

Boast in the Lord!



Psalm 34:2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD; the humble will hear it and rejoice.

8-13-2017

The dictionary describes pride as proper respect for one's own dignity and worth. As believers, we learn **proper respect** for our own dignity and worth from the word of God! We learn what God expects of us; we learn to expect nothing of ourselves apart from God. We learn that our achievements, possessions and abilities are all from God. We learn to boast and have pride in the Lord and who we are in Christ!



1 Corinthians 1:30-31 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.

As believers, we are who we are in our new man because of being in union with Christ Jesus. We have dignity and worth because of Him! He is our wisdom and goodness. We are set apart for God, or sanctified, because of Christ! We have been redeemed or delivered by Him! In Jesus Christ, we have everything in which to boast! "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."



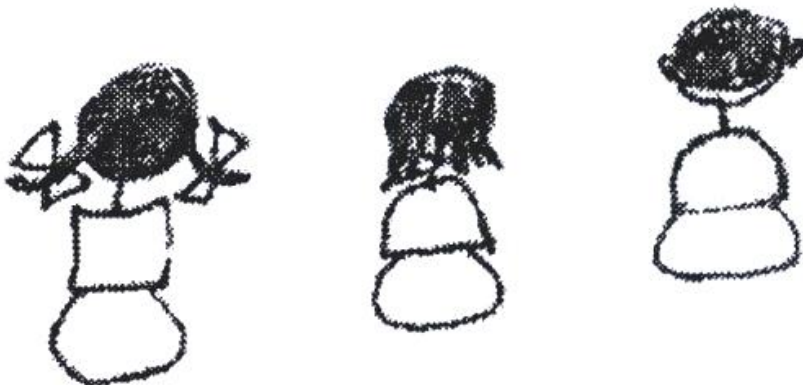
Pride can also be described as excessive self-esteem; conceit. We learn **excessive self-esteem** from our flesh, the world, the fallen angels and Satan. From them we learn what they expect - arrogance and boasting in ourselves. We learn to talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about our achievements, possessions, or abilities. It's all me, me, me!



Sometimes we boast excessively in other people; we boast in what they do for themselves and what they do



for us. In these situations we are leaning too heavily on what we think of others and what they can do for us. Excessive self esteem in others is not good, no matter how good it seems or looks. Excessive pride in anyone or anything keeps us from doing what God wants us to do! It blinds us to God's way of thinking found in the Bible. It prevents us from leaning on God!

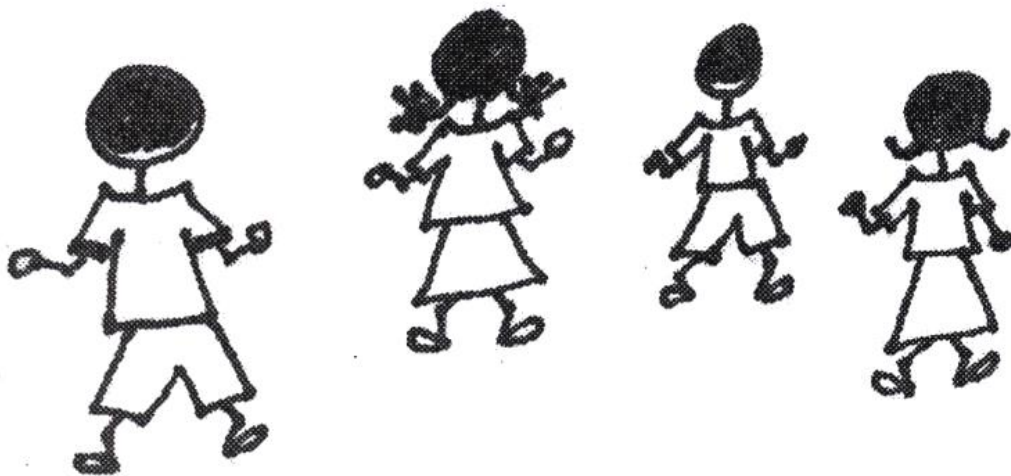
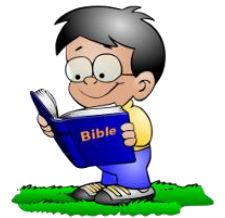




We are not to put people on pedestals; God is the only one we can put on a pedestal. He is the only one who will always come through for us. Now God may use others to help us in some way, but God gave those people the means to help us. They couldn't help us if God didn't want them to and if He hadn't given them what they need to help us.

We are always to boast in God. We are to thank God for putting those people in our lives. We are to give God the glory!

Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

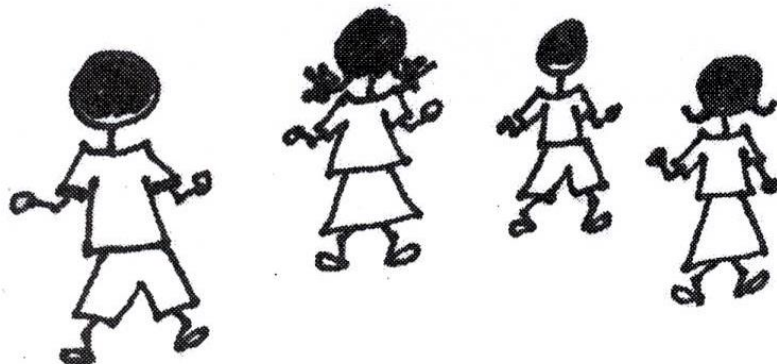
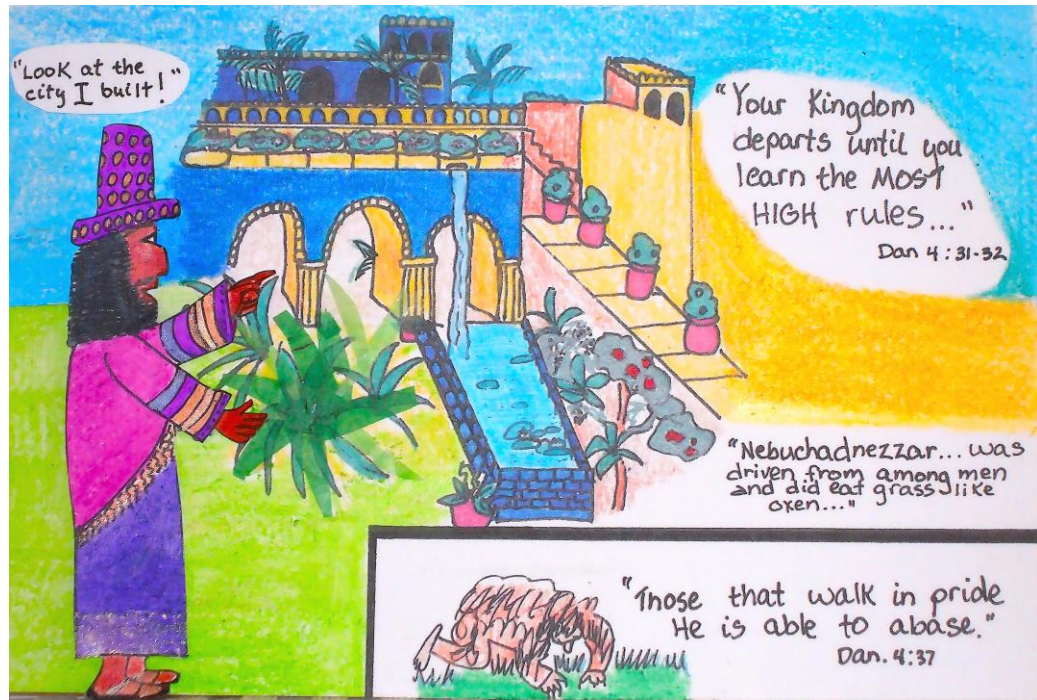


Here is a true story from Scripture about King Nebuchadnezzar who thought too highly of himself.

Daniel 5:20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed [removed] from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him.

This Scripture from the Old Testament tells us what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. He was excessively proud of what he had done as king. Excessive pride leads us down paths of destruction! It makes us think more of ourselves than we ought to think. Read below to see what happened to the king.

Daniel 4:32 And you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time [7 years] will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.





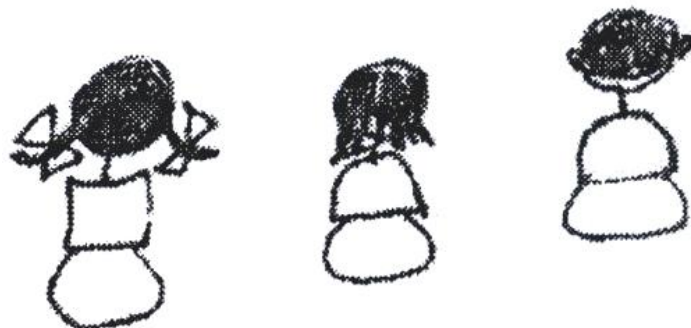
After 7 years of living "with the beasts of the field", Nebuchadnezzar turned to God. His correct reasoning or thinking returned to him; He realized that God is in charge of his life.

Daniel 4:34 But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised Him who lives forever.



Excessive pride also leads to judging others. Because we think too highly of ourselves, we look down on those who don't measure up to us. Woowa! What arrogance! However, this makes our flesh happy because it wants us to think we are superior to others, even though it knows we aren't! It doesn't want us to boast in the Lord! It wants us to boast in ourselves. The flesh doesn't want the glory to go to God Who deserves the glory. God created us and gave us all we have; the flesh didn't!

