

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

## EXPRESSIONS OF PRIDE #1

John Edwards

One of Satan’s temptation avenues is “...the pride of life...” (1 Jn. 2:16). This was employed in Eve's deception when she saw “...a tree to be desired to make one wise...” (Gen. 3:6). The Devil tried this on the Lord when “...he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Lk. 4:9-11).

The Book of God has much to say about pride. It is written: “When pride cometh, then cometh shame...” (Prov. 11:2). “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). “A man’s pride shall bring him low...” (Prov. 29:23). “The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things” (Ps. 12:3).

Pride was expressed from proud-speaking tongues when men said:

**“MY POWER AND THE MIGHT OF MINE HAND HATH GOTTEN ME THIS WEALTH.”**

The children of Israel were warned about pride, “...thine heart be lifted up...”, in time of prosperity, “And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.” Moses was quick to point out: “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth...” (Dt. 8:14, 17-18). Wise Solomon declared, “The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich...” (Prov. 10:22). One of the things that brought the downfall of Israel was she forgot whence her blessings came (Hosea 2:8)!

### **“I WILL EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD.”**

So said the king of Babylon as expressed in Isaiah 14:13-14: “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.” While this earthly ruler had grandiose projections, the most High had other plans! It was said against the Babylonian king, “Thy pomp is brought down to the grave...” (v. 11) and “...thou shalt be brought down to hell...” (v. 15).

**“I AM A GOD, I SIT IN THE SEAT OF GOD.”** These were the words of the prince of Tyrus in Ezekiel 28:2 as the prophet

Ezekiel was commissioned to say unto him, “Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God... Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas” (Ezek. 28:2, 6-8). Paul warned that before the day of Christ there would be revealed “that man of sin...the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Th. 2:3-4). What pride when men think they sit in the seat of God!

### **“IS NOT THIS GREAT BABYLON THAT I HAVE BUILT?”**

Remember king Nebuchadnezzar’s great tree dream in Daniel 4? It came to pass a year later when “...he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon” as the king said, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for

the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (vv. 29-30). This haughty human was driven from men and dwelt among the beasts of the field, eating grass as oxen, to learn a lesson in humility: "...that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (v. 32). King Nebuchadnezzar learned the lesson as he extolled and honored the King of heaven; "...those that walk in pride he is able to abase" (v. 37).

**"WHO SHALL BRING ME DOWN?"** The message of the prophet Obadiah was directed to Edom, descendants of Esau. "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord" (Obad. 3-4). Note what the Lord said concerning Edom in Jeremiah 49:16: "Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height

of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord." God Almighty is mightier than the mightiest of men!

**"WHO IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?"** This was the question the disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 18:1. Recall His answer: "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (vv. 2-4).

**"NEITHER TRANSGRESSED I AT ANY TIME THY COMMANDMENT."** The elder son in the account of Luke 15:11-32 expressed a proud heart when he answered his father with the words: "Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry

with my friends" (v. 29). Can you imagine a child of the Father thinking he has never at any time transgressed? John said, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us....If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).

**"GOD, I THANK THEE, THAT I AM NOT AS OTHER MEN ARE."** Remember the two temple-praying men in Luke 18? Listen to the prayer of the Pharisee: "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess" (vv. 11-12). This parable was spoken by the Lord "...unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others" (v. 9). May we never develop such an arrogant, self-righteous attitude!

**"...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."**

**—James 4:6; Proverbs 3:34**

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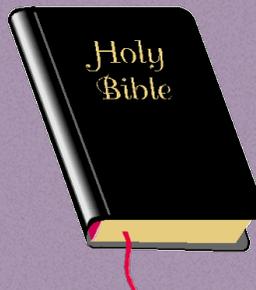
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