

**Module** : Understanding, Accessing & Growing in GRACE

**Session 17** : Indicators of Pride - Part 2

**Focus** : Symptoms of Pride

In our previous case study on the life of King Uzziah, we isolated the following indicators of pride:

1. Focus on Economic and Physical Welfare to the Total Disregard of Spiritual Welfare
2. Incomplete or Partial Obedience
3. Having Fame and Influence, but no intention of using it for Kingdom Advancement
4. No Mastery over Carnal / Fleshly Nature
5. Refusal to Acknowledge God as the Source of Success
6. Independence of God and Self-Reliance
7. Strong in One's own Eyes / Strong in One's own Strength
8. Becoming Strong and Proud
9. Acting Corruptly
10. Unfaithfulness to the Lord
11. Crossing the Boundary of one's Function and Grace Calling
12. Refusal to Accept Correction
13. Uncontrollable Anger

Below I have suggested more mindsets and/or behaviour patterns which are rooted in pride (some of these overlap with those already indicated in the list above). These are gleaned from several biblical passages, which directly or indirectly point to pride. Prayerfully and introspectively consider these. These repel the grace of God and thus we should be very serious in our willingness to first repent of these and then adjust positively in humility, so as to receive a greater grace. The presence of any of the factors highlighted below points to pride.

### 1. Independence of God

The first man Adam thought he could live independently of God, his Father. His effective management of the earth demanded his dependence and reliance upon God to daily furnish him with the necessary grace, strength and wisdom. He chose to function independently of God, His Father. The result was disastrous. We dare not think that we can have even one moment of independence of God. This is the height of pride. We all need God daily, much more than we actually think. Without Him we can never represent Him accurately. We should seek His will and counsel for every area of our lives.

David consistently expressed his dependence on God, for example - by repeatedly asking God's permission and methodology on attacking Philistines in successive battles (see [2 Sam.5](#)). He did not take it for granted that his prior success and battle strategy against them was guaranteed. Independence of God could be seen when we rely on past successful methodologies for doing God's will without consulting Him for present and future assignments. Jesus said ...

[John 15:5a](#) " ... for apart from Me you can do nothing."

## 2. Self-Reliance (in reference to God and men).

This is the deceptive reliance upon one's own strength and skill to the complete disregard of God or one's need of other people. Nothing of our own abilities is innate to us. God gives them to us.

[2 Cor. 3:4-6](#) Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. **Not that we are adequate in ourselves** to consider anything as coming from ourselves, **but our adequacy is from God**, who also **made us adequate as servants** of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (NASB)

We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. **Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us** to be ministers of his new covenant ... (NLT)

[2 Cor. 3:5,6a](#) **Not that we are competent in ourselves** to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God. He has made us competent** as ministers of a new covenant ... (NIV)

**Not that we are sufficient of ourselves** to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God**, who also **made us sufficient** as ministers of the new covenant ... (NKJV)

Without God we can do nothing. To think we can depend upon our own competency without reliance upon God, the giver of all ability and capacity, is to be proud. The humble man is confident not in his own ability but in God who gave it.

David's strength before Goliath lay not in his own capacity to war, but in the NAME of the Lord.

**1 Sam. 17:45** Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.

The word 'name' suggests nature, authority and function. David was fully conscious of the nature and authority of God in which he functioned. He also was a man who functioned to fulfill purpose. These things empowered him in life and became vital factors for his victory over Goliath. When our reliance is on God completely – on His nature, His authority and His Purpose – we will have no place for pride in us.

Be confident, but not arrogant. Samson was unaware that the Spirit had left him. Having confidence in his own ability, rooted in established past historical successes, he presumptuously assumed victory over the Philistines, but he was defeated. In his pride, he became self-reliant.

**Judges 16:20** She said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

Another form of self-reliance is when one adopts a position of independence from others. Apollos needed Priscilla and Aquila to transition into a place of greater accuracy; Cornelius needed Peter; Paul needed Barnabas. WE all need someone to walk alongside us in order to grow in Christ. We need to recognise our need for others in the Body of Christ (Refer to point 16 below).

### 3. Thinking You are Strong Within Yourself - in Your Own Human Strength - Instead of Being Strong in the Grace of Christ.

**1 Cor. 10:12** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Pride could manifest when you permit yourself to engage a certain context, in which you are very prone to sin or compromise biblical principles, and yet you do so thinking you are strong enough to ward off the temptation to sin. The Scriptures warn us to flee youthful lusts and stay away from all appearance of evil. Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife who was intent on sexually seducing him.

