

WRAPPING UP...

Pride is alive and well all around us and in us. The title, “Why Can’t I See?” is a difficult one to answer. This is an area that may really be hard to uncover and let go of completely. We tend to hang on to things we enjoy. But we must get rid of it. God says in Revelation 21:27 that no sin (anything that defiles, works abomination, or makes a lie) can enter into Heaven. The ones who will enter in are they whose names “are written in the Lamb’s book of life”. I know I want my name there; don’t you? Keep your focus on eternal life, and become aware of how pride can direct you to the desires of this world. Find a quiet place and plead with God to forgive any remaining traces of pride in your life. Don’t let anything come between you and the Lord.



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

October 2012

Why Can't I See?

Dealing with Pride in My Life

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HEAR THE CROWD ROAR? Every weekend during football season, fans love to loudly congratulate, encourage, motivate and cheer for the team of their choice. Sometimes the team wins, sometimes they lose. It's just exciting to watch and want the best for athletes who have trained and practiced so hard to be their best. We take pride in their efforts.

When the 2012 summer Olympics ended, most Americans were proud of the athletes who represented our country so well. These were the best of the best, accomplishing feats most of us only dream of doing. To watch them stand, tears running down their cheeks, as our national anthem played, gave me goosebumps.

Yet, I wonder how many football players, athletes or fans give God credit, honor or glory for their ability to compete, perform or win in a particular area. As a coach's wife, I've seen a lot of fans, parents, cheerleaders and athletes. Some can really be obnoxious; some are just people enjoying the ability God gave them or the person for whom they're cheering. It's refreshing to hear these folks praise God and give Him glory for their accomplishments. But all too often, we see athletes who let pride in their own abilities go to their heads, parents who think their child is better than any other, or fans who resort to extreme measures to insure their team wins.

God intends us to enjoy this world and the activities around us. He smiles when we walk in His light and tell others of His goodness. This principle applies not just to sports but to anything we enjoy. If we don't give God honor for everything, then we miss the mark. We need the humility God requires in our life so we can know and extend grace—even when our team or child loses.

WHY CAN'T I SEE?

Consequences of Pride

POINTER OF TRUTH: "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished" (Proverbs 16:5).

RULE OF THUMB: Scripture gives many warnings concerning pride and the lifting up of self. Definite danger and serious consequences await those who do not heed God's instruction to forsake pride and seek humility.

- 👤 Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card or in a journal.
- 👤 What is an abomination? (*American Heritage Dictionary*: abhorrence; disgust. *Unger's Concise Bible Dictionary*: the rendering of the Hebrew word which refers to gross affront to God through idolatry.)
- 👤 Name some abominations to God—things He hates. (Proverbs 21:27; Deuteronomy 25:16)
- 👤 Do you see how these things can lead to prideful behavior?
- 👤 Go over the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 25.
- 👤 WIn Proverbs 11:2 and 13:10, we read that shame and contention accompany unyielding pride. What quality does the writer mention in the second part of both verses? (*Wisdom*)
- 👤 Which would you rather have?
- 👤 Can pride get in the way of wisdom? How? (1) *With actions*—Ecclesiastes 10:3; (2) *By listening to men*—1 Corinthians 2:5; (3) *Not understanding*—Proverbs 4:7.
- 👤 Name the consequences of pride in these people's lives. (1) Haman: death—Esther 3:5, 7:10; (2) Uzziah: became a leper—2 Chronicles 26:16, 19-21; (3) Pharaoh: Misery of plagues and loss of life as he knew it—Exodus 7:17, 8:2, 11:5, 14:28.)
- 👤 What would have happened if these men had asked God for forgiveness of the pride in their life?
- GENTLE TOUCH:** Discuss the questions in this section. Dismiss with a prayer of forgiveness for any pride in your life.

WHY CAN'T I SEE?

Pride Indicators

POINTER OF TRUTH: "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (2 Corinthians 10:17).

RULE OF THUMB: We can look for visible and practical signs as we seek to minimize pride and walk in humility. Frequent introspection of motives and actions can be useful in recognizing and evaluating a problem with pride.

