

FAITH HEROES

"The downside of pride"

Getting Started

Which part of Americana are you most proud of and why?

(Taken from the book 1000 Things to Love About America)

Duct tape Leftovers The world's most repeated word. OK.
Toilet paper Spam King sized beds Free drink refills
Chinese takeout Elvis Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches
Google Corn on the cob Television Blue jeans #17
Hamburgers Rock and roll Religious faith The movie industry
Number 1=Pursuing the American dream

What is one area of your life that you are most likely to take pride in?

Who are you most likely to say these words to "I'm so proud of you?"

Who is the most likely person to say those words to you?

Going Deeper

What was one thing that you learned about pride from the message on Sunday?

Generally speaking, the words pride and proud are positive words in our culture.

Take a moment to read about the downside of pride

- [Psalm 31:23](#)
- [Psalm 101:5](#)
- [Psalm 16:5](#)
- [James 4:6](#)
- [Proverbs 16:18](#)

Read and discuss the following quote:

People see therapists and pastors every day for anger or anxiety or addiction problems, but rarely does anyone seek help for their pride problem. There are no Betty Ford Treatment Centers for the Insufferably Arrogant. -John Ortberg

Daniel 4 is a case study of how pride comes before a fall. Take a moment to read the Spark Notes version of the story.

- Nebuchadnezzar had a dream he was a tree that troubled him.
- Neb called Daniel to interpret it.
- Daniel told Neb that the tree represented him in his pride. This great tree would be cut down and made into a stump unless he humbled himself.
- Neb had a year to humble himself but didn't so God gave him the mind of an animal. For 7 years Neb lived outside and roamed about like an animal until his mind was restored.

Read [Daniel 4:4,5](#) and [Daniel 4:29,30](#). What are the danger signs of pride that you read from the story of Nebuchadnezzar?

[Daniel 4:34-37](#) gives us some insight to what Nebuchadnezzar learned from his experience. Read these verses and make a note of what these words tell us about pride and humility, our role and God's role.

Nebuchadnezzar's speech teaches us **Three steps towards humility**

1. Give credit to God for the good in your life.
2. Don't base your value on your accomplishments.
3. Know that God can do things with your life that you cannot.

Which of these do you feel like you need to work most on?