

Gian Carlo Villatoro

FALL



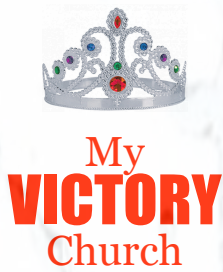


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Transcription: Chris Aaron

Date _____ WS# _____ Lord, I love You and trust in You. _____
Your name



Psalm 32.8

Why do we fall?

Which passage of the Scripture talks about the devil's fall?

What was the main reason of the devil's fall?

6 ways how pride becomes a big issue:

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

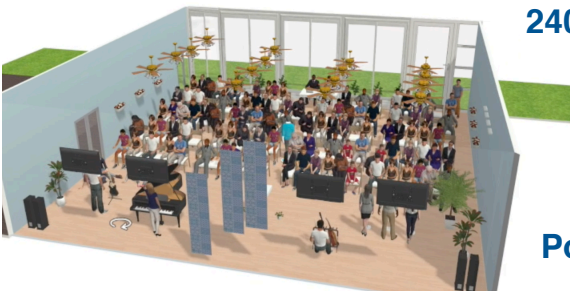
Wheat bends because of its _____

_____ = _____ NOT EQUAL _____

Proverbs 16.18 _____

James 4.6 _____

Sanctuary 100



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Founded on 9/25/16

Possession of our Promised Land
on 5/10/17

JESUS IS OUR LORD

New Parking Lot



FALL

Nobody wants to fall in any way, whether economically, politically, intellectually or in career. We all want to maintain the status quo. We desire to keep going without falling.

Before digging deep into what this message delivers to you, let us read this beautiful promise from Psalm 32.8. The Lord says *“I will teach you and guide you in the way you should live. I will watch over you and be your guide.”*

It is so refreshing when you think about what the Lord can do in our lives. We go through seasons which bring to us different life experiences – bad and good.

Probably, everybody was a bit tired of the summer because it was too hot. However, when the summer came we all were happy because we wanted the excitement of a new season. The winter comes, cold freezes us badly, and then we say it's too cold.

The cycle goes on and on. And the autumn is setting the sight. We normally enjoy every onset of a season because we get tired of each season after some time.

Experiencing a new season is a beautiful thing, refreshes us. Every season compels us to cope with its weather. We don't wear long sleeves in summer time, so are the short sleeves during winter. Those are the seasons.

Speaking about falling, what do you think can happen when you are stepping on the banana or plantain peel? “I was 14 years old and I remember walking on the streets and I saw two girls there. I was happy seeing the girls and they captured my attention only to find myself sliding. Do you have an idea why did I fall?

WHY DO WE FALL

(1) Accidents

There are several reasons. Number one is there are accidents. Sometimes it's just like that. A fall may happen inadvertently. Accidental fall may happen anywhere, everywhere, and any time.

(2) Trap

We sometimes fall because we were trapped. There are some people out there can trap you. And the trap can land you to a big issue.

(3) Things were moved

Sometimes a fall happens because things are being moved and then we fall. They move a chair, or whatever reserved to sit on. They move something in the house.

(4) Pranks

It is another reason for why we fall. When everybody is overwhelmingly laughing, our attention to notice certain things becomes low, and leads us to fall.

(5) Unseen things

Sometimes it happens because some things are out of our sight. We simply don't see them. We just fall because we have no idea what and where something is.

(6) We were not paying attention

Sometimes a fall happens when we are not attentive to what is going on or where we are. Those are the several reasons why we fall.

THE FALL OF THE DEVIL

Do you know why did the devil fall? Do you have an idea what happened to him? Pride. It was pride. That was the reason for his fall. Let's read the Scripture from the book of Ezekiel chapter 28. 14-19 *"You were on the Holy Mount of God; You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the Mount of God, and I expelled you."*

"Your heart came proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more."