- 👤 Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card or in your journal.
- 👤 Together, go over p. 27 of *Treasure*.
- 👤 Did you say, "ouch" after reading the warning signs for pride?
- 👤 Sum up these warning signs with single words. (1) Isaiah 5:21; Proverbs 3:7; Romans 12:16—**Conceit**. (2) James 4:6; 1 Timothy 6:3-5—**Proud**. (3) Proverbs 8:13; Psalm 12:3-4—**Arrogant**. (4) Zephaniah 3:11—**Haughty**. 5) Proverbs 25:14, 27:1; Psalm 10:3—**Boastful**.
- 👤 2 Corinthians 10:17 reads, "But he that glorieth let him glory in the Lord." What does this let us know? (*We are not to glory, boast, or brag in ourselves.*)
- 👤 How do we know this is so? (*God tells us—1 Corinthians 1:31.*)
- 👤 Why must our praise flow toward God? (*If we fail to keep the praise going toward God and His attributes, the praise will eventually work back toward us.*)
- 👤 Read Ezekiel 7:20. The Israelites were making idols because of their pride in the amount of things they had. Was God pleased? (*No*)
- 👤 What did God do to the people for their sin? (*He sent destruction and humbled their proud behaviors—Ezekiel 7:23-25.*)
- 👤 Why did God do this to His people? (*So they would know He is the Lord God—Ezekiel 7:27.*)
- 👤 Do you see pride areas in your life?

GENTLE TOUCH: If you answered the questions listed and you feel like sharing, do so. Dismiss with a prayer of protection—to guard your heart against pride.













WHY CAN'T I SEE?

Pride's Enemy: Repentance

POINTER OF TRUTH: *"Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah" (2 Chronicles 32:26).*

RULE OF THUMB: Pride is a temptation and snare to many, but God is faithful to forgive the repentant heart and re-enter into fellowship with those who have strayed, guiding them towards humility.

-  Write the *Pointer of Truth* verse in your journal along with Psalm 51:1.
-  Have someone read aloud p. 28 of *Treasure*.
-  How long did God allow King Hezekiah to live after his prayer? (15 years—2 Kings 20:1-6)
-  Why did God extend the King's life? (Because of his obedience and humbleness—Isaiah 38:2,3.)
-  How did Hezekiah react to his "gift of life"? (With thanksgiving and praise—Isaiah 38:18-20.)
-  We've probably all prayed for God to heal someone we know who is seriously sick, injured or in trouble. Share one of those experiences.
-  Does God always answer the way we want?
-  Psalm 51 is David's prayer for the remission of his sins. Did God hear and grant David's request? (Yes—Psalm 51:17.)
-  Isaiah 57:15 says that God honors a contrite heart (feeling regret and sorrow for one's sins or offenses). Do you have a heart contrite enough to kill pride?
-  What is the other part of that verse? (To have a humble spirit.) Read Matthew 18:4 to see how we can achieve this type humility.

GENTLE TOUCH: Dismiss with a plea for God to forgive any pride and for the strength to obey Him.











WHY CAN'T I SEE?

Letting Go of Pride

POINTER OF TRUTH: *"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee: wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).*

RULE OF THUMB: Having a correct view of God and of ourselves, along with a plan of action, can propel us toward victory over pride.

-  Write the *Pointer of Truth* in your journal.
 -  Under the verse, write the steps to overcome pride listed on p. 30 of *Treasure*: (1) Obtain a correct view of God—Romans 3:23; (2) Obtain a correct view of self—Philippians 2:1-5; James 4:14; (3) Recognize temptations of pride—James 2:1-4; (4) Take preventive measures/Die to self—Luke 9:23-24.)
 -  Why do we have a problem letting go of pride? (Self-gratification; wanting attention—Genesis 11:4; 1 John 2:16; Mark 7:21-23.)
 -  In the September study, we learned God's attitude toward pride. Let's review by reading these verses: Proverbs 6:12, 8:13; 1 Peter 5:5-6; Revelation 3:17.
 -  From these verses, sum up God's attitude toward pride. (1) God hates pride; (2) God resists the proud; (3) God warns the church that pride is a danger.
 -  What then does God desire? (Humility—Micah 6:8)
 -  Do you recognize, as Job did, that you don't know nearly as much as you thought you did?
 -  How do you get to this place in your heart? (1) Recognize that God is sovereign—2 Chronicles 20:6; 1 Timothy 1:17; Acts 17:24; Psalm 83:18. (2) Repent—Psalm 38:18; Luke 13:3; Acts 8:22. (3) Live a consistent life—Philippians 2:15; James 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:12.)
- GENTLE TOUCH:** Dismiss in prayer asking God to help you in releasing any pride left in your life into God's mighty hand.