

WHEN PRIDE DISGUISES AS FAITH Part 1

Habakkuk 2:4

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: But the just shall live by his faith.

Notice, this verse is contrasting those who live BY FAITH with those whose soul is LIFTED UP. In other words, this verse is contrasting faith with pride. You can't be in faith and in pride at the same time. If you want to have faith, you must avoid pride at all costs!

However, we must understand that pride comes in different forms. For example, pride often shows up as...

AROGANCE

When I say 'arrogance' I'm speaking of that attitude which causes one to have an exaggerated view of themselves OR an exaggerated view of their abilities. Such an attitude will ruin and undermine your faith!

Romans 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Notice, Paul admonishes believers not to think of themselves MORE HIGHLY than what they ought to think. This is a clear reference to pride and a reminder that there are limits to how we should think of ourselves. Moreover, to avoid pride every man should stay within those limits.

Now, what determines the "limit" of how we ought to think of ourselves is our faith! (When Paul says 'faith' he's speaking specifically about the faith that's connected with spiritual gifts.)

Romans 12:6

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

God has given each of us a gift AND a measure of faith to operate that gift. However, whether we're talking about the faith that's connected with spiritual gifts or the faith that is given to every man in general, no one should go beyond (or think of themselves beyond) the faith they've received.

This is the part where pride creeps in because it seems everyone has their *own* opinion of how much faith they actually have.

While I'm NOT here to judge you concerning your faith, I AM here to give you some guidelines to help govern how you operate in your faith.

- a. First, remember that we all don't receive the SAME measure of faith. This means two people can receive the same gift but won't discharge that gift at the same level or to the same degree. Moreover, it's considered arrogant to try to go beyond the faith God has given you. (There's no extra credit for producing results beyond your capacity!)
- b. Second, when it comes to determining what we do (how we discharge our gift) and how to understand/interpret what we do, it's important to let God be the judge!

1 Corinthians 4:5–6

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

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.

Notice, we should never rush to judgment when it comes to determining or understanding what men are doing in the body of Christ, nor should we ever try to think of ourselves (or others) beyond what's written in God's word. Anyone who thinks or judges themselves apart from what God has revealed in His word is "puffed up" or proud!

Pride can also show up as...

OVERCONFIDENCE

Romans 11:19–20

¹⁹ Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

²⁰ Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Again, Paul is admonishing the believers in Rome not to be "high minded". Only this time he's speaking in terms of our POSITION in the kingdom. (Paul didn't want them to think that because God has made room for them in the kingdom, they need not fear.)

When I say “fear” I mean that fear which keeps us from disobeying God. Moreover, when people stop being afraid of God’s judgments they tend to become proud and they start to develop a false sense of security. This false sense of security comes from thinking you’re in possession of something that you don’t truly have!

Romans 11:17–18

17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

Paul is reminding them that the “fatness” of the olive tree is in the “root,” and not in the branches! In other words, the life is in Christ, not us. And, although faith gives us access to these things, faith does not give us ownership of them!

This is what many in the world (and dare I say, in the Church) do not understand—the real power is not in faith. The real power is with God! Again, many assume that there’s power in speaking or declaring. In fact, this is where the practice of “manifesting” comes from. (Manifesting is an attempt to turn your desires into a reality by directing your thoughts and words towards them.)

Unfortunately, this is nothing more than pride and deception because the power doesn’t lie with man. The power lies with God!

Lamentations 3:37

37 Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

In other words, things don’t come to pass because man commands it. They come to pass because God has commanded it. The ONLY way man has power is when he works in agreement with God.

1 John 5:14–15

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

This is why our prayers are not being answered—because we’re asking for something that’s not in line with the will of God!

James 4:2–3

² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Notice why they did not receive—because they were asking for things according to their lusts (desires). When you do this, you're guilty of pride!

James 4:5–6

⁵ Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? ⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

If you're desiring something to the point that you have envy, then that desire does not come from the Spirit. It's coming out of your own lusts or pride. (Therefore, pride is not just thinking beyond God's limits, it's also lusting/desiring things beyond God's limits!)

Folks, can't you see that faith and pride are at odds with each other? We can't be in faith and be in pride at the same time. Furthermore, pride comes in many forms. It can come in the form of arrogance (or attempting to go beyond our limits) AND it can come in the form of overconfidence (having a false sense of security).