**THE DECEPTION OF PRIDE**

Sunday School Lesson 5

*Deceptions of the Devil*

Galatian 6:3

9/19/2021

**Introduction:** We all know the danger of pride and the difficulty in resisting it. Do we realize, though, the role that deception plays when it comes to pride? The Bible tells us that pride is deceptive. This helps to explain why there are those who continue in pride while knowing its detriment to them at the same time. They likely do not even realize that they have been lifted up with pride. They are on a path of destruction, and they are not even aware of the direction that they are heading. It might seem difficult to understand how someone could be lifted up with pride and not even see it, but as we look at the Word of God during this lesson, we will come to understand just how easy it is to find ourselves in this position. We should pay very close attention. God hates a proud look. Pride is the ultimate work of the Devil. It was pride that cast him down from Heaven. Pride also is what keeps many from bending the knee before the Lord. We have already looked at four areas that the Devil works hard to deceive people in. Those are other gods, reaping, wisdom, and hearing. Adding pride to that list further shows us how important this lesson series is for the believer. We must be vigilant. We must recognize that our adversary is working hard to lead us astray. Let’s observe some truths about the deception of pride.

1. **THE DECEPTION OF PRIDE HIDES THE FAULTS OF MAN THROUGH COMPARISON.**
2. **Notice that pride sets in when we do not consider ourselves when others fall (Galatians 6:1).** What a difficult struggle we all face as believers! When others fall, we absolutely must consider ourselves as we help our fallen brother. This is what the Bible tells us in Galatians 6:1. If we do not consider ourselves, we find that the result is pride in our own hearts. When the Bible says to consider ourselves, It is not telling us to consider whether we would do the same or not. The Bible is telling us to consider the fact that the fallen brother could have been us. We are all susceptible to falling due to the struggle of the new man and the old man. We might not be keen on admitting this, but it is very likely that we have all thought about someone who has fallen and thought to ourselves that it could never be us in that place! Peter thought that about himself when it came to denying Christ. He could see someone else in that position, but he could not even consider that he would ever fall in such a way. We are tempting ourselves to pride when we think in this way. We are opening the door and making it easy for pride to work. We are falling for the Devil’s trap of comparison to others instead of comparison to God’s righteousness.
3. **Notice that comparing instead of considering lifts us up above our brother (Galatians 6:3; Matthew 7:3-5).** The natural result when we do not consider ourselves in the fallen position of our brother or sister in Christ is that we compare ourselves to them instead. Of course, you look great when you compare yourself to your fallen brother. This makes it easy to block out our own failures. The Lord gives us the example of the mote and the beam. We cannot see the beam in our own eye because we have fixated our attention on the mote in our brother’s eye. This is the deceitfulness of pride. It feasts upon our willingness to compare ourselves to others and focus on their flaws instead of our own. The attitude is that we think that we are something when we are really nothing. Even if we are “doing better” than our fallen brother, what is that compared to the righteousness of the Lord? It is very important for the believer to constantly view ourselves in light of the righteousness and perfect of God. His perfection shines a bright light on our life, and it shows all of the darkness. It shows all of our weakness. It’s hard to be prideful when we allow that light to shine so brightly.
4. **THE DECEPTION OF PRIDE IS HELPED BY THE FORTUNES OF MAN AND HIS COMFORT.**
5. **Notice that pride feasts upon the accomplishments of man (Obadiah 1:1-3; Zechariah 10:11; Daniel 5:20; Ezekiel 30:6; Proverbs 16:19).** This is a very obvious point, but it must still be considered. Pride loves success. Pride waits at the door of the successful, and it hopes for a friendly invitation to come in. We have so many examples of this in the Word of God. Throughout the Old Testament, we see examples of nations who were successful. The Lord then spoke of their pride. Edom was prideful because they had done so well. They assumed that their success guaranteed more success in the future. King Nebuchadnezzar was brought low because of his pride. What made this man so prideful? He looked out onto his kingdom and observed all that he had. His heart was immediately lifted up with pride. The nation of Israel fell because they became prideful as a nation. It is a sad and a vicious cycle. Man becomes successful, and then he is brought low because of his pride. This can be observed throughout all of history. This does not mean that success in bad. It just tells us how vulnerable the successful are to pride.
