



# Wrapped Up in ME

## Discovering Pride in My Life

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### BEGINNING THOUGHTS...

Eve was the most beautiful woman ever created. Why couldn't she have been satisfied with that? Because she was wrapped up in herself, she was vain and wanted to know what God knew. If only she had told the serpent to leave her alone. If only she had chosen a vegetable to chew on instead of the fruit. If only she hadn't given the fruit to her husband. If only...if only *PRIDE* hadn't manifested itself there in the Garden of Eden. From that time forth, everyone who's ever lived (except Jesus) has faced the problem of pride.

It's easy to place all the blame on Adam and Eve, but it really started with Satan. When we seek to gain recognition for ourselves, we rob Christ of His glory. The ultimate cure for pride is a love for Christ and for our fellowman. Loving Christ means dying to self and striving to be Christlike in everything we do. Loving Christ causes us to hate our sin and humble ourselves before Him. Christ, Himself, in speaking the Beatitudes, gave us the mindset we need for overcoming pride. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth"* (Matthew 5:3-5). Love helps us take our eyes off ourselves, esteem others better than ourselves and see value in others. Love makes us servants.

In reading and researching for this study, God revealed to me things I didn't consider as pride. Recognizing pride's presence in our lives puts us on the path to digging it out. God wants to kill our pride. *"For by grace are we saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them,"* (Ephesians 2:8-9) Our only boast should be what we are in Christ. Prayerfully consider your life as you complete this study.

















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## *The Pride Problem*

**POINTER OF TRUTH:** *“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate” (Proverbs 8:13).*

**RULE OF THUMB:** God desires humility in the lives of those who claim to follow Christ. Pride, the exact opposite of humility, is a deadly sin that will result in devastating consequences.

-  Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card or in a journal. Try to memorize.
  -  Read the *Rule of Thumb* aloud.
  -  Go over the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 13.
  -  Out of all the sins listed in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, which one would be a temptation or a struggle for you?
  -  How do we guard ourselves against these sins? (*By being humble—Micah 6:8; James 4:6,10; Romans 12:3*)
  -  What are some promises regarding humility? (*Proverbs 16:20, 22:4, 29:23; Matthew 18:4; Isaiah 57:15*)
  -  Are political people usually humble? (*Let's don't name any names!*)
  -  Think of some rulers in the Bible who at first were humbled by their position. (*King Saul—1 Samuel 9:21; King Solomon—1 Kings 3:7-10; King David—2 Samuel 7:18.*)
  -  Why do you think it's so hard to *stay* humble?
  -  Do you see John the Baptist as humble? (*Matthew 3:11, 14*) Did it work for Him? (*Yes—Matthew 3:17.*)
  -  Paul was another example of a man with great humility in the New Testament. Read *1 Timothy 1:15*.
  -  Have you ever heard anyone confess the sin of pride? (*Probably not often, but God hates pride—Proverbs 6:16-18, 8:13.*)
  -  How should we react to God's mighty hand? (*With humility—1 Peter 5:5-6.*)
  -  James 4:6-10 reminds us that God gives more grace to whom? (*The humble because humility opens the way to receive God's grace.*)
- GENTLE TOUCH:** Dismiss, using the suggestions for prayer listed on p.13 of *Treasure*.
















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## *The Origin of Pride*

**POINTER OF TRUTH:** *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:16).*

**RULE OF THUMB:** Pride serves as a magnet for the enemy, the world and the flesh, seeking to overthrow God and put man in God's place. Be aware of the many devices Satan uses to mislead us.

-  Write the Pointer of Truth on a 3x5 card or in a journal.
-  Go over p. 15 in *Treasure* together.
-  Do you agree that pride is of Satanic origin? (*Revelation 12:7-9, Jude 6*)
-  Read Isaiah 14:12-14 aloud. Notice what Lucifer (Satan) said: "I will ascend to Heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will make myself like the most High."
-  What does 1 John 2:16 tell us? (*Pride of life is not of the Father.*)
-  Did Satan really expect Jesus to be overcome by pride in Matthew 4:5-7? (*Probably not, but he gave it a shot.*)
-  Do we, too, have an escape route to pride and other besetting sin? (*Yes—1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 12:1.*)
-  What was the root cause of Adam's fall? (*Pride—Genesis 3:4-6*)
- \*What was the root cause of the first murder? (*Pride led to jealousy, then hatred, then murder—Genesis 4:3-9.*)
-  In Genesis 3:10-13, Adam and Eve both experienced sin's shame. What caused their shame? (*Disobedience*)
-  What was the serpent's punishment for deceiving Eve? (*Genesis 3:14*)
-  What other animal name besides serpent is Satan called? (*Lion—1 Peter 5:8*)
-  Do you have a tendency to boast? (*Proverbs 16:18—We have to be really careful in this area not to elevate ourselves.*)
-  How do we handle this? (*Become more Christlike—Hebrews 12:1-3.*)

