

That's The Power of Love (Bible Study) – Overcoming Pride

Welcome back to the final study! We studied loving like Christ changes us, loving the Lord is humility, and last week we ended on a dramatic note about pride. If you missed anything, ask someone for their notes. Today we'll continue the study on pride, how to identify it, and how to eradicate it from our lives. We also have **more very important revelations from the Holy Spirit** to unpack. I can't wait to get to it!

Very Quickly, before we jump into the study, we should remember this...

Loving others is how you work on yourself. Loving God is humility. That's The Power of Love that will never fail.

1 Corinthians 13:8 NKJV

Love never fails....

If we're all honest, there are times where we feel like love failed us. That's what this study is about, understanding love that never fails us.

Homework!!! We have a lot to get through so, please, very quickly....

I know everyone did their homework and paid attention to their humility level. Did anyone feel the growth and blessing this week?

Let's go to....

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NKJV

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Those who are rich, congratulations that's you! Surprised? You shouldn't be... Let's look at why that's you!

2 Corinthians 8:9 NKJV

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Congratulations, you *are* rich! You might say, "*No, I'm not... it says might.*" Yes, it says might, because you *might* be saved. You *might* accept Jesus. You *might* have the gospel preached to you. Jesus became poor for you, so you CAN be rich. As we go on in this study, you'll see he doesn't mean the top wealthy in the world. **Keep following along, because this verse is literally speaking to YOU!** But you are seen as rich or potentially rich by God. So, what are WE, the rich, charged with?

1. Not to be haughty

2. Not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

3. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works,

4. Ready to give

5. Willing to share

...that they *may* lay hold on eternal life.

There's that *may or might* word again. You *might* think that you don't trust in uncertain riches, but yet we do!

Let me put this in a **greater perspective that you can understand**. This has come from The Holy Spirit so please pay close attention... *When you go to bed tonight, why don't you unlock your front door, open it up wide, open all your doors, open the gate if you have one, open all the doors on your vehicle, turn the lights on so everyone can see what you did, and then go to sleep in peace?* (pause for reflection)

"*That's not using wisdom,*" you might say to yourself. What you're really saying is use all that you have at your disposal and use Jesus as your last line of defense; that's wisdom! No, that's not wisdom at all! It's a coverup of how you truly feel about your protection.

I don't want anyone to open everything up, and neither does the Holy Spirit. He wants everyone to see they need a mindset change. We lock our doors, because we can and we don't want the devil tempting us. But we should know we don't need them! God judges according to the heart. Our first line of defense is the Lord. Angels are out on the property edge standing guard **when we're dwelling in The Secret Place of The Most High** (Psalm 91).

Does everyone see how your riches protect your house? Your money bought you that door, those lock(s), light, or whatever else you use for defense. What kind of security door do you think Abraham had? Do you think Abraham had his tent lined with ballistic steel (armor steel) to protect it from fiery arrows flying into it? Perhaps Abraham had a prison-style cement wall with multiple rows of barbed wire. Absolutely not!! Abraham had to depend on the Lord for his safety and protection for all the people, animals, and items. At night, they had to use moonlight, star light, and fire. They could maybe hear an enemy coming but not see it. Talk about sleeping in perfect peace!

Those that have money can...

Take care of their health: doctors, hospitals, surgeries, pills, herbs, vitamins, and other healthy foods

Have transportation: we trust our transportation to get us from place to place, keep the things we pack inside to stay inside, we trust the vehicle to keep us safe

Personal safety: in the modern world this is very different! We trust in our heavy-duty doors with locks, some people have security cameras, some guns, knives or other weapons, we often trust in police and military protection.

Financial safety: banks, loans (poor people can't get loans), free items (as in like bogo or earning points from spending, your riches get you free stuff), clearance, sales, coupons (your riches can go farther).

We don't trust in God for anything of those things. If we do, it's after we take the pills, after we locked the door, and after we got our paycheck from work. We have never seen or thought of this verse that way before, Thank You Holy Spirit for revelation on trusting riches. But **trust** is a **modern word** that I don't care to use, faith is a better word. **Let's be honest, the wealthier the country and the individual the less faith they're required to have in God.** It's not necessarily intentional, it's a lifestyle. Let's think in terms of the ancient world again: they HAD to have God's grace and protection for their health, when they loaded a donkey, or traveled on foot. They wore sandals, the poor didn't have toe protection. Their toes could bump a rock and damage their foot badly. Anyone who has ever stepped on a Lego can testify to what stepping on a jagged rock might feel like. **The more money a person has, the less he has to trust in God; or better said the less he has to live by faith.** When we do it our way, and have God as the LAST LINE of defense, it's arrogant. We're sadly blind to this truth.