So if you didn't know the story, that's it. It's a true story. This is what happened to this creature who was made with so much beauty, but pride grabbed him. And that is terrible.

SIX WAYS A PRIDE BECOMES A BIG ISSUE

I want to share with you six ways through which a pride can become a big issue in our lives.

I. Being Deceived or Delusional

Perhaps you say, “I’m not deceived and I have never been deceived.” We go through seasons in our lives. When we are being deceived we just can’t see anything wrong in ourselves.

This, however, doesn’t necessarily mean that you have ever gone through some seasons and you were unable to notice that you were deceived. Many people talk about their good side because some have been deceived to see only that part as though they don’t have the other part – the bad one.

Should you consider yourself as an amazing person all the time, you might have been deceived not to see the other part. Even the moon has the brightest side and the darkest side. We are like a coin – one coin but with two different sides.

The good thing is, when we expose ourselves to the word of God, the light shows us what is wrong with us. Also through the preaching and the teaching of the word of God. Furthermore, we may be able to see our second part through our mentors who act as mirrors and tell us about the second part.

But the first way that pride can become an issue in your life is when you are delusional. You just cannot see anything wrong in yourself. You have a reason why you do everything. You always have an answer. Basically, you are saying, “I didn’t do anything wrong. It’s not my fault.”

I want you to think about that because if you, for any reason, are thinking, “I haven’t done anything wrong.” It is possible you are being deceived or you are delusional. Your eyes are too clouded to see the other side of yourself.

I just have been a victim of all these circumstances or this injustice. And you try to wash your hands of the problem. And you say, “No, this is not my fault.” You just cannot see anything wrong in yourself. You are being deceived or you are delusional. You simply cannot see the reality of life.

II. Little Princess Syndrome

The second reason why pride can become a big issue is when the person is under the princess syndrome. Little princess syndrome is so classic these days. The little princess

always sees herself like the perfection of God, the beauty and the excellence and the entitlement.

A person with the princess syndrome thinks they deserve everything all the time. They want new stuff. They have attached their character to the things that are unique. They become settled only when they get what they were longing for. They want to get everything like kids, the little ones that's why it is called a little princess syndrome.

People with little princess syndrome often become irresponsible because they cannot take on some works like home chores. Women with little princess refuse carrying some stuff because they are going to ruin their hair, nails or hands. Men, on the other hand, refuse to get up and take a napkin, a glass of water or a fork. The little princess syndrome makes people lazy even to take on little things.

Those people want everything to be brought to them everywhere they are, be it at home or workplace, it's the same thing. They just do nothing than expecting somebody is going to prepare the tools and bring everything to them just because they are doing a certain work.

III. Rebellious Heart

The third reason is a rebellious heart. That is exactly the problem that the devil faced after defying God, and he failed. The devil had and still has a rebellious heart.

Do we have the right to disagree with people? Of course we do. You have the right to disagree. You have the right to believe whatever you want to. But being rebellious to people just because they don't think the same way you do is a bit different. Actually, rebellious attitude is just a pride.

A rebellious heart says, "I'm better than you." "You are wrong, I'm right." "You are stupid, I'm intelligent." You may disagree with your spouse, with your children, with your pastor, with your supervisor, with your customer, with your employee, and with whomever. That's how life it is. But that doesn't mean that you have to be cruel or disrespectful and showing others that you are the only one that knows everything.

IV. Stubborn Wild Tree

The fourth reason is the one thing designated as the 'stubborn wild tree'. It is not its fault. The stubborn wild tree is the guy who never had the chance to be trained by his father.

Many guys are stubborn wild tree because they didn't have that opportunity to have a father teaching and guiding them on how to do things. How to behave in school, public, workplace and wherever. So they figured it out on their own.

Some people grew up without fathering, and it is possible for them to overcome difficulties and become really successful, strong and wise people.

But I want to tell anyone who has this problem –the stubborn wild tree – that by being stubborn in your views it could be a problem. It's a pride.

