

# ENEMIES OF THE BODY:

## "PRIDE"

*"...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5)*

### **What is PRIDE?**

- Excess of self-esteem and of one's own merits, by which one believes one is superior to the others.
- "Arrogance, vanity, excess of self-esteem."
- "Personal satisfaction that is experienced by something personal or related to themselves that is considered valuable."
- It is Sin Proverbs 21:4 says: *"Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin."*
- Pride is essentially self-worship.

Pride originates from Satan. Let's read Ezekiel 28:17

*"Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. Your wisdom was corrupted by your love of splendor. So I threw you to the ground and exposed you to the curious gaze of kings."*

**PRIDE** is therefore a **spirit** that operates, controls and influences on the life of human beings and causes **"MENTAL BLINDNESS"**; the Word of God defines it as the spirit of Leviathan whose name means "king over the sons of pride."

This spirit is covered with other spirits to protect itself. For example, some people influenced by this spirit of pride are tormented with spirits of rejection, lust, insecurity, shame, fear, and others.

### **Usually the person controlled or affected by this spirit shows:**

- Self-reliance (putting confidence in one's own abilities).
- Individualism (thinks they do not need others).
- Stubbornness (obstinacy). Try to prove that you are always correct.
- Egoism (self-satisfaction).
- Competitiveness (competing in the extreme to stand out and be recognized)
- Extreme perfectionism (pride, arrogance).
- Grudge (difficulty forgiving)
- Ambition and always wanting to do your own will.
- Disbelief (distrust)
- Lie (The person lies all the time)
- Damn (The person constantly curses)
- Hardness of heart.
- Persecute the poor Psalm 10:2 *"The wicked arrogantly hunt down the poor. Let them be caught in the evil they plan for others."*
- Mocks others Psalm 119:51 *"The proud hold me in utter contempt, but I do not turn away from your instructions"*
- They make up lies against the righteous Psalm 119:69 *"Arrogant people smear me with lies, but in truth I obey your commandments with all my heart."*
- They set traps for others to fall. Psalm 140:5 *"The proud have set a trap to catch me; they have stretched out a net; they have placed traps all along the way."*

In other words, the proud person has the perfect family, the perfect children, the best home, the best car, the best spouse, the best job, and the highest salary. And if they know they do not have it, they pretend they do. The proud do not accept the contribution of others. They never work as a team because they think they are the only ones who do things well. They always put themselves in the position of "supervisor" of everything and everyone, but they never admit their mistakes, which means, they like to evaluate the life and work of others but do not like anyone evaluating them.

Pride therefore blinds people's minds and prevents them from receiving and walking in the revelation of the kingdom of God.

Pride is not about money, but about the attitude of the heart. Proud people don't see or feel the need to pray, especially asking for advice. "...The wicked **in his proud countenance** does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts". Psalm 10:4

Pride works cautiously in people's lives; so much that even in some cases, it goes almost unnoticed, as if it did not exist. That is why people come to think that they are very humble when in reality they are not. It is what we know as "False humility." Both pride and false humility pretend people to always have the focus on themselves. Only when the "I" ceases to be the center of our lives and is replaced by Christ, the true humility makes its appearance. "Whoever wants to come after me, deny himself ....." "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

### CONSEQUENCES OF PRIDE:

- "You rescue the humble, but you **humiliate** the proud.." Psalm 18:27
- "But those who exalt themselves will be **humbled**.." Matthew 23:12
- "**Abomination** to the Lord; everyone proud in heart though they join forces, none will go unpunished. Proverbs 16:5
- "... That is why it says: God resists (**opposes**) the proud (superb) but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6
- "Pride leads to **disgrace**, but with humility comes wisdom" Proverbs 11:2
- "Pride leads to **conflict**" Proverbs 13:10
- "Haughtiness goes before **destruction**; humility precedes honor." Proverbs 18:12

### HOW TO BE FREE FROM PRIDE?

The way to overcome this spirit is only through JESUS CHRIST. He is the "antidote" to this "poison." It is therefore important to **recognize that you can do nothing or achieve anything in life without His intervention, without His participation and presence. Your strengths and capabilities are not enough to achieve it. You need to walk depending on God.**

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. **FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.**" John 15:5

In other words, **HUMBLING YOURSELF** before Him is when you will be truly free from the spirit of pride.

"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor." 1 Peter 5:6

### Man and women of God declare that:

"All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech." Proverbs 8:13

### Questions to reflect on:

1. How do you react to directions, observations, etc. from your authorities?
2. How do you treat others? Do you do it by placing yourself in a higher position than them?
3. Is it difficult for you to seek help or advice immediately?
4. Do you receive or accept the help of others easily?
5. Do you constantly reject the ideas of others?
6. Do you refuse to be consoled?
7. Is there an area of your life that is impenetrable, that you are covering in some way?
8. Do you have difficulty working in a team?