God Strengthens the Heart

Pride weakens the heart

**Psalm 31:23**—*O* ***love*** *the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the* ***faithful****, and plentifully rewardeth the* ***proud doer****.*

24—***Be of good courage****, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that* ***hope in the LORD.***

There is a big difference between being **faithful in Love** and proud in doing.

There is a big difference between **God strengthening your heart** and man lifted up in his own heart or the heart lifted up.

* God strengthens a Humble heart
* God doesn’t strengthen a proud heart

2Chron. 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Deut. 8:16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

2Chron. 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

1. We must let God strengthen our hearts
   1. Strengthened heart for Jesus- Eph 6:10; Word-Jn.8:31Truth-Jn.8:32; Will of God-Lk.22:42; Faith-Rom.4:20;

2Sam. 3:39 And I am this day weak, though **anointed** king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness. {weak: Heb. tender}

Psalm 119:43 –*And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments*.

2Cor. 6:7—*By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,*

Eph 1:13—*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

2Tim. 2:15—*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

James 1:18*—Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

* 1. There are requirements for God to strengthen our hearts.

1. **Born Again—“O Love the Lord”**
   1. We must Love the Lord faithfully

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

**Psalm 31:23**—*O* ***love*** *the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the* ***faith****ful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.*

24—*Be of* ***good*** *courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that* ***hope*** *in the LORD.*

1. **Filled with the Holy Ghost**—**FRUIT** “Love”; “Faithfulness”-faith;

“good courage”-goodness; “Hope”

1. Pride is a thief (Joy is missing)(gentleness)(longsuffering)(meekness)(Temperance)

**Proverbs 3:7**—*Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

**Proverb 14:3**—*In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.*

**LOVE—**

1. **“made partakers of the Divine nature”**
2. “preserveth the **faithful**”
   1. Being faithful in love
   2. Being filled with the love of God,
   3. Bring forth the fruit of that love
      1. Obedient to the Will of God;
         1. for to such persons his commands are not grievous,
         2. their duty is their delight;
      2. Faithful to the Grace of God
         * 1. Receive, use and improve the talents with which God has intrusted you,
      3. Submissive to the Holy Ghost—God's service is perfect

Love, Joy Peace, Longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, Faith, meekness, temperance STRENGHT (freedom) liberty

(Pride)—Personal satisfaction, superiority, selfishness, self-centered, overconfidence, haughtiness, egotist, conceit, vanity, airs

* Self love, self respect, self esteem, self confidence and self importance.
* Not thirsty or hungry, Complacent, contentment, satisfied, self righteous, smugness,

Are you being selfish by some hidden motive or are you being Obedient with no hidden motives?

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

1. Pride of Heart
2. Pride of Appearance—Face
3. Pride of Wealth
4. Pride of Power
5. Pride of Nationality—Race
6. Pride of Religion—(grace)

1Cor. 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

1Cor. 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

2Co 5:12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

7:4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

8:24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

* **Being glad of another's Christian walk is in alignment with God's Word**
* **Pride in self is NOT in alignment with God's Word.**
* Pride in wealth of possessions leads to poverty. (II Kings 20)
* Pride in achievement leads to scorn and abasement. (Daniel 4)
* Extreme pride where one would compare himself to God leads to death, scorn, ridicule, and destruction. (Isaiah 14:12-20, Daniel 5, Genesis 3)

**Seeking to be somebody? Or know Him Phil. 3:10**

**We need to have the mind of Christ with His heart for service.**

*“If you wish to learn and appreciate something worth while, then love to be unknown and considered as nothing. Truly to know and (despise)* ***deny self*** *is the best and most perfect counsel. To think of oneself as nothing, and always to think well and highly of others is the best and most perfect wisdom. Wherefore, if you see another sin openly or commit a serious crime, do not consider yourself better, for you do not know how long you can remain in good estate. All men are frail, but you must admit that none is more frail than yourself.”*

The psalmist sang that the Lord saves the humble but brings low those whose eyes are haughty. (Psalm 18:27)

Perhaps this is why David sang in Psalm 131 that his heart was not proud, that his eyes were not haughty and that he did not concern himself with matters too wonderful for him. (Psalm 131)

The prophet Zephaniah called for the humble among the Israelites to seek the LORD and to seek humility and perhaps they would be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger. (Zephaniah 2:2-3)

In Romans we are told not to be high-minded but fear, (11:20)but to set our mind’s for the purpose of being of a sound mind. (Rom 12:3) according-to measure of faith

