



Series: Esther

Title: The Problems and Potholes of Pride

Scripture: Proverbs 26:23 (NKJV), Esther 6-7 (ESV), 1 Peter 5:5-14 (ESV)

2025 Theme Scripture: Romans 1:16-17 (ESV) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

March Scripture Memory: Proverbs 16:18 (ESV) *"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."* **1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)** *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so at the proper time he may exalt you."*

A. Pride drags us down every time. (Proverbs 26:23 NKJV)

"A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor."

- 1) Pride tells us to believe the best about ourselves and the worst about everyone else. (Esther 6:1–6)
- 2) Pride tells us not to take the time to seek understanding of other people, even our enemies. (Esther 6:7–13)
- 3) Pride tells us to lie to people just to impress them. (Esther 7:1–5)
- 4) Pride tells us to hang on to our perception of things even after the truth is made known to us. (Esther 7:6–10)
 - a) Pride leads us to not heed warnings. (Eccl. 8:11-13; 1 Thess. 5:3)
- 5) Pride tells us not to repent when our sin is revealed.

B. God lifts us up when we humble ourselves. (Psalm 40:4; Proverbs 26:23; 1 Peter 5:6)

- 1) The only way to escape pride is to humble ourselves before God and people. (1 Peter 5:5–7)
 - a) Confessing sin (cast all my cares)
 - b) Confessing dependence (cast all my cares)
 - c) Confessing needs (cast all my cares)
 - d) Confessing burdens & anxieties (cast all my cares)

- 2) Once we humble ourselves before God and people then we must watchfully resist the devil. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
 - a) Watch out for anyone or anything that leads to sin or discouragement.
 - b) Don't jump on bandwagons.
 - c) Don't isolate yourself.
 - d) Look out for others, be vulnerable with trusted people, allow them into your life.
- 3) When we humble ourselves before God and man, we will suffer, but the God of grace will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. (1 Peter 5:10)
- 4) Humility before God and man gives us the supernatural ability to peacefully and lovingly take our position in the Great Commission. (1 Peter 5:11–14)