

“The Trap of Pride”

Ezekiel 38; Isaiah 14; Luke 18:9-14; 1 Cor. 10:11-13; Phil. 2:3-4

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

May 23, 2021

Introduction

- One who almost fell into Satan’s trap
- Paul recognizes the “trap” aimed at potential leadership in a local church
 - 1 Timothy 3:6 -- *“not be a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil”*
- Our Adversary knows firsthand the destructive nature of pride.
 - Ezekiel 28:12-15 -- *“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of the fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”*
 - Isaiah 14:13-14 -- *“For you said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”*

The Trap of Pride

1. Pride BLINDS us to our own SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

- a. CASE STUDY: The Pharisee
 - Luke 18:9-14-- *“Also he spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like the other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*
- b. Analysis of “Spiritual Pride”
 - 1) Spiritual Pride focuses on our perceived strengths.
 - 2) Spiritual Pride hinders us from addressing our weaknesses.

2. Pride BLINDS us to our VULNERABILITY to SIN.

- a. CASE STUDY: Church at Corinth
 - 1 Corinthians 10:11-- *“Now these things happened to them as examples and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12 -- *“Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”*
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV)-- *“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall!”*
- b. *“Oh, I would never do that!”* are the words of Pride. Case in point: Peter
 - Matthew 26:33-- *“Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble!”*
 - Matthew 26:34-- *“Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times”*
 - Matthew 26:35-- *“Even if I have to die with You. I will not deny You.”*

3. Pride BLINDS us to the NEEDS OF OTHERS

a. CASE STUDY: Church at Philippi

- 1) The church at Philippi had few problems in comparison to the other first century churches.
 - *Philippians 1:3-7 -- "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making requests for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace."*

- 2) The church, however, was developing an attitude of spiritual pride, *"I'm better than everyone else around me."*
 - *Philippians 2:1-4 -- "Therefore, if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."*