In I Corinthians God reveals to us that we should become all things to all people so that we can win them to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said he made himself a slave to everyone to win them to Christ and to share in the Gospel’s blessings. (1 Cor 9:19-23)

In II Corinthians God says our letters of recommendation are not written with ink, but are written with the Spirit of the Living God on the human heart, and that we as Christians are the letters of recommendation read to other Christians and to all men. We don’t need only a man’s evaluation of our lives – **we need God’s**. (II Cor 3:1-6)

In the book of Ephesians God calls us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received and to be completely humble and gentle. (Eph 4:1-6)

In Philippians God tells us to be content whatever the circumstances and that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We need to be happy with what we have, not dissastified. (Phil 4:10-13)

God encourages us to do our good deeds with humility and not to harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in our hearts which is of the devil and breeds disorder and every evil practice. (James 3:13-16)

James tells us that if we are in humble circumstances we ought to rejoice in our high position; but if we are rich, we should rejoice in his low position. (James 1:9-11)

Peter and James encourage us to clothe ourselves in humility toward one another because God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble; and to humble ourselves because God will lift us up in due time. (1 Peter 5:1-9; 1 Peter 3:8;

Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Your work matters. If you leave it undone, it will be missed. God gave you specific talents to serve him. Using your talents and gifts at work can be a joy. Developing your talents into excellence is a natural way to honor God in the workplace.

Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance

Php 3:14—*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*.

Heb 3:1—*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

Pr 16:19—*Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.*

Proverbs 29:23—*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.* Isaiah 57:15—*For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.* Mat 18:4—*Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*  Mat 23:12—*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

The life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ are a standing rebuke to every form of pride.

1. Pride of **birth**: Mat. 2:6—And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
2. Pride of **power**: Mat. 2:16—Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.
3. Pride of **position**: Mat. 13:55—"Is not this the carpenter's son?"
4. Pride of **wealth**: Mat. 8:20—"The Son of man hath not where to lay his head."
5. Pride of **personal** appearance: Isaiah 53:2—"He hath no form nor comeliness."
6. Pride of **reputation**: Phil.2:7—"Made himself of no reputation."
7. Pride of **superiority**: Luke 23:27—"I am...as he that serveth."
8. Pride of **ability**: John 5:30—"I can of mine own self do nothing."
9. Pride of **will**: John 5:30—"I seek not mine own will."
10. Pride of **resentment**: Luke 23:34—"Father, forgive them."

What! a pretense when a man calls himself a sinner?

Do we assume the appearance of humility that we may be admired and praised.

If we speak of ourselves in a contrary manner, that we should be despised. Therefore, we do this for the sake of reputation. When it is practiced, not for the sake of pleasing God, but for the sake of being praised, and of indulging pride, this is something devilish.

**Seeker Of Holiness, Beware Of Pride**

The chief mark of counterfeit holiness is its lack of humility. Every seeker after holiness needs to be on his guard, lest unconsciously what was begun in the spirit, be (perfected in the flesh)-a (pretence), and pride creep in where its presence is least expected. Two men went up into the temple to pray: the one a Pharisee, the other a publican. There is no place or position so sacred, but the Pharisee can enter there. And the publican will find that his danger is not from the Pharisee beside him, who despises him, but the Pharisee within who commends and exalts.

In God's temple, when we think we are in the holiest of all, in the presence of His holiness, let us beware of pride.

—Andrew Murray

2Chron. 34:21 Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for **great is the wrath** of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

2Chron. 34:27 Because thine heart was **tender**, and thou didst **humble thyself** before **God**, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, **saith the LORD**.

If we cannot prevail thereby to turn away God's wrath from our land, yet we shall deliver our own souls.

Job 22:29 When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

Ps 9:12 When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

Ps 10:12 ¶ Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.

Ps 10:17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

}

Ps 34:2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

Ps 69:32 The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God.

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Vanity and Pride are two different things,

But a Person that is proud is being vain.

Pride relates to our opinion of our self—Vanity is what we have others think of us.

Lack of temperance will get you into trouble and pride will keep you there.

Pride is not a virtue it is a liability.

Job 34:29 When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:

Pr 17:1 ¶ Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife. {sacrifices: or, good cheer}

Ec 4:6 Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

Isa 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Isa 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

Ac 24:2 And when he was called forth, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness, and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence,

2Th 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

PRIDE

* a feeling of self-respect and personal worth
* satisfaction with your (or another's) achievements; "he takes pride in his son's success"
* the trait of being spurred on by a dislike of falling below your standards

unreasonable and inordinate self-esteem (personified as one of the deadly sins)