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

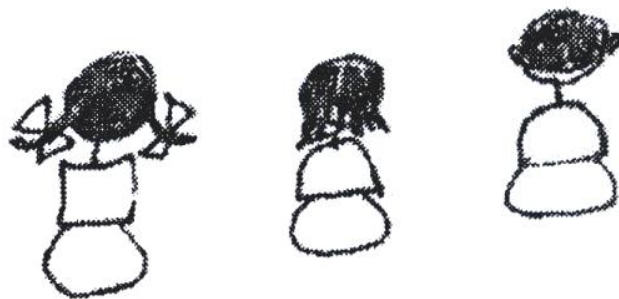


Here's another true story from the Bible, Luke 18:9-14: Jesus *"told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt."*

Putting it in my words, a Pharisee and a Roman tax collector went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee thanked God for not making him like other people whom he thought were below him. He told God all the "good" things he did. On the other hand, the tax collector asked God to be merciful to him because he was a sinner. At the end of the parable, Jesus said,



"I tell you, this man [the tax collector] went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."



Excessive pride and boasting leads to being too concerned about what others think of us. We want to maintain the image of being great in others' eyes and in our own eyes. This is very tiring! It actually ties us up in knots! We can neither satisfy mankind nor ourselves by our own efforts in our old man. We have to rely completely on God's efforts for us. We have to be concerned in what He thinks of us. And because we are in Christ as believers, God sees us through His Son. The Father thinks we are great in our new man in Christ!



Satan was the first one who had excessive pride. He was not satisfied with all that God had given him. He wanted to be great like God. *Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High*

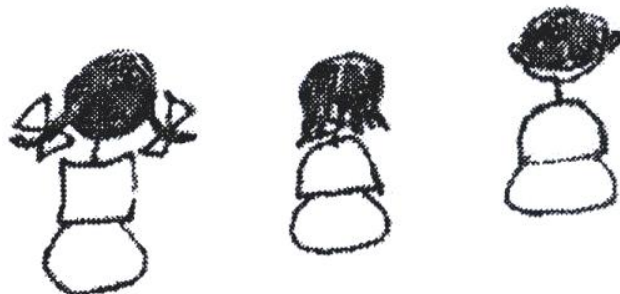
He did not boast in God - he boasted in himself! Look where it got him! *Isaiah 14:15 Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.*



It was in Satan's thinking where he first went in the wrong direction. He was too proud in his mind before he fell. It is in our thinking where we go in the wrong direction before we fall and start boasting in ourselves. We will never lose our salvation, but we can get ourselves in a pit! God knew in eternity past

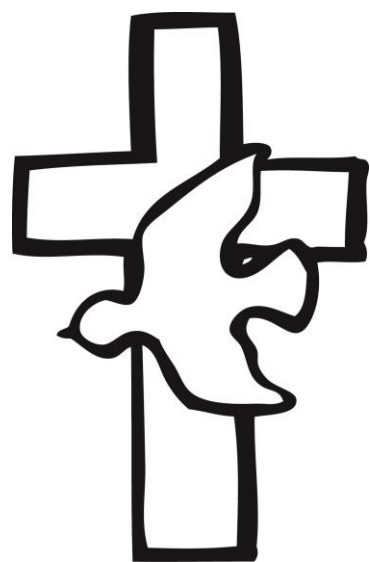
that we would do this. He just wants us to set aside our boasting in ourselves, renew our mind with His word and live in our new man!

Ephesians 4:22-24 That, in reference to our former manner of life, you lay aside the old man which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.



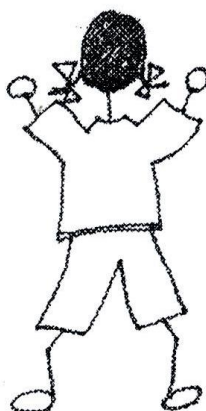
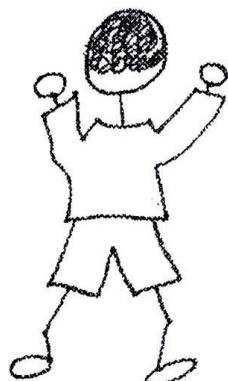
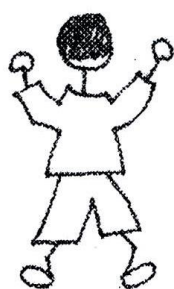
Galatians 5:25-26 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Through the power of God the Holy Spirit, we are to look out for one another instead of boasting in ourselves, challenging or being bothersome to one another, and envying one another. When we truly look out for one another our mind is on them and not on ourselves. It is on what we can do for them and not on what we can do to bother them. Our mind is on giving to them of our time, talent or treasure, not on what they have and we want. Remember, God has given us **ALL** that we have and need!



AS LONG AS I LIVE
I WILL SING PRAISE TO MY
GOD WHILE I HAVE MY BEING.
LET MY MEDITATION
BE PLEASING TO HIM;
AS FOR ME, I SHALL BE GLAD
IN THE LORD.

PSALM 104:33-34



When we boast in God, our mind is right where it should be - on Him! It is very freeing to boast in God; it relaxes our mind, knowing that He has EVERYTHING covered for us; God is in charge! It is very tiring boasting in ourselves or others because then we are expecting to be delivered and keep our life in order by ourselves or by others. Only God can deliver us and keep our life in order. We need to depend on Him and His promises completely! Nothing can possibly compare to what God does for us and what He has given to us. He has given us eternal life!

Psalm 44:8 In God we have boasted all day long, and we will give thanks to Your name forever.

