

2022 CONSECRATION

Week 4 (Jan 24 – Jan 30)

Get Rid of Pride
God's Way

Let me begin by saying we appreciate those of you who got on the prayer call on Friday night. It blessed me to see so many of you being interested in prayer and the corporate importance of prayer. There is another step that we all have to take, if we expect our prayers to be heard.

This morning, the Lord brought to my attention a scripture in Ezekiel 33:31. The NIV says, **“my people come to you, as they usually do, and to sit before you to hear your words, but they do not put them into practice. Their mouths, speak of love, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.”** As I was talking last Friday about humility and pride, there are some surface causes of pride of which I think that we need to be watchful to protect ourselves and to grow.

1. Don't sell out to the world's concept of success which is achievement, acceptance, affluence, and ability. Jesus said that a man's life consists of more than any of the things which he possesses. Please be careful not to focus so much on self through self-interests, self-reliance, self-indulgence, self-satisfaction, self-esteem, or self-fulfillment. Part of what Paul said to Timothy would happen in the last days was that people would be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy (see 2 Tim 3:1-5). **Understand that whatever level of success you have in life, that it did not just come from your self-effort alone, because that would only produce pride.** Instead, it comes from letting Christ build His character within you. Know that only what is done through the power of Christ's life inside of you has lasting results.
2. I shared part of the solution to the issue of pride and a lack of humility. James said in James 4:6, “He giveth more grace”. **God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** In the scripture concerning the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:10-14), it was easy to see that the Pharisee's confidence of self-righteousness was in his perception of others and looking down on their position in comparison to himself. It was seen in his listing of his attributes, but also in his failure to acknowledge his personal sin. He sees the faults of others as he executed his “religious” deeds in what he may have thought was a perfect way. He, in the end, refuses salvation while exalting himself.



3. When we look at Godly humility, the Publican demonstrates this by not assuming any self-righteousness and he recognizes his own unworthiness before God. He admits his personal sin, (hard for us to do) sees his own faults and expresses his need for forgiveness as he prays for mercy before God. According to Jesus, he receives salvation and is exalted by God.
Admitting your personal faults and weaknesses before a sovereign God demonstrates trust in Him.
4. True humility is able to rejoice with them that rejoice. The Publican is able to openly and honestly admit sin. By doing this, he can seek truth from others regarding his own weaknesses. **True humility is able to graciously accept criticism.** It learns to turn all worries, anxieties, and concerns over to the Lord.
5. We must pursue godliness in all that we do, because godliness with contentment is great gain. **Before God can truly bring you into the promise of what He has for your life, the pride in your life must be dealt with.** A biblical example of this was Joseph's coat of many colors. I know that his brothers took his coat away because of jealousy, but it was a necessary act to remove the pride that was in Joseph's life. Though they acted out of pure jealousy, it was in God's mind that he was using this to humble Joseph and prepare him for his future. Before God could exalt him, He had to humble him.
6. For many of us, God is humbling you and me through this time of fasting that we have been enduring. Know for a certainty that it is not in vain. It is not just to lose weight or to get into an outfit. **I hope that you see the necessity of humbling yourself. If you don't, God will use circumstances and even people sometimes to accomplish the goal of humbling you.** Let's humble ourselves by removing all white bread/flour products (not whole wheat or rye breads for example) and all meats including seafood with the exception of chicken/turkey/poultry products. **If you have fallen, get back up. Let's see this to the end. End the cycle of up and down and set your eyes on the prize.**

I would love to have you in prayer on Monday and Friday nights.

Faith Tabernacle Christian
Center
Pastor Earl & Denise Goings

Our Prayer Objectives

- ♦ For the Body of Christ to be strengthened
- ♦ For the Souls of the Lost to be saved
- ♦ For the Youth - their protection and salvation
- ♦ For Marriages around the world
- ♦ For our Political leaders
- ♦ For Educators and Children in school
- ♦ For Medical Workers, health and healing
- ♦ For Single Adults
- ♦ For a Heart to serve and that we will see and know our assignment
- ♦ For denial of Self
- ♦ For safety in the midst of COVID-19