

Step 5

Pride vs. Humility

Pride kills. Pride says, "I don't need God or anyone else's help. I can handle it by myself." Oh, no you can't! We absolutely need God and we need each other. The apostle Paul wisely wrote, "For it is we, who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put ***no confidence in the flesh***" (Philippians 3:3, emphasis added).

That is a good definition of humility: putting no confidence in the flesh, that is, in ourselves; but, rather, being "strong in the Lord and in His mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10). Humility, therefore, is confidence properly placed *in God*.

Proverbs 3:5-8 expresses a similar thought: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil." It will bring nourishment to your body and nourishment to your bones .

James 4:6-10 and 1 Peter 5:1-10 also warn us that serious spiritual problems will result when we are proud. Use the following prayer to express your commitment to living humbly before God:

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have said that pride goes before destruction and an arrogant spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18). I confess that I have been thinking mainly of myself and not of others. I have not denied myself, picked up my cross daily and followed You (Matthew 16:24). As a result, I have given ground to the devil in my life. I have sinned by believing I could be happy and successful on my own. I confess that I have placed my will before Yours, and have centered my life around myself instead of You.

I repent of my pride and selfishness and pray that all ground gained in the members of my body by the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ would be canceled. I choose to rely on the Holy Spirit's power and guidance so I will do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind I will regard others as more important than myself (Philippians 2:3). And I choose to make You, Lord, the most important of all in my life (Matthew 6:33).

Please show me now all the specific ways in which I have lived my life in pride. Enable me through love to serve others and in honor to prefer others (Romans 12:10). I ask all of this in the gentle and humble name of Jesus, my Lord, Amen.

Having made that commitment to God in prayer, now allow Him to show you any specific ways in which you have lived in a proud manner. The following list may help you. As the Lord brings to your mind areas of pride, use the prayer following the list to guide you in your confession.

Write an "F" if any of these are a family issue that should be covered in Step 7 (Generational Issues).

Having a stronger desire to do my will than God's will	Finding it difficult to admit that I was wrong.
Being more dependent upon my strengths and resources than seeking God's guidance.	Having a tendency to be more of a people-pleaser than a God pleaser.
Too often believe my own ideas/opinions are better than others.	Being overly concerned about getting the credit I deserve.
Being more concerned about controlling others than developing self-control	Being driven to obtain the recognition that comes from degrees, titles, positions.
Having a tendency to think I have no need.	Often thinking I am more humble or spiritually devoted than others.
Controlling others through manipulation /intimidation.	Vanity-thinking I'm better because of accomplishments.
Feeling of unworthiness	Feeling too responsible for others.
Thinking what I say/do controls another person.	Not waiting for God for His timing.
Self-pity.	Sometimes consider myself/needs more important than others or being too busy doing "important" things to take time to do little things for others.

For each of the above areas that has been true in your life, pray aloud:

Lord Jesus, I agree I have been proud in _____. I renounce my sinful attitude of pride and claim these areas of my life for You. Thank You for forgiving me for my pride. I choose to humble myself before You and others. I choose to place all my confidence in You and none in my flesh. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pride says:

Look at me
I can
I did it
It's mine
This is my work
I'm worthy
I'm special
I am
I'm important
My church/ministry/sheep

False Humility says:

Don't look at me
I can't
I did not do it
It is not mine
This isn't my work
I'm unworthy
I'm nobody
I'm Not
I'm unimportant
I don't have anything

True Humility says:

Let me to point to Jesus
God can through me
God did it through me
I'm God's steward of it
This is the work of God through me
I'm valuable to God
I'm a child of God
I am what God says I am
Jesus is important
God's church/ministry of which I am a steward

My opinion
Give/my ministry

I don't have an opinion
Don't give to me/my ministry

The Bible says
Give as God directs you