

# **Pride Comes Before the Fall**

**(December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016)**

**Psalms 51:16-17; Proverbs 3:34, 11:2, 16:18; James 4:6,10;  
Luke 14:11, 1 Peter 5:5-7, 2 Chronicles 26:3-21**

**Definition:** The warnings of destruction that come from a proud and arrogant attitude are numerous. My greatest failures have come when I said to God, "I got this -- I don't need your help. I am self-sufficient in this area." I didn't actually say this to God, but it was my attitude and my action -- not praying, not asking and not seeking guidance from the Spirit.

## **Questions:**

- 1) What is it about pride and arrogance that is so contrary to God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Who was Uzziah's spiritual mentor or accountability partner? What is the benefit this person serves?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What do you think happened after Zechariah died?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What was Uzziah's role in his success and what was God's role in Uzziah's success?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Why, or how, do you think pride destroyed Uzziah?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Do you have someone like Zechariah that helps you honor and walk with God? Does the person (or people) have complete access to your activities, thoughts, and spending so that the person can ask you hard questions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What area of your life are you most prideful or arrogant? What is the root of this pride?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) In what ways have you experienced the destructive forces of pride?

**Here are some scriptures that are guides & warnings for us;**

**Psalms 51:16-17** – Certainly you do not want a sacrifice, or else I would offer it; you do not desire a burnt sacrifice. The sacrifices God desires are a humble spirit -O God, a humble and repentant heart you will not reject.

**Proverbs 3:34 and James 4:6** – God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.

**Proverbs 11:2** – When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

**Proverbs 16:18** – Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

**Luke 14:11** – For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

**James 4:10** – Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

**1 Peter 5:5-7** – And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. And God will exalt you in due time, if you humble yourselves under his mighty hand by casting all your cares on him because he cares for you.

**The story of Uzziah** from 2 Chronicles 26:3-21

Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jekoliah; she was from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. <sup>5</sup> He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear<sup>[b]</sup> of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

<sup>6</sup> He went to war against the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod. He then rebuilt towns near Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines. <sup>7</sup> God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabs who lived in Gur Baal and against the Meunites.

<sup>8</sup> The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had become very powerful.

<sup>9</sup> Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate and at the angle of the wall, and he fortified them. <sup>10</sup> He also built towers in the wilderness and dug many cisterns, because he had much livestock in the foothills and in the plain. He had people working his fields and vineyards in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil.

<sup>11</sup> Uzziah had a well-trained army, ready to go out by divisions according to their numbers as mustered by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officials. <sup>12</sup> The total number of family leaders over the fighting men was 2,600.

<sup>13</sup> Under their command was an army of 307,500 men trained for war, a powerful force to support the king against his enemies. <sup>14</sup> Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armor, bows and slingstones for the entire army. <sup>15</sup> In Jerusalem he made devices invented for use on the

towers and on the corner defenses so that soldiers could shoot arrows and hurl large stones from the walls. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

<sup>16</sup> But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. <sup>17</sup> Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. <sup>18</sup> They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God.”

<sup>19</sup> Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD’s temple, leprosy<sup>[c]</sup> broke out on his forehead. <sup>20</sup> When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.

<sup>21</sup> King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house<sup>[d]</sup>—leprous, and banned from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.