

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not by works, so that no one can boast.*

It's hard to be humble... we joked a little about that last week but we talked about pride and how it suppresses hunger for God. So much so that God opposes pride (James 4:6) ... He wars against it, for our benefit. We talked about how humility invites God's grace into our lives and how He gives grace... more grace the Bible says!

**So... if God wars against our pride... shouldn't we?**

**Waring against pride is the huge battle against the brokenness of our hearts** — the fact that we think... that we believe that we know better than anybody, maybe even God. Pride has an entitlement bent to it.

**Or maybe it's an issue of self-depreciation...** where we doubt our worth and value to God (and others). A self-defeating mind-set and poor self-image, evaluating oneself too negatively – I'm a failure, I'm worthless, I can't do anything right, no one likes me.

Shouldn't we battle against this?

So when you have something negative going on in your body, a food allergy, perhaps some kind of nutritional deficit... What can you do to change what's going on in your body?

**You can change your diet.**

*It's the same way spiritually... what feeds you, forms you...* I believe pride feeds off two things that kill our appetite for more of God. They are two powerful enemies of our spiritual health... These pride feeders are... shame and fear.

**Shame is poison to our identity... it lies about our value to God.**

**Since the Garden human beings have had a shame problem.** Shame from the sin, the past, the mistakes, the bad decisions, and the effects from other people's sins... all of it causes the human heart to hide from God. Shame is the belief that we are not enough, we made wrong, and we are unlovable. Shame has us believing that we are

flawed and THEREFORE unworthy of love. Shame is a huge mouthful of disappointment.

**Fear also lies to us, it lies to us about the goodness of God... tells us our problems are bigger than our God.** Fear tells us to rely on ourselves... Shame and fear are behind a lot of pride issues.

So we need to change our diet... deny the things that feed pride and confront them with truth.

### **Let the Kingdom of God rule over the kingdom of self**

Pride puts me first, it has one mission... to keep my eyes fixed on me. But pride hates a bent knee. It hates a hungry heart... and a hungry heart is a needy heart.

**Kingdom rule begins with accepting God's sovereignty over my kingdom,** everything starts to change after that. By faith my language changes... my questions change and the way I talk to myself changes. I start to talk to myself the way God talks to me and I learn His language... Kingdom language. Humility, love, mercy fill us with desire for more... Can you imagine what that would do to the appetite suppressant of pride when you start to talk the way God talks? And God always talks with love...

#### **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

**When I talk the way God talks, I speak less, listen more...** sounds crazy doesn't it? Talking like God includes listening more than speaking? Think of humility as the most effective hearing aid ever created.

#### **I speak God words... be still... be not afraid... be like little children... be humble**

Then I can listen to Him more. Humility quiets the soul clutter in my life. I slow down, I quiet myself... I pause and reflect, I meditate on His words... His language, the way He speaks. I hear the love in His voice, the favor in His voice and I'm drawn in. Shame and fear tells me that I am unworthy of all of it but God's favor is given... not earned.

#### **Romans 5:8**

*"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

**I can't earn or un-earn God's love...** it's given... by God... Your qualifications or behavior don't win Him over, it's not based on who you are. It's all about who He is.

**Pride, Shame, fear... they all bow to God's truth of who He says we are.**

- I am loved. 1 John 3:3
- I am accepted. Ephesians 1:6
- I am a child of God. John 1:12
- I am Jesus' friend. John 15:14
- I am a joint heir with Jesus. Romans 8:17
- I am redeemed and forgiven. Colossians 1:14
- I am complete in Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:10
- I am free from condemnation. Romans 8:1
- I am a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- I am chosen by God. Colossians 3:12

I want to live my life agreeing with the language of Father God makes for me rather than the words the enemy uses against me. So I cling to the words of my advocate and refuse the words of my adversary. The power of shame and fear seems relentless but they have to bow to God's Word. Embrace what His Word says about you and become free.

**Psalm 25:2**

*"O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me."*

**Psalm 34:4**

*"Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed."*

**Isaiah 50:7**

*"But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame."*

I want to live my life agreeing with the arguments God makes for me rather than the ones the enemy makes against me.