Pride deceives one into thinking that you can maintain proximity to a mentality, behaviour or context that is potentially lethal to your spiritual health and still accommodate it because you deem yourself sufficiently strong enough. Humility chooses not to entertain that possibility.

Grace attends humility. Be strong in the Grace of Christ!

**2 Tim. 2:1** You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**Rom. 5:2a** through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand...

Humbly set up protective principles within your life that will protect you. For example: As far as it possible ...

- Travel with your spouse or another person of the same gender on ministry trips
- Do not counsel a member of the opposite sex alone
- If you are alone, do not give lifts in your car to members of the opposite sex

The moment you surmise that you are particularly strong in resisting the temptation to sin in a specific area, is the moment you have indicated your propensity to fall in that same area. Rather stand strong in GRACE and not in your perceived strength within your own ability.

#### 4. Arrogance and Inflated Self-Esteem.

Here we will briefly explore the case study of King Nebuchadnezzar (Read Dan. 2-4). Nebuchadnezzar erected a gold statue of himself and required his subjects to bow down to it. In Daniel 4, Daniel interprets a dream he had in which he saw a majestic tree cut down to a stump. Daniel interpreted the dream as God humiliating Nebuchadnezzar because of his sins. He refused Daniel's prophetic advice to break away from his sins, even though he was warned of the serious repercussions.

**Dan. 4:27** Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'

One year passed in which Nebuchadnezzar showed no intentions of humbling himself to acknowledge God as the God of the Heavens, who rules all mankind on the earth (see Dan. 4:26,32). One day as he walked on the roof of his palace ...

**Dan 4:29-31** Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?' While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,

The most certain feature of pride in the Bible is that it precedes a downfall, and the story of Nebuchadnezzar runs true to form: immediately after uttering his boast, he was stricken with insanity and his kingdom was taken away from him. He was reduced to the mind and behaviour of a beast in the field. He is reduced to a lesser representation of the glory of God and his capacity

to fully represent God exactly is taken away from him. Seven years later he acknowledges God, after his reason returned to him, and declared ...

**Dan. 4:37** Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

After Daniel's warning, the interpretation of the dream only came to pass twelve months later. During this passage of time, Nebuchadnezzar must have surmised that God's word would not come to pass, since in twelve months nothing really happened. Pride dismisses prophetic warnings, especially when things continue unaltered in the interim before the word will eventually be fulfilled. This time period was God's grace on Nebuchadnezzar - but he did not humble himself. Instead, pride in him grew as a stronghold. Pride rationalises disobedience to make it excusable and thus acceptable, especially when judgement upon the sin seems delayed.

Nebuchadnezzar ultimately repented after seven years. Many gripped by pride maintain a rebellious position toward God and refuse to repent in humility, and yet they are aware that it is inevitable they would have to eventually repent. They, in essence, waste time in pride, for which they know they would have to eventually turn away from.

The New Testament counterpart is Herod, who flaunted his royal status, prompting the people to shout, "The voice of a god, and not of man!" (Acts 12:22), whereupon an angel of God smote him with worms and he died (Acts 12:23)

**Acts 12:21-24** On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

In arrogance, the Laodicean church declared she was rich and needed nothing, whereas her true state was miserable, poor, blind and naked.

**Rev. 3:17** Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Prideful self-esteem and arrogance has the effect of blinding you to your true condition. The moment you think you have got humility, you have just lost it.

## 5. Superiority Complex and Delusions of Grandeur

A delusion of grandeur is a fixed-false belief of extraordinary greatness. This refers to when one attaches a false sense of importance to oneself.

**Zeph. 2:15** This is the rejoicing city that dwelt securely, that said in her heart, "I am it, and there is none besides me." How has she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down! Everyone who passes by her shall hiss and shake his fist. **(NKJV)**

The Pharisees exhibited this form of pride, placing themselves above the people as of greater importance than them. This is captured in the comparison Jesus made between the Pharisee and the Publican (tax collector) who prayed in the temple:

**Luke 18:9-14** And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and **viewed others with contempt**: "Two men went up into the temple **to pray**, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that **I am not like other people**: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for **everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

Never permit pride to enter your heart where you attempt to rationalise and so justify your disobedient state by comparing your state to others, whom you deem are 'greater' sinners' than you. Never establish the right-ness of your state by belittling others. Never seek to endorse your own acceptance with God by highlighting the degree to which others are alienated from Him. If our spiritual state is to be compared to any standard, it must be compared to God Himself. We are to perfect holiness in the FEAR OF GOD – and not in fear or comparison to any person.