**GENTLE TOUCH:** Use this section on p.15 of *Treasure* as you dismiss.




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## *Self-righteousness*


**POINTER OF TRUTH:** *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (Isaiah 64:6).*


**RULE OF THUMB:** Self-righteousness is an expression of pride in the life of a Christian that is repulsive to God and to others. Trusting in our own inferior goodness can blind us and keep us from truly seeing our need of the perfect righteousness found in Christ.

 Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card or in your journal.


 Go over the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 17.


 To understand, let's review the meaning of the "righteousness" of God. (*It's the expression of His holy character—Psalm 145:17; Jeremiah 23:6.*)


 God's divine righteousness is seen in His person (*1 John 1:5*) and in His plans (*Romans 3:25-26*).


 Self-righteousness is considered folly. Look up and read these Scriptures together: *Proverbs 12:15, 30:12; 2 Corinthians 10:12*.


 Do we need to believe in righteousness? (*Romans 10:9-10*)


 Has anyone ever told you that they think you're "too good"? If so, how did this make you feel?

 How should we live our lives? (*Galatians 2:20; Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 4:6; Acts 17:28*)

 Would you have enjoyed being friends with the Apostle Paul?

 Before his Damascus Road experience, how did Paul live his life? (*Persecuting Christians—Acts 9:1-6.*)

 After this God encounter, however, what did Paul become? (*One of the most outspoken gospel preachers who ever lived—Acts 28:30-31.*)

 Why do you think he was able to preach with so much humility and confidence? (*He knew his labor wasn't in vain—1 Corinthians 15:58.*)

**GENTLE TOUCH:** Follow the instructions within this section on p.17 of *Treasure*, praying this Scripture and focusing on personal repentance and commitment.





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## Esteem


**POINTER OF TRUTH:** *"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" (Romans 9:20).*

**RULE OF THUMB:** Self-pity and low self-esteem can be viewed as exhibitions of pride. As we realize our identity in Christ, we recognize that He has given us all we need to trust Him and be content in the details and circumstances of our lives.


 Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card or in your journal. Read the other three verses aloud for review and emphasis.

 Together, go over questions and answers in *Treasure*, p.19.


 Do you struggle with *low self-esteem* or know anyone with this problem?


 Do you enjoy being around people who are self-absorbed or who constantly feel sorry for themselves? What Scriptures could you share with these folks? (*Psalms 95:2; 100:1-5; 139:14,23; Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 5:20*)

 Have you ever made anything from clay? (*Review the process—simple version: 1. Take some wet clay; 2. Form an object; 3. Let dry or fire in a kiln; 4. Paint or glaze.*)


 Is it easy to make a beautiful object or even a recognizable object? Why?

 Have you ever imagined yourself as molded like this? (*Isaiah 64:8*)

 Do your life circumstances tend to determine your feelings of value? Could you be satisfied in Christ no matter your circumstances?

 Praise can redirect our feelings away from self. (*Use words like Lord, glory, God, You, salvation in personal times with Him. The Psalms contain some great praise verses: Psalm 8:1, 9:1, 19:1, 27:1, 36:7, 47:6, 62:7, 100:3, 103:1-3, 108:1-3, 150:6.*)

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Encourage women to find and claim their own praise passages (there are many) and write these in a journal to review when they feel self-pity or depressing thoughts.

 Are you a person who shares inner struggles or who keeps them hidden?

\*Why is Psalm 139:14 such an encouraging verse? (*We realize God made us the way he did for a purpose and a reason. We are unique and valuable.*)

**GENTLE TOUCH:** Dismiss with suggestions listed on p. 19 of *Treasure*.

### ***WRAPPING UP...***

I don't know what you're thinking or feeling just now, but for me, this lesson is an eye opener. How many of us stop to evaluate on a daily basis whether or not we've been prideful? Yet pride, if left unchecked, clearly leads to spiritual, personal and professional destruction. God gave us emotions—anger, love, sorrow—as well as feelings of value. But, we've just got to get it right. Don't let pride rob you of God's mercies and grace. Resist the urge to let wealth, possessions, accomplishments or even the lack thereof come between you and God. Let Him wrap His mighty hand around your pulse to keep you strong.