V. Conceited Mindset

Being excessively proud of yourself is a problem. You are all the time proud of yourself and your own actions, abilities, appearance and all that. Conceited people will be like, "I'm really, really smart and I know better than anybody else." A pride at the best. Should you feel or act that way you should change. You can do it.

VI. Greed for power not humility

Some people who longing for power are grabbed by pride because they see themselves qualify for the seat and not anyone else. These people say words like, "I want to be the king." At workplace they want to be supervisors even without merits to back up their wishes. This person wants to be the new supervisor, the new manager, the new owner of the company, and any position. If he's in a sport team, he wants to be the captain and coach simultaneously. It's a big problem.

HUMILITY

We need to be humble like a wheat tree that bends as a symbol of humbleness for the fruits that God has blessed with. Prideful people never bend to show humbleness or respect to others. We need to show humility to others and do away with arrogance.

Humility means a willingness to serve others. When we do certain things for other people, we should not expect being paid back or receive a recognition. We just have to serve people. And we do it out of our love for God, and because those people need help.

Now, remember that serving others doesn't mean to become slave of other people because here's the big contradiction that we see in our homes. Someone is nice to help the rest. The rest do not want to do anything. Everybody stays on a couch and the recliner.

There are ones that are willing to serve because they are humble. But others just stay there. They are like, "I'm testing how humble you are. I'm testing your humility and service to others." Also, it has to do a lot with the way that you see yourself.

I always tell people especially to Christians: "Brothers and sisters do not let people mistreat you and talk to you arrogantly like you are nothing because you are someone in the eyes of God. You are special."

Remember I don't want you to be the little princess person or any of the example highlighted above. No, you should not. This has to do with just a very objective projection of yourself. People need to learn to talk to you with respect. That's why serving others doesn't mean that you are slave to everybody. And they have no reason to give you come-and-go orders.

If you are busy doing things, even if that thing is taking a nap, somebody calls you, don't answer. You are taking a nap. You will call back after taking a nap, and the caller doesn't need to be aggravated or offended because you didn't take the call.

Humility has nothing to do with that. Humility is your desire and/or willingness to serve others. Be humble and willing to serve others without expecting any return from them. That's humility. Do it at home, workplaces, and everywhere people need your help. Do it for the Lord.

Just show the true Christian character by serving others because you know how messed up is this world. Demonstrate your humility, your kindness, your patience, your tolerance by willingly serving and sharing what you have with others. That's a great testimony.

Perhaps you are not a preacher graduated from theological school, but your exemplary actions preach louder and eloquently. And if they try to take advantage of your humility and just talk to you the way they want, you need to stop them immediately and say, "Hey, listen dear friend, I'm willing to help you. I'm willing to do this and that for you. Do me a favor. Don't talk to me that way."

There is nothing wrong with you saying those things to your spouse. You need to stop anyone abusing you whether it is your spouse, parents, and children. You must let them know that you don't accept any kind of abuse.

They should not take advantage of your humility. Everybody deserves respect. We have to be people who embrace decency and that any kind of abuse must not be permitted. The Lord wants us to live decently listening to His teachings and obeying them.

But remember what we read at the beginning of the message in the book of Psalm 32 8, the Lord says, *"I will teach you and guide you in the way you should live. I will watch over you and be your guide."*

The Lord Jesus Christ will do that to you. His promises are not merely words. What He says He does. So we all acknowledge that the devil had a problem. Pride grabbed him. We need to watch out how we live without being grabbed by pride which can ruin our good relationship with God.

Again, be guided by the word of God from the book of Proverbs 16, 18 *“Pride is the first step toward destruction. Proud thoughts will lead you to defeat.”* It is not the actions but thoughts that lead to defeat. Actions don’t count here but thoughts do, that's why we need to be so aware of this because we don't want to have the same trouble the devil went and goes through.