**2 Cor. 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness IN THE FEAR OF GOD.**

## 6. Carnal Insistence on the Use of Titles and/or References to Accomplishment.

The insistence of being addressed according to the title of the particular office you hold or function you fulfill evidences pride, as you accord greater prestige to yourself, a prestige you deem bound up in the use of that title in reference to you. Your authority is not fixed within the

title, but in your person and identity of your sonship in Christ, and secondly, in your functioning in the specific office or area of responsibility.

When you are confident about who you are in Christ as His son and about the specific area of function or responsibility He has called and empowered you to function in, you will not need to insist upon the use of the title relative to your function as a means of endorsing who you are. Firstly, your identity is secured in your sonship in Christ and not in your calling. Be secure in your calling, but there is no higher calling than to be God's son and representation in the earth. When this reality is firmly entrenched within you, simply do the work to which He has called you to without reliance upon how people reference you relative to your work. Let the fruit of what you do endorse and confirm your calling and not the insistence on the title.

Jesus is called by so many titles, including 'Apostle', but we rarely address him as Apostle and most often call him by His name, Jesus. I am certain this does not offend Him. At times, in our honour and worship of Him we use descriptors LORD, KING, MASTER, SAVIOUR, RULER, etc. It should be no big deal whether or not we use titles, but it is an expression of pride when you and I become offended that we are not addressed by the title describing the work we are called to do.

Where people prefer the use of titles as a mark of acknowledgement and respect of an individual, this is perfectly fine, for we give honour to whom it is due. But, the persons to whom this honour is accorded should never insist upon it or hold great store by it to gain credibility in the eyes of men.

Paul referenced himself by his first name, and then indicated the work of apostleship to which he was called, for example ...

**1 Cor. 1:1** Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God ...

## **7. Feelings of Entitlement - Having Expectations.**

Pride can be seen when one has specific expectations you presume should be met in a particular manner, by particular persons, in a specific time frame, etc.

A classic example is Naaman, the Assyrian commander who had leprosy and sought Elisha for his healing.

**2 Kings 5:10,11** Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean." But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.'

Elisha did not respond personally to meet him but sent out a messenger to relay the message to Naaman to dip himself seven times in the River Jordan, a river much dirtier by comparison to other available options. The name 'Jordan' means 'descending; flowing down; (root = to go down; to flow down); descending rapidly'<sup>1</sup>. This denotes humility – a lowly position. Naaman had an expectation that Elisha would come out to greet him personally and wave his hands, calling on the name of the Lord. He became the more angry at Elisha's directive to him to dip himself seven times in the dirty River Jordan. Fortunately for him, he submitted to Elisha's directives and was cured of his leprosy. Had he not humbled himself, the grace for healing would have escaped him.

Here we see how pride can manifest in terms of having expectations of how people should honour us by virtue of the position we occupy or the role/responsibility we assume. Also, pride evidences itself when we prescribe to God the methodology by which He should respond to our personal crisis, as Naaman did. Humility accepts God's manner and methods in how He responds and deals with us.

## 8. False Assumption and Presumption of Public Honour

Pride is inclusive of assuming others have a duty to accord honour to you by affording you certain privileges, especially publicly, and so you automatically presume this in pride. Rather allow others to honour without having any expectation, than to have an internal expectation which anticipates a pre-conceived prediction as to how they should treat you. The scriptural text below illustrates this.

### Luke 14:7-11

And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

## 9. Stubbornness

Stubbornness is symptomatic of pride because it maintains a rebellious and unbending stance in the face of very clear knowledge, directive or correction as to what is right. Stubbornness insists on its own way to the total disregard of God's expectation. The god or idol of stubbornness is self.



Note in the text below, stubbornness is evidenced by disobedience to God's Word and thus reveals pride.

**Jer. 13:9-10a**      Thus says the Lord, 'Just so will I destroy the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This wicked people, who refuse to listen to My words, who walk in the stubbornness of their hearts ...

In the text below, stubborn disobedience is set in contrast to humble obedience. Stubborn disobedience does not just cause stagnation in one's spiritual development, but actually leads to regression and backward movement, causing you to actually lose ground you have already attained. Humble obedience on the other hand, has the effect of forward propulsion and progress into God's nature and purposes. Every single act of obedience takes you forward; every single act of disobedience, unless repented off, takes you backward.

**Jer. 7:23-24**      "But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.' "Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward.

At the time of this writing, God spoke to me about my stubbornness through the next Scripture cited below. When I read it, in my mind I substituted my name where there are references to 'MY PEOPLE' and 'ISRAEL'. I encourage you to do the same and sense the urgency of God for us all to break stubbornness and so activate the quickness with which He will remove every obstacle and enemy hindering our progress toward maturity and fulfilled destiny.

