



RCCG OCEANIA

Character & Holiness

PRIDE IS A KILLER

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

Pride is not a harmless attitude—it kills what God intends to grow. Scripture points us back to God's design: He set order in creation for "signs and seasons," and He calls the blessed person to delight in His law and meditate on it day and night. This study traces how humility begins when we submit to God's order and let His Word reshape our inner life.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Psalms 1:1-3

Psalms 1:2

Genesis 1:14-19

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pride is a killer because it resists God's authority and order.
- God established "signs and seasons" to remind us that life is not self-made but God-ordered (Genesis 1:14).
- The blessed life begins with delighting in the law of the LORD, not in self (Psalms 1:2).
- Meditating on God's Word "day and night" is a practical pathway away from pride and toward stability (Psalms 1:2).
- A Word-shaped life bears fruit in season rather than collapsing under self-dependence (Psalms 1:3).

INTRODUCTION

Pride can feel like strength, independence, or self-confidence, but Scripture treats it as a deadly posture of the heart. Pride resists God's authority, ignores God's timing, and detaches a person from the steady life God intends. Genesis describes a world designed with order—lights set for "signs and seasons." Psalm 1 describes a person who is stable and fruitful because life is rooted in the ...

the law of the LORD and shaped through continual meditation. This study explores how humility grows when life aligns with God's order and when God's Word reshapes desires and decisions over time.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Genesis 1:14-19** — God appoints the lights in the sky to separate day from night and to mark "signs and seasons," showing creation operates by God's design and timing.

SCRIPTURE READING (CONT.)

- **Psalms 1:1-3** — Psalm 1 contrasts two ways of life and pictures the stability and fruitfulness of the person who is rooted in God's instruction.
- **Psalms 1:2** — This verse identifies the heart and practice of the blessed person: delight in the law of the LORD and continual meditation—day and night.

KEY POINTS

1. **NAME THE THREAT: PRIDE KILLS** — Psalm 1 opens by describing a blessed life, but it begins with warnings about influences and directions that subtly shape a person. Pride often shows up as choosing one's own path, trusting one's own judgment above God's instruction, and becoming shaped by voices that push God to the margins. Pride is a killer because it disconnects the heart from dependence. When the inner life is centered on self, spiritual life dries up—even if outward activity continues. Psalm 1 uses the

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KEY POINTS (CONT.)

1. NAME THE THREAT: PRIDE KILLS (CONT.) — image of a tree to show that life is either rooted and nourished or gradually withering. A humble starting point is honest naming: pride is not merely a trait to manage; it is a spiritual danger to confront. The blessed life does not begin with self-exaltation but with a reorientation toward God.
 - Ask: Where has pride made me resistant to being taught, corrected, or guided by God's Word?
 - Identify one recurring situation where self-rule is strongest (decisions, relationships, time, or habits) and bring it under Scripture's guidance.
 - Practice a daily pause to admit dependence on God before major choices, instead of assuming self-sufficiency.
 - Review the "paths" that shape you (inputs, counsel, patterns) and choose one adjustment that moves you toward God-centered influence.

Scripture: Psalms 1:1-3

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

2. **SUBMIT TO GOD'S ORDER** — Genesis describes God establishing order in creation, appointing lights to separate day and night and to mark "signs and seasons." This is more than astronomy; it reveals a Creator who sets structure, timing, and purpose into the world. Pride resists order because it wants to be its own reference point. Humility grows when a person accepts that life is not self-made and not self-timed. God's design includes rhythms and boundaries that are good, steady, and beyond human ...

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

2. **SUBMIT TO GOD'S ORDER (CONT.)** — control. Submitting to God's order means learning to live within God's timing rather than demanding control. The phrase "signs and seasons" can become a reminder: God is God, and people are not. This re-centers the heart away from self-rule and toward trust.

- Use the idea of "signs and seasons" as a daily reminder to accept God's timing rather than forcing outcomes.
- Name one area where impatience or control shows pride, and choose one act of surrender (waiting, listening, or yielding).
- Build simple rhythms that reflect God's order (set times for rest, work, and Scripture), resisting a pride-driven life of constant self-direction.
- When plans change, practice responding with trust instead of insisting on your preferred outcome.

Scripture: Genesis 1:14-19

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

3. DELIGHT REPLACES SELF-DEPENDENCE — Psalm 1 identifies what the blessed person loves: “the law of the LORD.” Pride is not only about what someone does; it is about what someone delights in. When self becomes the highest love, the heart naturally resists God’s authority. Delight in the law of the LORD is not mere rule-keeping; it is a re-formed desire. God’s instruction becomes trusted, wanted, and welcomed. This shifts the center of gravity from self-dependence to God-dependence. As delight changes, choices change. The person is no longer driven primarily

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KEY POINTS (CONT.)

