



## How Satan Gains Access to Work in our Lives

### Part 7: Pride

In this issue we will look at the subject of pride and the opening it gives to Satan in our lives. Pride was the original sin of Lucifer (Ezek. 28:2, 6, 17) and is a prime characteristic he endeavors to establish in the hearts of mankind to draw them away from God. To set the stage for this he has designed the world system, over which he rules, to flaunt in ever-increasing ways that which appeals to the “lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life” (1 John 2:16 NASB; 5:19). Internally, he works through the flesh, the part of the human soul over which he gained dominion at the Fall (Rom. 6:16), urging man to give in to the world’s alluring appeal.

Man becomes particularly vulnerable to pride when he begins to achieve a measure of success in life, whether that is demonstrated in material possessions, accomplishments, prestige, beauty, etc. (Deut. 8:11-14; Ezek. 28:4-5, 17). Rather than recognizing God as the Source of everything that he is and has (Mat. 6:30-33; James 1:17), the prideful person is lured by Satan to take personal credit for these things. With this major slip of obedience in not giving thanks to God, Satan wins a victory and is able to establish a foothold for the further work of darkness in the person’s life (1 Thes. 5:18; Rom. 1:21). Satan’s cause is advanced as he moves the person into an increasing sense of self-sufficiency with the need for God in his life being shut out (Hos. 13:6). Eventually, as the proud person continues to live in disobedience, ignoring the commandments of God, he brings himself under a curse (Neh. 9:16, 29; Ps. 119:21). In this state he may go so far as to mock God or even deny His existence (Ps. 10:4).

While the value system of the world may offer momentary gratification, it does not last. Like all the works of Satan, pride is never an asset in a man’s life. It will inevitably lead to dishonor, failure, and destruction (Prov. 11:2; 16:18; 29:23; Jer. 50:32; Mat. 23:12). Once pride has gained a foothold, it begins a process of defilement within the heart that can lead to a state of total depravity (Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 1:28-32). This is an obvious manifestation of the internal work of Satan in a person’s life.

In the Bible arrogance is equated with idolatry (1 Sam. 15:23; NIV), and that is what it is. It is giving glory to self that rightly belongs to God (Zeph. 2:15). The clay should never exalt itself above the potter (Isa. 29:16), which is exactly what Lucifer tried to do (Ezek. 28:2, 6, 9). Even Jesus sought the glory of the Father rather than His own glory while He was on earth (John 7:17; 8:50; cf. Heb. 1:3).

In God’s sight pride is an absolute abomination (Prov. 6:16-17; 16:5; 21:4). Even as a God-fearing believer, if you have pride in your heart about any aspect of your life or think of yourself as having “arrived” or in any way doing better than others, God is displeased. This attitude will keep you from intimacy with Him. He will not allow a proud person to come into His presence (Ps. 5:5; 138:6). In fact, he will set Himself against that person (Jer. 50:31; James 4:6) and may use drastic measures to purge the pride out of his life (Lev. 26:19; Prov. 15:25; Obad. 3-4). Those who are unrepentant in their prideful ways will reap grave consequences on the Day of Judgment (Isa. 2:11-12; 13:11; Mal. 4:1)!

Pride has no place within a healthy Body of believers and is incongruent with both love and a walk in the Spirit (Rom. 12:16; 1 Cor. 13:4; Gal. 5:25-26). We are clearly instructed not to be conceited but to associate with the lowly and always esteem others as more important than ourselves (Rom. 12:16; Phil. 2:3). The wise man is not to boast in his wisdom nor the mighty man in his might nor the rich man in his riches but instead to boast in his knowledge and understanding of God, giving glory to Him and keeping His commandments (Jer. 9:23-24; 13:15; Deut. 17:20).