**Psalms 81:10-14**      "I, the Lord, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. "But My people **DID NOT LISTEN TO MY VOICE**, And Israel **DID NOT OBEY ME**. "So I gave them over to the **STUBBORNESS** of their heart, To walk in their **OWN DEVICES**. OH that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways! I would **QUICKLY** subdue their enemies And turn My hand against their adversaries"

#### 10. False Assumption of Roles/Functions/Responsibilities to Which God Has Not Called You to, Yet Which You Presumptuously Assume.

This is particularly a manifestation of pride when you dis-esteem the calling and value that someone, subordinate to you in some respect, has and brings, by displacing them.

King Uzziah manifested this when he attempted to undermine and subvert the authority and responsibility of the priests by going into the temple to burn incense, something only consecrated

priests, and not kings, could do. He did not repent for this when corrected and became a leper - read 2 Chron. 26. (Refer to point 11 in the previous session - no. 13 in this series).

Jesus, God though He is, submitted to Joseph, Mary and John the Baptist. When you know who you are in Christ and what God by His grace made you to be, you have no problem submitting to the ministry of someone else.

## 11. Wanting Recognition, Acknowledgement and Praise for Every Significant or Positive Development or Result Produced in the Kingdom Through your Efforts.

The individual who insists on public recognition for his labour in the Kingdom of God has succumbed to pride and has forgotten that every significant result produced in or through us is all as a result of the working of the GRACE of God within our lives.

**1 Cor.15:7-11** then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. **Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.**

**Phil 2:12-23** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

**Luke 17:10** So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'

## 12. Boastfulness

**2 Tim. 3:1-5** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

**Jams 4:16** But as it is, you **boast in your arrogance**; all such boasting is evil.

The only boast we should have is in the work God has done in us and our capacity to know Him, for these place the spotlight on Him and not us.

**Jer. 9:23,24** Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; **but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me**, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.

**Psalms 20:7** Some boast in chariots and some in horses, But **we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God**.

**Psalms 34:2** My soul will make **its boast in the Lord**; The humble will hear it and rejoice.

**2 Cor. 10:17** But he who **boasts is to boast in the Lord**.

### 13. Self-Praise

**Prov. 27:2** Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

**Prov. 25:27** It is not good to eat much honey, Nor is it glory to search out one's own Glory.

**2 Cor. 10:17,18** But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord. For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.

### 14. Unwillingness to Credit God as the Reason for Success or Breakthrough.

#### **Deut. 8:1-20**

- 1 "**All the commandments** that I am commanding you today you shall be **careful to do**, that you may **live and multiply**, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers.
- 2 "You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that **He might humble you, testing you**, to know what was in your heart, **whether you would keep His commandments or not**.
- 3 "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and **fed you with manna** which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might **make you understand** that **man does**

not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

- 4 "Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.
- 5 "Thus you are to know in your heart that the **LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man** disciplines his son.
- 6 "Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.
- 7 "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills;
- 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;
- 9 a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.
- 10 "When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.
- 11 "**Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments** and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today;
- 12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them,
- 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies,
- 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- 15 "He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.
- 16 "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.
- 17 "Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.'
- 18 "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.
- 19 "It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.
- 20 "Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God.

**Verse 12ff :** Disregard for God's Word makes you susceptible to pride and you then trust in your own sufficiency and ingenuity, to the total dishonour

**or regard for God.** You begin to function independently of God. Regard for and obedience to His Word is the mechanism ensuring our perpetual acknowledgement of Him for all our successes, and thus keeps us humble as we totally depend on Him for everything.

It is obvious in the above verses that there **exists the possibility** of coming into bountiful provision and contentment in having all physical needs met because of the gracious providence of God, and yet because of this very fact, **be seduced away from God** in pride. This will be the case if one has **not established the priority of God's Word** as a **fundamental principle in one's life**.

Seeking to live exclusively in the realm of having one's every external need and want satisfied, without a deep, internal desire to hear and obey His word, is to be prone to deception and eventual departure from the path of accuracy and prophetic fulfillment.

### 15. Taking Rejection Personally.

When we experience rejection, and take it personally, succumbing to anger, bitterness, self-pity, etc., proves we are still proud and have not 'died to self' completely.

When your representation of God either in mentality, word or deed is precisely accurate, and you suffer rejection for it by men, do not take it personally, because in rejecting you, they are actually rejecting the God whom you represent.

**1 Sam. 8:7** The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

**Exod. 16:8** Moses said, "This will happen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for the Lord hears your grumblings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumblings are not against us but against the Lord."