Habakkuk 2:4 NKJV

"Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.

Hebrews 10:38 NKJV

Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

(Other references to *"the just shall live by faith:"* Galatians 3:11, Romans 1:17)

Habakkuk has the connection from **1 Timothy 6:17**, not living by faith is proud. I want to encourage you to stop living by pills, door locks, police, banks, and everything else we keep putting our faith in; and make a heart change to Jesus. *"Father, the doctor gave me these pills to take every day, but I'm going to put my health in Your Hands. I'm going to start to look for Your healing plan. My life is in Your hands, not the doctor."* The second part of Hebrews says, *"but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."* If you draw back to the door locks, take your health back and put it in the doctor's hands, if your financial system is built on your employer, and so on... **Again, God isn't telling us not to go to the doctor or open the door; He's showing us we need to make heart changes, attitude changes.**

If you believe whatever the doctor says, *"The doctor said I'll never get out of this wheelchair,"* then how could you possibly ever expect to be healed by God? If you watch the news and they tell you the economy is getting worse, *"We better start cutting back now,"* then how can you expect to be blessed much less expect to be a

blessing to anyone? Does everyone understand before we move on? **Our money dictates our life.** The Lord wants us all to make a mindset change that the Word dictates our life. The Word says I'm protected by angels; I'll never use this knife to defend myself and family... just to open difficult candy wrappers!! But sadly, there are Christians who will fantasize about stabbing an intruder and even voice it. No!! From today on, it's only for stubborn snack bags.

If you think about it, the **wealthier countries see less miracles from God.** People from the United States go on mission trips and often times come back glowing from the work God has done. They normally attribute it to, *"Americans aren't hungry enough."* Mm... maybe, but that's not in the word! **We trust, or have faith, in our riches, which is actually pride.** We don't even reflect on how we need God to protect our home, because of our abilities to have cameras, security systems, some of us can have an array of weapons, and most of us live in cities with good police response time. People get sick and think doctor or have an emergency and think ambulance. **That's accidentally ignorant arrogance on our part, and it's causing God to resist us.**

James 4:6 NKJV

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

I know this is a lot to take in, I know it's difficult to think this way because of what we've been taught by society, but God wants us to just **make the mindset changes.** It can allow our Heavenly Father to pour an **unspeakable amount of grace out** in your life like never before.

Continuing on from **1 Timothy 6**, **do good**, be **ready to give**, and **willing to share**. **Paul is telling the rich how to deal with pride.** These actions that Paul listed teach people some different ways to be low minded instead of high minded. Write down Paul's advice: do good, be ready to give, and willing to share. That's a great way to stay humble, keep a servant's attitude like Jesus.

But! We can't overcome pride, unless we can point it out in our own life. I'm going to skip through this quickly for time's sake. Just listen and let the Holy Spirit do His work in you. He's the One Who has to shine the Light of Truth in your heart to help you move into more grace. I will give you something to take home for discussions with the Holy Spirit. Please just listen.

Be honest with yourself...

- Are you proud of your children, or well pleased with them
- Are you proud of your accomplishments or happy God has placed certain teaching in your life to get you there
- Are you proud of your high school football or cheerleading years, or are you thankful God blessed your life
- Are you proud of a skill or are you thankful God gave you that ability to enjoy in your life
- Do you have to speak up when you know something, or can you quietly listen to others
- Do you feel like you deserve honor on special days, like birthdays, or can you be happy as if it were any other day
- Do you feel like you have to constantly lead people or correct the leader if they're not doing it right, or can you stay silent and do things someone else's way
- Do you often talk or post online about yourself, or can you talk about everything except you
- Can you listen without interrupting, or can you wait until people finish
- Are you intolerant of people that know less than you concerning your skills or do you just look on them in love
- When someone is more successful at something you're trying to achieve, does it make you want to put them down or learn from them
- Does it agitate you when people don't take your advice, or can you keep a peaceful heart
- When someone refuses to listen to your point, do you become angry and raise your voice
- Can you just say, "I'm sorry," when you're wrong, or do you feel it needs a *"but"*
- Can you admit you're wrong without an explanation, and say, *"No excuse"*
- Do you have to constantly correct someone's doctrine over things that don't matter, as this error doesn't lead to death or destruction, or can you just let The Holy Spirit do His work in His time
- Can you simply say, *"I don't know,"* or do you have to distract with other words
- I'm going to repeat the first one again, are you proud of your children (grandchildren), or are you well pleased with them

