

THE ONE WHO MAKES A FOOL LOOK GOOD

TEXT: (Proverbs 26:12, NIV)

¹²Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them.

I. PRIDE DEFINED

1. “Say to the people of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am about to desecrate my sanctuary—the stronghold in which you take pride, the delight of your eyes, the object of your affection’ (Ezekiel 24:21, NIV).
2. “He chose the Promised Land as our inheritance, the proud possession of Jacob’s descendants, whom he loves” (Psalm 47:4, NLT).

A. A Proud Person

1. “I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze. Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of your land yield their fruit” (Leviticus 26:19-20, NIV).
2. “I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes” (Isaiah 10:12, NIV).
3. “For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry” (I Samuel 15:23, KJV).

B. Saul Lost His Humility

1. “Saul answered, ‘The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest’” (I Samuel 15:15, NIV).
2. “For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being king*” (I Samuel 15:23, KJV).

C. Saul Lost His Anointing and Coronation

1. “As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, ‘The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you’” (I Samuel 15:26, NIV).

II. THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF PRIDE

A. God Hates Pride

1. “There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes” (Proverbs 6:16-17, NIV).
2. “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Isaiah 14:12-15, KJV).
3. “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (I John 2:16, KJV).

4. “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it” (Genesis 3:6, NIV).
5. “Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it’” (Genesis 4:6-7, NIV).
6. “Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth’” (Genesis 11:4, NIV).

B. Pride Will Destroy Your Spiritual Life

1. “Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished*” (Proverbs 16:5, KJV).
2. “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18, NIV).
3. “First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall” (Proverbs 16:18, MSG).
4. “‘You will not certainly die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’” (Genesis 3:4-5, NIV).

C. Pride Destroys Relationships

1. “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165, KJV).

III. CURING THE SIN OF PRIDE

A. Begin by Confessing

1. “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16, NIV).

B. Practice Humility

1. “Then he said to the crowd, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it’” (Luke 9:23-24, NLT).
2. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat—I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, *my* way, to finding yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you?” (Luke 9:23-25, MSG).

C. Practice Meekness

1. “Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city” (Proverbs 16:32, ESV).

CONCLUSION

1. “Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them” (Proverbs 26:12, NIV).