3. DELIGHT REPLACES SELF-DEPENDENCE (CONT.) — by self-protection, self-promotion, or self-rule. Instead, the heart begins to prefer God's ways because they are recognized as life-giving.
 - Pray honestly about what you currently delight in most, and ask God to reshape your desires toward the law of the LORD.
 - Choose one portion of Scripture to revisit repeatedly until familiarity turns into affection, not just information.
 - Replace one self-focused habit (seeking approval, control, or comparison) with an intentional act of God-focused attention (reading, reflection, or obedience).
 - Track how your decisions change when you ask, "What would it look like to delight in God's instruction here?"

Scripture: **(Psalms 1:2)**

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

4. **MEDITATION DAY AND NIGHT** — Psalm 1 describes a continual practice: the blessed person will “meditate” on God’s Word “day and night.” Meditation is sustained attention—returning again and again to what God has said until it shapes understanding, reactions, and desires. Pride weakens when Scripture is given time to work below the surface. Quick inspiration can fade, but day and night meditation forms a new inner life: steadier thoughts, softer defensiveness, and deeper trust. This kind of meditation is practical. It can include rereading, ...

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

4. **MEDITATION DAY AND NIGHT (CONT.)** — reflecting, speaking the words aloud, and bringing the truth into ordinary moments. Over time, a Word-filled mind becomes less reactive and less self-centered because it is continually re-centered on God.
 - Set two daily touchpoints with Scripture (morning and evening) to practice meditating day and night.
 - Write one verse or phrase from Psalm 1:2 and return to it throughout the day, especially when pride is triggered.
 - Turn meditation into action by asking: “What does this reveal about God, and what must change in me today?”
 - When stressed or criticized, pause and rehearse a truth from Scripture rather than defending yourself immediately.

Scripture: (Psalms 1:2)

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

5. **FRUIT IN SEASON, NOT COLLAPSE** — Psalm 1 portrays a person like a tree planted by streams of water—stable, nourished, and productive. The result is not constant output on demand, but fruit “in season.” This language connects naturally to God’s created order and timing (signs and seasons), reminding the heart that growth and fruitfulness are not self-engineered. Pride tends to demand immediate results and self-made success. Scripture points to a different pattern: rootedness before fruit, and God’s timing rather than personal urgency. The ...

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

5. FRUIT IN SEASON, NOT COLLAPSE (CONT.) — aim is lasting stability, not self-exaltation. A Word-rooted life is resilient. The picture of leaves that do not wither emphasizes endurance through changing conditions. Humility is expressed as staying planted—remaining under God's instruction and within God's order—until fruit arrives in season.
- Measure growth by rootedness and faithfulness, not by immediate visible outcomes.
 - Choose one practice that keeps you "planted" (consistent reading, reflection, or obedience) and commit to it for a sustained season.
 - When results feel slow, resist pride-driven shortcuts and return to God's timing and order.
 - Identify one area where you feel pressure to perform, and shift your focus to steady dependence on God's Word.

Scripture: Psalms 1:1-3 Genesis 1:14-19

GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

OBSERVATION

- In Psalms 1:1-3, what contrasts are presented between the blessed person and other paths?
- What specific actions and images are used in Psalm 1 to describe stability and growth?
- According to Psalms 1:2, what does the blessed person delight in, and what do they do with it?
- In Genesis 1:14-19, what purposes are given for the lights in the sky, and what does “signs and seasons” communicate?
- What repeated themes do you notice across these passages related to order, timing, and rootedness?

INTERPRETATION

- Why might pride be described as something that kills spiritual life, based on the two paths in Psalm 1?
- How does God's establishment of "signs and seasons" challenge a prideful desire for control or self-rule?
- What is the difference between merely knowing the law of the LORD and delighting in it (Psalms 1:2)?
- What might "meditate... day and night" look like as a way of life rather than a single activity?
- How does the promise of fruit "in season" reshape expectations about growth and results?

APPLICATION

- Where does pride most often appear in your decisions or relationships, and what would humility look like there this week?
- What rhythm could help you remember God's order—His "signs and seasons"—when you feel rushed, pressured, or controlling?
- What is one practical step to increase delight in the law of the LORD (not just duty) in your daily life?

APPLICATION (CONT.)

- How can you build a simple plan to meditate on Scripture day and night without making it complicated or performative?
- What would it look like to pursue fruit in season—steady rootedness—rather than forcing outcomes through self-dependence?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Confess areas where pride resists God's authority and correction
- Ask for a growing delight in the law of the LORD
- Surrender control and trust God's "signs and seasons" timing
- Pray for a steady habit of meditating on Scripture day and night

NEXT STEP

Choose one short passage to meditate on morning and evening, and identify one specific area where you will replace self-rule with obedience to God's Word.

CONCLUSION

Pride is a killer because it resists God's authority, rejects God's order, and centers life on self. Scripture offers a clear pathway back to humility: recognize God's design in creation—signs and seasons—and re-center the heart through delight in the law of the LORD and the steady practice of meditating on it day and night. A Word-rooted life does not collapse under self-dependence; it becomes like a planted tree—stable, resilient, and fruitful in season under God's timing.