I know it's a huge amount of information to reflect on, but remember **we don't want to have anything in common with Satan and we don't want God resisting us**. There is nothing, NOTHING, in this world worth being proud over when you face a bad situation and when you stand before the Lord. It's not *just that*, because **pride involves deception**.

Obadiah 1:3

The **pride** of your heart has **deceived** you...

People who are into pride are deceived in their heart. Deceived about what? The truth, the truth of everything they're prideful about. That's why they can't see or understand **destruction** or **the fall** (**Proverbs 16:18**). No one else is surprised just them! Let's talk about some examples...

When someone is prideful about their children, **they can't see their children in the light of truth** and their children's real behavior! Their children are the best, the smartest, the greatest! When their children walk with that arrogant presence that God hates, their relationships are dependent on how many people agree they're the best, the smartest, and the greatest. **Because they're so great as they are, often times their parents don't force their child to develop good character**. It's not uncommon for teens to form relationships based off sports, parent's wealth, or academic success and popularity. When they grow up, get out of high school or sometimes they can carry this through college, they meet the real world who doesn't want to bow to their greatness. The prideful deception of the parents set their child or children up for destruction and a fall.

Sometimes, and I DO NOT mean this to create fear, but it's truth and reality and has to be said... **Pumping pride into teens can cause suicidal thoughts or even suicide**. We need to talk about this, but we're not talking about our children, we're in training as ministers. It's not uncommon to hear stories like the star football player killed himself because his pretty popular girlfriend broke up with him; or visa versa. Pride involves shame and they can't handle the shame; and their parents didn't help them develop good character. When you have a humble teenager, it's easier to explain and comfort them with *"This probably wasn't God's Will for your life. You're two different people; you're not a match. There's nothing wrong with you. They're nothing wrong with her. You're just two different puzzle pieces that don't fit together quite right. The two of you grew in a different direction. It's one thing to be friends in a group, and something different to enjoy someone's company when they're alone."* A prideful teenager doesn't receive that kind of reasoning, because... It was the hottest guy, the prettiest girl, the best the school has to offer and they aren't good enough to date that person.

Humility stops this behavior right in its tracks!

This is a **true story** about a guy we'll call... Bob. He is very highly intelligent. He speaks 3 languages, he won many awards growing up in track and field, and he's a very highly skilled computer programmer. His programs have been written about in magazines in several countries, his programs have been written about in a book, and he's received awards and thank yous from many notable sources. Bob was young, got married, and then he was hired at a high paying job. Eventually, the company changed owners and Bob had to have new coworkers. It wasn't too long before Bob couldn't tolerate their arrogant idiocy, and he was let go. Bob, now had work experience, received an even higher paying job. He fixed their entire system, but eventually Bob's coworkers were all angry at how smart Bob was. Bob's wife developed a serious stress sickness and eventually one day packed her personal belongings, took the dog, and left him while he was at work. She knew she was a useless idiot and didn't have any common sense. Bob lost his job not long later, because everyone was stupid and arrogant. Bob was humbled, and then received another job with great pay. It was a growing company, so he was very valuable in helping them. A few short months later, they had to let him go with no reason. Bob had a nervous breakdown and tried to take them to court for wrongful termination. Eventually he recovered, and got another job as being the second highest authority in the company. A few months later, a man that was beneath him, got in an argument and shoved Bob. They called Bob in and fired Bob. He was taking them to court as well. Bob tried desperately to get a job because he was about to become homeless for the enormous house he rented. He sought help from women that he was constantly buying things for in exchange for attention. When they didn't want to help him, Bob snapped, and they put him jail for various reasons. Bob has been to jail 3 times; because of the horrible women he helped. No one knows if he's in jail or out, and no one cares because everyone that knows him is an idiot. Bob is a Christian, Bob knows the Bible, and can quote scripture. People might say, *"Bob was never really saved!"* That's not true at all! Bob gave his

heart to the Lord and was thankful for years, but eventually Bob took on pride once he saw how much smarter he was than other people.