### 16. Blindness to the Necessity for Community Within the Body of Christ.

Pride manifests where there is no commitment to the pursuit and facilitation of oneness with others in the Body of Christ, both in a local and a broader context. Judges 18 highlights the danger of isolation, even though you are strong. Read the entire chapter slowly and meditatively before reading the notes below.

### **Judges 18:27-28**

Then they took what Micah had made and the priest who had belonged to him, and **came to**, to a people **quiet and secure**, and struck them with the **edge of the sword**; and they **burned the city** with fire. And there was **no one to deliver them**, because it was **far from Sidon** and they had **no dealings with anyone**, and it was in the **valley which is near Beth-rehob**. And they rebuilt the city and lived in it.

The people of Laish were **quiet and secure**. They were a 'quiet' people, i.e. peaceful and at rest. They were also 'secure', i.e. **confident and trusting in their strength**, and were in no threat of danger or attack – or at least they thought so.

The singular factor that made these people vulnerable was their ISOLATION – they had no dealings with anyone. They were killed entirely as a people because of their inability and unwillingness to relate to and connect with others.

They were far from Sidon and although they lived in the culture of the Sidonians (**Jer. 18:7**), they were not in practical or active relationship with them. In the time of the attack, they were too far away to receive help, because they 'distanced' themselves. Even though we may all have the same culture of the kingdom, we must still relate in close proximity to other members of the Body of Christ. This must be so, lest in a day, when we are under personal attack of some kind, we suffer loss because we are too 'far' removed relationally from the source of help, i.e. ZION. 'Zion', among other things, refers to the corporate strength and power of the Body of Christ.

**Psalm 20:2**     May he send you **help** from the sanctuary and give you **support from Zion**.

**Laish = old lion<sup>2</sup>**. This indicates that these people had a sense of experience ('old') and strength ('lion') and thus a false sense of security.

**Their city was near Beth-rehob** which means **"House of breadth; region of wideness; house of the broad way<sup>3</sup>"**. They lived in broadness and largeness, but in a valley which was low lying and thus a vulnerable position. Enlargement and growth must not lead to a compromise of your spiritual welfare. Also, do not seek expansion at the expense of relationships, for although largeness and increase can be attained, it is pointless if God-ordained relationships are destroyed along the way.

No matter how at rest you are, how strong you are, how experienced you are, or how enlarged and broad your ministry influence and sphere is, you still NEED others and must not succumb to a spirit of independence and isolation. Otherwise, there will be 'no-one to deliver you' in your hour of need.

Let us not stand aloof and apart from each other. We need each other more than we ever realise. Let us prioritise our gathering together. This is God's ordained way to strengthen us. Don't be 'TOO FAR' from me; I must not to be 'TOO FAR' from you.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

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Here below is summation of the indicators of pride that repel grace which we have discussed in the past two sessions:

1. Focus on Economic and Physical Welfare to the Total Disregard of Spiritual Welfare
2. Incomplete or Partial Obedience
3. Having Fame and Influence, but no intention of using it for Kingdom Advancement
4. No Mastery over Carnal Fleshly Nature
5. Refusal to Acknowledge God as the Source of Success
6. Independence of God and Self-Reliance
7. Strong in One's own Eyes / Strong in One's own Strength
8. Becoming Strong and Proud
9. Acting Corruptly
10. Unfaithfulness to the Lord
11. Crossing the Boundary of one's Function and Grace Calling
12. Refusal to Accept Correction
13. Uncontrollable Anger
14. Thinking You are Strong Within Yourself - in Your Own Human Strength, Instead of Being Strong in the Grace of Christ.
15. Arrogance and Inflated Self-Esteem.
16. Superiority Complex and Delusions of Grandeur
17. Carnal Insistence on the Use of Titles and/or References to Accomplishment.
18. Feelings of Entitlement - You Have Expectations.
19. False Assumption and Presumption of Public Honour
20. Stubbornness
21. False Assumption of Roles/Functions/Responsibilities to Which God Has Not Called You to, Yet Which You Presumptuously Assume.
22. Wanting Recognition, Acknowledgement and Praise for Every Significant or Positive Development or Result Produced in the Kingdom Through Some or all of your Efforts.
23. Boastfulness
24. Self-Praise
25. Unwillingness to Credit God as the Reason for Success or Breakthrough.
26. Taking Rejection Too Personally.
27. Blindness to the Necessity for Community Within the Body of Christ.

May grace and peace abound to you,  
Randolph Barnwell

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## ENDNOTES

1. Smith, S., & Cornwall, J. (1998). The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names (3). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.