

Psalm 52 — "God Opposes the Proud But Gives Grace to the Humble"

"Whoever is truly humbled — will not be easily angry, nor harsh or critical of others. He will be compassionate and tender to the infirmities of his fellow-sinners, knowing that if there is a difference — it is grace alone which has made it! He knows that he has the seeds of every evil in his own heart. And under all trials and afflictions — he will look to the hand of the Lord, and lay his mouth in the dust, acknowledging that he suffers much less than his iniquities have deserved." **(John Newton)**

"Pride is a person having too high an opinion of himself. Pride is the first sin that ever entered into the universe, and the last sin that is rooted out. Pride is the worst sin. It is the most secret of all sins. There is no other matter in which the heart is more deceitful and unsearchable. Alas, how much pride the best have in their hearts! Pride is God's most stubborn enemy! There is no sin so much like the devil as pride. It is a secret and subtle sin, and appears in a great many shapes which are undetected and unsuspected." **(Jonathan Edwards)**

"Here is the path to the higher life: down, lower down! Just as water always seeks and fills the lowest place, so the moment God finds men abased and empty, His glory and power flow in to exalt and to bless."

"Humility is the displacement of self by the enthronement of God."

—Andrew Murray, Humility

Matthew 23:1-12 – the prideful will fall with a crash.

- 1. They love to be front & center in the public assembly (2)
- 2. They command others to obey what they are unwilling to do (3)
- 3. They place burdens on others that they are unwilling to help (4)
- 4. They live to be noticed, recognized, and praised by men (5)
- 5. They enjoy the place of honor at public gatherings (6)
- 6. They revel in others speaking to them in honorary titles (7-10)

THESIS — Ps 52 teaches VERY IMPORTANT LESSONS - God opposes the proud & gives grace to the humble!

I. GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD (1-7)

Verses 1-4 —

- he has a prideful disposition (1)
- he has a sharp tongue (2)
- he has an evil-loving heart (3a)

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- he has deceitful words (3b)
- he has a others-hurting mentality (4)

Verse 5 — *But God* promises to most surely do 4 things to the proud men:

1. Break him down
2. Snatch him up
3. Tear him away
4. Uproot him out from

Some practical, pastoral ideas to resist pride:

Some theological points drawn from verse 6:

- the righteous will see the divine judgment upon the wicked
- the righteous will stand in awe (holy fear) of God and rejoice in God's holy righteousness being executed perfectly on the wicked.
- the righteous will laugh in derision (not in arrogant revenge, but in humbled derision) because sinners arrogantly tried to rise up against & resist God.
- the righteous will know/understand why the wicked are perishing
- the righteous will understand that God is *good* & God is *just* in punishing all evildoers. And they'll rejoice.

II. GOD IS GRACIOUS TO THE HUMBLE (8-9)

★ Jonathan Edwards gave some helpful ways to grow in HUMILITY:

1. Know God.
2. Confess your nothingness and ill-desert before Him.
3. Distrust yourself.
4. Rely Only On Christ.
5. Renounce all glory except for Him.
6. Yield yourself heartily to His will and service.

★ **To be humble is to say...**

1. I TRUST... (8a)
2. I THANK (9a)
3. I WAIT (9b) - i lean, i look, trust, hope, pursue!

SOME MANIFESTATIONS OF PRIDE —

- complaining against God
- lack of gratitude
- anger
- see yourself as better than others
- inflated view of yourself, importance, gifts,
- being overly focused on your *lack* of gifts and abilities
- perfectionism
- talking too much
- talking too much about SELF
- seeking control / independence
- being consumed with what others think
- being devastated (or angered) by criticism
- unteachable
- sarcastic, hurtful, degrading
- lack of serving
- lack of compassion
- blame shifting
- lack of admitting when wrong
- resisting authority
- being disrespectful
- voicing preferences/opinions when NOT asked
- minimizing your own sin and shortcomings
- being impatient or irritable with others
- being jealous/envious
- Using others
- being deceitful by covering up faults/sins
- using attention-getting tactics (dress, conduct, etc)
- not having/cultivating close relationships

— Stuart Scott, *Pride & Humility*

Oh what a constant companion, what a tyrannical commander, what a sly and subtle insinuating enemy, is this sin of pride! It goes with men everywhere they go: to buy a home, to buy clothes, etc. It chooses the clothes one wears, their trimming, and fashion. Fewer ministers would ruffle it out in the fashion in hair and habit, if it were not for the command of this tyrannous vice. And I wish that this were all the damage it does to a minister, or the worst. But, alas! How frequently does it go with us to our study, and there sit with us and do our work! How often does it choose our preaching subject, and, more frequently still, our words and manner of preaching!

O that the Lord would lay us at his feet, in the tears of continuous sorrow for this sin of pride! Brethren, may I expostulate this case a little with my own heart and yours, that we may see the evil of our sin, and be reformed! Is not pride the sin of devils - - the first-born of hell? Is it not that wherein Satan's image does much consist? Is pride to be tolerated in men who are so engaged against him and his Kingdom as we are -- ministers of his Word? The very design of the gospel is to debase and humble us!

— Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*

O THE DEEP DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.

Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of Thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward
to Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore!

How He watcheth o'er His loved ones,
died to call them all His own;
how for them He intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
love of every love the best;
'tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'tis heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to Thee.

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

**This, the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath—
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, Ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees;
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, Dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

Final Chorus:

**This, the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

PSALM 52: PSALTER [Tune: 'Am I a soldier of the cross?']

Why do you boast, you mighty man,
in evil and in wrong?

The steadfast love of God endures,
all day both deep and strong.

Your tongue plots great destruction—like
a razor, it cuts deep.

And you love evil more than good;
trade truth for your deceit.

He'll snatch you up and tear you from
your tent when ruin comes;
He also will uproot you from

the land of living ones.

The righteous ones will see and fear;
they'll laugh at him and say,
"Here is the man who would not make
the Lord his strength and stay.

But I am like an olive tree
in God's house growing sure;
I trust in God's unfailing love,
and will forevermore.