You need to master your mind and manage your thoughts. Be careful to use your brain not to create things that will lead to pride. We should live not as unwise but as wise doing everything possible to avoid falling on the trap of a pride. Did you ever go face a defeat or destruction because of pride? That defeat should serve as a lesson. Get rid of pride.

My personal story of pride

“I was in my forties and I felt very successful as a minister, writing books, traveling and enjoy very much. When I was going to churches, people were very kind to receive me as their pastor. Praises were everywhere. Post that, proud thoughts began to come to my mind. I saw myself in another version. <<A huge me>> I was deceived and started acting in such a way that I disrespected people. At some point, people got tired of me, and that was the beginning of my destruction and the destruction of my own family. I lived the experience of divorce as result of my pride.”

Put in your mind what the Scripture says, *“Pride is the first step toward destruction. Proud thoughts will lead you to defeat.”*

We don’t want to fail again

I know you have your own stories of destruction in connection with pride. We all have those kind of stories. For some people it cost them a lot of money. Some it cost them marriage asunder, and others it cost their lives.

Nobody wants to live those experiences any more. They are unbearably painful. So when we live with an experience like that, we just need to stop. I got to stop doing this thing. I want to talk to whoever out there. I don't know if you know about me or not, but I want to tell you this. I know what is to be with my face on the ground crying, bleeding, defeated, broke, broken hearted, rejected and despised. I know all that.

Do you think that because I am a pastor I never gone through destruction? No, I did. I do have my past. And a lot of those mistakes were because of pride. Sometimes succeeding in life will take you to a place of test. Other tests we fail and we pass others. And I did fail my test as a result I hurt my children terribly.

And I was looking for someone to blame and, of course, this is what most of us do when we go through destruction. If you are going through a season of misery, sadness, and pain, and feel like you are defeated, I would like to encourage you that you are capable of overcoming all the circumstances. You feel that your life is almost over because of the destruction that you lived. I just want you to think for a second of this question. Is it possible that pride hit you?

It is possible that today pride is knocking at your door and you are embracing it, and you say, "I'm that great." Be careful.

I want to tell you that by the mercy of God, I lived the experience of restoration. It took years, but I was restored. The Lord saved me and came to rescue me. The same He can do for you. There is always a hope. We can be defeated but God is always merciful. He has compassion. You can lose many things, your family, your health, your house, your car, your job, your company, but that's not the end of it. He has always mercy because the Lord loves to restore people. He loves to do that is His favorite thing: restoring people that are messed up like I was messed up.

Read one more Scripture from the book of James chapter 4, verse 6, "*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*" Grace of God is all what we need to experience in our lives.

The grace of God in your life is what you need to experience by being humble. So, I shared with you are the six possible reasons or ways how pride can destroy your life. Those reasons are: Being deceived or delusional, little princess syndrome, rebellious heart, stubborn wild tree, conceited mindset, and greed for power.

God wants us to have humble hearts before Him. So I want to invite you, if you want to give your life to God. Read this scripture, Romans chapter 10, verse 9. If you openly say "*Jesus is my Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from death, you will be saved.*" It's all that is required. Faith in the name of Jesus.

Once again, I would like to invite you to say a prayer with me. It's a simple prayer that will take you to the right place. Say with me, "*Dear God, I need your help. I see that pride is horrible. I admit that pride is consuming my soul. I surrender to You. I opened my heart to You, Lord. I confess my sins before You. I need You Lord, please forgive me. I need to change. I want to obey You and trust You and serve You forever, my Lord. Starting today, I want to see life and people exactly as You do. Please help me, Lord.*"

Everything started on the cross. The best place we can go is on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. He wants to restore us. Say with me, *“I am forgiven and saved by faith in Jesus.” Therefore, I can also declare my life is going to be great and blessed.*”

Be blessed for sparing your precious time to read this message.

You are blessed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Please feel free to contact us. Our email address is info@vchurch.us. And our phone number is (432) 614-9798.

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