

Pride & Humility 1

(6/22/25)

Please turn to *Revelation 2:4*.

Almost a month ago the *Lord called me out on my pride*, revealing self-exalting things within me that needed repentance. Do you know how you get some good word from God, it takes root in you and begins to grow, then some time later we “forget” it, or it “wears off” and we fall back on our old ways? That was me. For a few days I was humble and repentant, basking in the fruit of meekness...then it was back to same old, same old me.

Just last Wed I asked the Lord **what He wanted me preaching this Sunday** and He answered “Pride and Humility.” I “remembered” the revelation He’d give me about this nearly a month ago and started gathering my thoughts. One day later I was leading a Tae Kwon Do practice and belt test and feeling great, especially about my kicks. I patted myself on the back that, despite being an old man, my kicks were still fast, strong, and high!

What happened next is literal and not symbolic: between the 3rd and 4th kick during the practice **I decided to kick even HIGHER**. I wanted it to get above my head. Just as I was thinking that, a voice inside said “*don’t do it.*” No joke. I quickly replied “*but I can! I’m feeling good, flexible, and strong! I can!!!*”

I did...and **took out my hamstring**. I practically collapsed on the floor and had to stop the entire practice. Here I was trying to set a good athletic example for 25-30 students who’d been looking forward to me coming, and I could barely stand. I had to run the rest of the class and not move. I went in there trying to dazzle them all, and ended up injured and humiliated.

Where did I go wrong? PRIDE.

Please hear me: my experience with God is this. **When He convicts me of something, He’s not just correcting my PAST choices, but is anticipating my FUTURE ones.**

In other words, **He's prophesying to me and giving me a chance to repent** and turn from any wicked way. In this case, He **knew** what I was going to try to do last Thursday and **knew** the result. Less than 24 hours previous to my injury He said He wanted me preaching about pride and humility. He was giving me a chance to repent before the fact, because He's a merciful God!

Here are the verses he gave me before the fact, to open my eyes to the danger of pride and the virtue of humility:

[Rev 2:4-5 ESV] 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 **Remember therefore from where you have fallen**; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

I want to focus on the first part of verse 5, because that's what the Lord highlighted for me. **We must remember where we came from.**

- Where and who we were when Jesus found us.
- What our destiny was back then.
- What He rescued us from and let's make no mistake: it was a major rescue mission on His part.

Me? ***Before Jesus came and got me I was greatly deceived and headed for Hel***...and didn't know it. I thought it was the opposite: that my eyes were open, red-pilled, and walking in the truth. The New Age beliefs I embraced back then had me convinced that not only was I good guy, but that my relationship with God (my twisted version of Him) was great.

Then the real Jesus showed Himself to me one night and I saw the truth, symbolized by me treading water in the middle of an ocean with no boat or land in sight and sinking. The ocean represented my sin. I remember kneeling at the feet of Jesus, Who was standing in front of me. I gripped the sides of His knees and couldn't stop screaming about how I had no idea I was such a sinner. I literally begged Him to forgive me, knowing I didn't deserve any of it.

So let's pause and take stock: **where did I come from?**

Where did YOU come from before Jesus came and got you? That's the first thing God calls upon us to "remember."

Where we came from was the road to Hell. We were all on that road, driving toward our own destruction at breakneck speed. We didn't know God and as the Bible says, were even enemies of His. All sin makes us fall short of the glory of God. All of us like sheep had gone astray and were going in the opposite direction of our Good Shepherd Jesus.

Then Jesus came and got us, bringing us into His sheepfold. He forgave us from the ocean of sin that was on our rap sheet, and adopted us as sons and daughters of His Father. He made us citizens of His Kingdom, placed the Holy Spirit within us, and sealed us for the Resurrection. He's eventually going to move us into this amazing place He built called the NJ which will be even better than Maro Lago.

We came from nothing and He made us into something amazing. Like going from extreme poverty to become incredibly wealthy.

Now comes the next leg in our journey and again: *God calls upon us to remember* as we just read in Revelation 2. Let's read in Deuteronomy 8 why remembering where we came from is so important:

[Deu 8:11-18 ESV] 11 "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 **then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. 17 **Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'** 18 **You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth,** that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

We get Saved and Jesus becomes our first love because, in our humility, we see Who He is and everything He did for us. We grasp the depth of the rescue mission He went on to pull us up out of spiritual poverty [miry clay] into eternal riches [solid rock]. We get that we deserved none of it and He did it anyway. We love Him **because** He did it anyway.

Then something happens... what the Lord just described here in Deuteronomy 8. When we're doing well whether by physical achievements like the ones described here or with our mental and spiritual gifts...***our hearts get "lifted up": PRIDE.***

Now **look what pride inspires within us: a lack of memory. Forgetting.**

When we start to think how successful, smart, wise, hard-working, good looking, athletic, generous, and self-sacrificial we are that's pride. Said pride causes a spiritual blindfold—what the Bible calls a veil—to be placed over our eyes where we slowly but surely steal the glory from God.

I recently asked God for a definition of pride that I could grab hold of, and His response was *“anything that steals My glory.”*

If glory manifested physically, it would look like Jesus at the top of the Mt. of Transfiguration when He turned into this Being of bright shining light. Imagine if He'd done that in public vs. just James, John, and Peter. ALL eyes would be on Him and people would have fallen all over themselves to worship Him.

Pride attempts to draw said brightness away from Jesus and place it on ourselves. We **want** others to look upon us and admire whatever it is we think we have, earned, worked for, and accomplished. Even that which we've been born with!

- A person who thinks their smart wants to be the smartest person in the room.
- A good-looking person wants eyes to be on them and to be desired.
- A sacrificial person wants everyone to acknowledge and laud their service.
- A generous person wants everyone to appreciate them for their goodness.
- A strong man wants to be admired and envied for his strength.

Back to Deuteronomy 8 look at verse 17: when pride slithers in, it begins to convince us that WE did this. Whether things physical or spiritual. Even if we claim “God gave me this” pride will shift its method to convince us we must be SPECIAL in order for God to have chosen us to receive this gift. That we somehow stand apart (and higher) than other Christians because God gave us a prophetic gift, a healing touch, the ability to understand the Bible, a great memory, or great generosity.

Verse 18 is the one that needs to be printed on a t-shirt:

You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth

Not just physical wealth, ***but what Jesus has given us:*** forgiveness, justification, adoption, the Holy Spirit, and eternal life. Everything!

Therefore let us remember both ends of the journey as Jesus tells us:

- Where we started.
- From where we have fallen.

Where did we fall from? From where we started. Humble. Repentant. Deeply grateful. Madly in love with Jesus. Knowing that all the glory both our Salvation and Sanctification belongs to Him.