that’s only possible “*through Him who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13). God is our only true source, & He gave us other people to help us through life – just as “Iron sharpens iron.” If we live alone & have no one to help us or *sharpen* us, we are still called to use the

good sense & wisdom God gave us to see us through difficult & challenging situations. That takes the opposite of pride. It takes humility.

Humility is striving to face whatever God presents us & giving *Him* the honor & glory. It's *not* denying the gifts & grace God has given us. These are blessings indeed! Our trouble, our problem is in thinking we can accomplish things without Him. Trouble comes when we lack judgment about attempting *any thing* in our life - a new & challenging project at work or in the church, or everyday tasks like reaching too high on a step ladder without someone to spot us; attempting to turn a mattress by ourselves rather than ask for help. Everyday household chores result in accidents because we think, "I can do this alone"! When we take risks, we are forgetting, even denying, who our Source is! Whenever we do that, we are setting ourselves up for a *fall*.

We *should* pursue excellence but not with the motivation of calling attention to ourselves or trying to impress others. Ladies, men aren't the only ones guilty of this!

CONCLUSION

As one commentary put it, "getting puffed up about anything is a sure way to end up flat on your face." The bottom line is that pride alienates us from God. It puts ourselves before & over God. It is devotion to self, self-justification & thinking more highly of ourselves than we should. God wants to do His work in & through us, so we will be strong in faith, give honor to Him & be examples of humility. We show strength, not weakness, when we ask for help & when we welcome an opportunity to allow someone to sharpen us and sharpen each other!

Sin corrupts our unity with God. Those who fill their heart with God's Word & seek God's will are more likely to act & speak from a place of love & humility. In humility, we are to be obedient. For a prideful person, obedience interferes with their personal satisfaction.

Today, the world avoids the word, "sin." In the world, the "self" is all-important, but *we are not of the world!* Regarding one's self as a sinner is seen as destructive! In Romans 3:23, Paul reminded us, "*all* have sinned & *fall* short of the glory of God."

Pride *is* a sin. So is a haughty spirit, but believers have been redeemed from all sin. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, & this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, *so that no one may boast*" (Ephesians 2:8-9). We have been redeemed!

Yes, we are saved through one event –
the Resurrection of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

Let this verse be a *LifeLine* for you!

Let's Continue Learning!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!