Do you think *many* people saw Bob's demise was imminent many times? While Bob's situation is extreme, it's not all that uncommon for similar situations to occur. Bob went to jail, but sometimes people turn to drugs or alcohol. These people are on a downward spiral (fall) and loaded with destruction in their path. The only way to break that downward spiral is humility and repentance.

The more a person is in pride, the more they're deceived. Pride is blind, humility sees truth clearly. Whatever a person is prideful about is in danger of destruction or the fall. Inevitably, this happens to Christians and they turn around and start preaching how God is teaching them a mysterious lesson like Job. Everyone, being Godly just looks at them like, we all saw this coming but you! We all see that quiet cold dead stare on their spouse's face who has just about had it. We can all see their kids tune that prideful parent or parents out.
Humility will free you!!

John 8:31-32 NKJV

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

So, why isn't the truth of the believing Jesus setting people free like it should? The answer for the Jews is the same answer for Bob, the teenagers, our family, our friends, us, and everyone else... **Humility gives you the grace to see truth, and the truth will free you.** The Jews couldn't see the truth, because they were loaded with pride. Jesus didn't do things THEIR way. Jesus didn't have THEIR permission. We just saw the mystery of pride's blindness is deception, and the Jews of Jesus' day were no exception! Taking on the devil's attitude, after you received Christ, will **RE-BLIND** you; salvation or no salvation it will deceive you all the same.

The Holy Spirit is going open up another scripture to us, before we move on... Thank You, Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Pride prevents salvation. We read and quote these passages all the time and focus "it's not works." That's great but it's a minor point here. The more important point is **God freely gives GRACE for salvation.** What makes Him resist a person? Pride. **When a person decides to accept Jesus as Lord it's humbling yourself to Him.** That act of humbling, releases His grace for a person's spirit to be regenerated, and the Holy Spirit to abide inside of them. Can you see this? **This scripture is actually about humility and revealing the process by which YOU and me were saved.** Amen! Thank You, Holy Spirit. This is great information!

So, when you **pray for someone to be saved**, "God save Sally," it's completely unbiblical because they lack one of two things or both for that matter; they lack the gospel being preached to them and/or they're too prideful to humble themselves. **We pray by pushing back on the pride in their in life**, and not asking God to do *more* than what Jesus did on the cross and *more* than being willingly and freely providing grace. Amen! Does everyone understand, because this is a very important point.

Make sure you write this down, because you won't remember in two weeks.

Loving others is how you work on yourself. Loving God is humility. That's The Power of Love that will never fail. Love and humility are very powerful.

Once you determine to eradicate pride out of your life, you can start to see it on others. **If you do find some pride in your friends' or family's life, what do you do? Nothing!** Be the light of Christ. Lead by example. Nothing angers pride more than when you call it out on an unwilling person. **No one wants kicked in the pride, even though it's good for them!** Please repeat this after me, "I will not.... punch anyone in the pride." If it's **your children** or someone else under your care, **then it's your job** to correct them and teach them to be humble. This is really very sad, but I want to share it with you for a reason. A boy that was about 12 years old, told a young pastor, "I respect you, and I want to be like you, because you drive a Hellcat." It's a car. The

pastor laughed, thanked the child as he shook his hand while he was smiling ear to ear, and patted him on the shoulder. That young man isn't a pastor anymore. **Let's take every opportunity to be humble and lead by example, especially for the younger generation.**

If we find pride in our own life, we can kick it out. **We do that by recognizing the Lord and being thankful.** *"Thank You, Lord, that you've given me children that are pleasing. Thank You, Lord, that you've placed good teaching in my life and abundant grace to understand. Thank You, Lord, for making me creative. Thank You, Lord, for giving me talents that I enjoy using. Thank You, Lord, that my birthday is a day to honor You and the life that you have given me. Thank You, Lord, that Mother's Day is a day to honor You for the gift of my children. Thank You, Lord, that I have great peace no matter who believes what doctrine or thinks what of mine."*

Being **thankful and acknowledging God will stop pride in its tracks every time.** When you do something kind for someone, acknowledge that the Holy Spirit directed you or it's the work of God in your life. Don't let them sing your praises on and on, because it takes away from God's glory and you'll lose your Heavenly reward. Wouldn't you much rather have the Father, The King of Heaven, say good things about you than mere men? Wouldn't you rather have a tangible material reward in Heaven than a pat on the back that will soon be forgotten by men? We read in the previous study that Jesus said in **Mark 18:18, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."** If you believe Jesus told the truth, then all your good works are from the Lord anyway. Not convinced? Well, were there good people that drowned in the Genesis flood? God's grace, the world which we live under now, makes us good.