6. **Notice that the man is deceived by pride because he sees the success as his own instead of giving God all of the glory (2 Chronicles 32:26; 1 Timothy 3:6; Acts 10:20-23).** King Hezekiah was a Godly king who fell because of the pride of his heart. After he was healed by the Lord, word spread throughout all of the land. People travelled from other nations to come and celebrate the healing of Hezekiah. They were impressed at how this man had recovered and been given a longer life. Of course, Hezekiah had nothing to do with this healing aside from begging God for it. He could not heal himself. He did not deserve any of the glory for himself. Yet, he claimed it for his own, and pride immediately followed. The Bible warns about the novice pastor and the danger of pride. That’s because the novice might be especially tempted to claim the success of the Word and the Spirit for himself. King Herod was exalted by the people, and he took credit for himself. The Bible tells us that he was immediately killed because he took the glory from the Lord and gave it unto himself. King David also fell prey to pride through this same manner. He took credit for his success. We must give all glory unto the Lord.
7. **THE DECEPTION OF PRIDE HARKENS TO FRIENDSHIP AND ITS CONFIDENCE.**
8. **Notice that the prideful join hand in hand to bolster their strength (Proverbs 16:5; Psalm 140:5, 123:4, 119:78, 17:10).** The proud are often found in groups together. The Bible speaks of the proud in plural form on many occasions. Additionally, the Bible speaks of the prideful being joined hand in hand. This might go against what we often think of pride. We tend to think of someone who is prideful as likely being somewhat isolated in his pride. Yet, the prideful person likes to surround himself with people who will help to boost up his pride. He likes to listen to those enticing words. Sadly, the prideful man may be so deceived that he does not even realize that he has insulated himself with the voices of those who only further serve his pride. This is the reason why he can’t hear that he is prideful. He has too many people telling him that he is not. The Lord warns that though hand join in hand, they shall not go unpunished. No matter how much others tell the prideful man that he is not prideful, he will not be able to escape the destruction that comes after pride makes its next in our hearts.
9. **Notice that the deceitfulness of pride will always lead to strife and division (Proverbs 28:25; 13:10; 1 Timothy 6:4).** The prideful man is disagreeable. He will not accept anything other than that which validates and lifts himself up. As a result, we see that friendships are ultimately short-lived for the prideful. They cannot even keep their own company because strife will undoubtedly be found there. The prideful person must constantly adjust his friendship to suit his need for supportive voices. The truth is not the priority of the prideful. What is the preventative measure that we can take to avoid this vicious cycle of friendships that keep our pride in place? The answer is that we should examine our friendships to see if they are harmonious with the Word of God. A friend sharpens his friends. A friend is not afraid to give the honest truth when we have fallen. If you cannot accept such reproof from your friends, it is likely that you have allowed pride to take place in your heart.
10. **THE DECEPTION OF PRIDE HARBORS IN OUR FEELINGS AND CONCEPTIONS.**
11. **Notice that pride is a problem of the heart (1 Samuel 17:28; 2 Chronicles 32:26; Isaiah 9:9; Jeremiah 48:29; 49:16; Daniel 5:20; Obadiah 1:3; Psalm 101:5; Proverbs 16:5; 21:4; 28:25).** Pride is a sin of the heart. I believe the Bible shows us that all of the sins of the heart are especially deceitful. That’s because the heart itself can be very deceitful. Our feelings are confined within us. There are the thoughts of the heart that we do not voice out loud. I believe that pride may deceive many because it lives in the heart. Some are just unwilling to acknowledge and address those feelings of pride that they encounter within. Ultimately, those feelings out to be confessed before the Lord. They are sinful in the same way that outward sin is sinful. The only answer for this is to constantly ask the Lord to search our hearts. We must listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when it comes to the feelings of our hearts. We must not minimize these feelings but recognize how dangerous they are.
12. **Notice that pride is the problem of the mind and the look (Proverbs 6:17; Daniel 5:20; Psalm 10:4; Romans 11:20; 1 Timothy 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:4).** The Bible speaks of the proud look and the person who is highminded. It is not just our heart that harbors pride. It also can be found in our mind and in our outlook. The proud look is one who looks at situations and things with the eyes of pride. His eyes have been blinded to what is really there. The prideful man cannot see what others may be able to see because he has a proud look. His countenance also reveals his pride. Again, the answer to this is found in the Word of God and the Spirit of God. As we saw last week, the Word of God is a mirror for man to look at and see his condition. Unfortunately, the prideful man may even look at the Word of God and not see a problem with himself. He must pray and ask the Lord to show him his real condition. We all must be on guard against pride and realize that it is a battle that is not limited to just a few. The Devil wants nothing more than to take down Christians with pride.