

Pride

by Bill Crews

“The proud and haughty man, scoffer is his name; he worketh in the arrogance of pride” (Proverbs 21:24).

“The lofty looks of man shall be brought low, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day” (Isaiah 2:11— said to God’s people in a time of prosperity and idolatry). *“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extoll and honor the King of heaven; for all his works are truth, and his ways justice; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase”* (Daniel 4:37). *“He hath showed strength with his arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart”* (said by Mary in Luke 1:51). Pride is obviously condemned in the Bible.

Pride, arrogance and haughtiness are synonyms. **“Arrogant”** — “full of or due to unwarranted pride and self importance; overbearing; haughty.” The word is Latin in origin (*arrogare* — to claim). **“Haughty”** — “1. having or showing great pride in oneself and disdain, contempt or scorn for others; proud; arrogant; supercilious.” The word is Old French in origin (*haut* — height, haughty). **“Proud”** — 8 definitions are given; only 2 fit into our lesson; “2. having or showing an overweening opinion of oneself, one’s position, etc.; arrogant; haughty.” “5. arising from or causing pride; presumptuous.” The word is Anglo-Saxon in origin (*prut* — proud). **“Pride”** — 10 definition are given, but only the first 2 fit into our lesson; “1. an over high opinion of oneself; exaggerated self esteem; conceit, 2. the showing of this in behavior; haughtiness; arrogance.” All definitions from an old Webster’s New World Dictionary.

The pride condemned in the Scriptures is an exaggerated and unjustified estimation or opinion of oneself (an “air of superiority”) that leads to looking down on others because we feel that we are better, purer, smarter, more clever, wiser, more knowledgeable, stronger, more powerful, more influential, richer in money or possessions or more handsome than they. It can be anyone of these or a combination of these.

Numerous Hebrew and Greek words are used of **pride**, but in meanings and use they are all very close.

Pride is very much a Bible subject. In the **KJV** “*pride*” is found 49 times, “*proud*” 48 times, “*arrogancy*” 4 times, “*haughtiness*” 5 times, “*haughty*” 10 times and “*haughtily*” 1 time, for a total of 119 times. But bear in mind that there are so many instances of pride where none of these words is used.

Pride is a sin and one of the things that God is specifically said to hate. In Proverbs 6:16-19 we are told that among the seven things that God hates are “*haughty eyes*” or “*a proud look*” = elevating self and looking down upon others. We are told in Proverbs 8:13 that God hates “*pride*” and “*arrogance*.” Proverbs 16:5 says, “*Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to Jehovah.*” In Proverbs 21:4 “*a high look and a proud heart*” are called “*sin*.” Psalms 101:5 says, “*him that hath a high look and a proud heart will I not suffer.*” In Romans 1:30, among the sins charged against the Gentiles are “*insolent, haughty, boastful.*” According to 2 Timothy 3:1-2 among the sins to be committed by men “*in the last days*” are “*boastful, haughty.*” Both James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 declare that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Pride originates in the heart, but it gives rise to prideful thoughts, words and actions. Mark 7:20-23 describes the things that proceed from within, out of the heart, and defile man = the last two given by Christ are “*pride, foolishness.*”

The undesirable nature of pride is clearly seen in various Scriptures. “*Let not the foot of pride come against me*” (Psalms 36:11). “*Pride is a chain about their necks*” (Psalms 73:6). Pride is likened to the waves or billows of the sea in Psalms 89:9. Pride in one’s life of 70 or 80 years is but “*labor and sorrow*” (Psalms 90:10). Pride of the heart deceives

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