If you really want to **boost your humility, stay busy on God's Plan** for your life. It will give you a spiritual understanding that it's His work in your life and you're very dependent on Him.

Always remember this when it comes to pride and humility...

Loving others is how you work on yourself. Loving God is humility. That's The Power of Love that will never fail.

Thank you again for studying the Word with me. We're doing something new next week. Even though we're moving on to something else, please don't forget this lesson. Next week, we will talk about the changes that happened in your life and your family as a result of the Holy Spirit working on us.

Homework!

- Talk to the Holy Spirit about areas where God is resisting you
- Ask yourself questions like, *"Do I trust this more than God?"* Did you know that someone dies approximately every 2-1/2 weeks as a result of furniture? No one considers their furniture as murderous objects just waiting to take a life. That's not us! Say, **"That will never be us!"** The point isn't to be afraid, but being humble to recognize that we need to live in God's grace so we have safety in our home and out of our home.
- Go through the Pride vs Humility Reflections at least once before prayer time
(handout below)

Prayer Points

- Lord, please continue to reveal any pride in our lives so that we can dwell in the Secret Place of The Most High
- Help us recognize the fruits and blessings of humility so that we can testify
- Teach us how to lead by example with humility in a humble way so others can be blessed and follow
- Holy Spirit please set a strong guard over our mouth that we don't kick, punch, or slap people in their pride; but encourage others to love and honor You
- Holy Spirit, please give us gentle loving words to minister to those steeped deep in pride, so we can see fruit in their life instead of watching them walk towards a fall and destruction
- Thank You, Father for revealing so many good things in your Word to us
- Please keep building on this study in our lives so that it doesn't stop here and be forgotten

- Thank You that you prepared The Secret Place for us, and even though we're ending this series keep reminding us of it all year, so when we reflect we can see mighty growth in Christ this year
In Jesus' Name, Amen

Pride vs Humility Reflections

Be honest with yourself...

- Are you proud of your children, or well pleased with them?
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- Are you proud of your high school football or cheerleading years, or are you thankful God blessed your life?
- Are you proud of a skill or are you thankful God gave you that ability to enjoy in your life?
- Do you have to speak up when you know something, or quietly listen to others?
- Do you feel like you deserve honor on special days, like birthdays, or can you be happy as if it were any other day?
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- Does it agitate you when people don't take your advice, or can you keep a peaceful heart ?
- When someone refuses to listen to your point, do you become angry and raise your voice?
- Can you just say, "I'm sorry," when you're wrong, or do you feel it needs a "but?"
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- Do you have to constantly correct someone's doctrine over things that don't matter, as this error doesn't lead to death or destruction, or can you just let The Holy Spirit do His work in His time?
- Can you simply say, "*I don't know,*" or do you have to distract with other words?
- The first one again: Are you proud of your children (grandchildren), or are you well pleased with them?

Quotes...

Modesty is a shining light; it prepares the mind to receive knowledge, and the heart for truth.

Francois Guizot

What kills a skunk is the publicity it gives itself.

Abraham Lincoln

Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself at all.

William Temple

True merit, like a river, the deeper it is, the less noise it makes.

E. F. L. Wood, 1st Earl of Halifax

When science discovers the center of the universe a lot of people will be disappointed to find they are not it.

Bernard Bailly

Don't talk about yourself; it will be done when you leave.

Wilson Mizner

It's far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

Judith Martin

Egotism is the anesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity.

Frank Leahy

There are a billion people in China. It's not easy to be an individual in a crowd of more than a billion people. Think of it. More than a billion people. That means even if you're a one-in-a-million type of guy, there are still a thousand

guys exactly like you.

A. Whitney Brown

It is not titles that honor men, but men that honor titles.

Niccolo Machiavelli