

Dear friends,

By God's grace we could see the ninth month of this calendar year. This month let us meditate about one of the important organs of our body for which is given lots of importance in the Holy Bible. The Bible talks about the organ eye often than any other organ and assigns spiritual meaning to the organ eye. Jerome said that "The face is the mirror of the mind, and eyes without speaking confess the secrets of the heart." Proverbs chapter six outlines a "six/seven" pattern of crooked actions – 6 acts the Lord hates, the last one (7) being an abomination. The purpose of this numerical pattern is to bring us to an understanding of what truly gets Lord's attention. While these serve as a warning for us in our striving to honor the Lord, we must remember that whenever a warning is issued, a way to be restored follows as God alone has the ability to save us. Remember what He told Job, "He will deliver you from six troubles; in seven no evil shall touch you." (Job 5:19). Let's take a look at the first, the "haughty eyes" (also known as a "proud look").

The actual Hebrew word "haughty" is literally "eyes of loftiness". Later in Proverbs we learn that there "is a generation whose eyes are lofty... their eyelids are lifted up." (Proverbs 30:13). God "hates" this. It was the first sin – Pride may be the first mentioned as it was the first sin committed – Once by Satan and then again by Adam. Pride is a principal evil in human nature as it is ourselves claiming that we are greater than God and do not need His help.

-It is an action – The prideful look down on others, categorizing them as unworthy to have any merit or favor. Furthermore "haughty eyes" fail to see that another can receive the same grace offered by God through the death and resurrection of Christ. Because of these actions, God, "resists the proud" (James 4:6).

-It can be seen – The pride of the heart is evident in the eyes or by the looks of a man through traits like rudeness, arrogance, discourtesy and self-importance. More of us struggle with pride than we thought! Suggestion to approach these shortcomings is to begin the journey of ending pride. Ask God to search you as He alone knows the heart and thoughts and can lead us to a way that is everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24) If the Spirit is identifying these traits then move from diagnosis to remedy. Get the cure for overcoming pride.

The opposite of pride is humility. The Bible tells us that God hears the prayers of the humble – "...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14) Humility is for our own good and saves us – (of the Israelites in the wilderness, "that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end." Deuteronomy 8:16) "You save a humble people..." Psalm 18:27)

Humility preserves life and gives wisdom – "The Lord lifts up the humble... (Psalm 147:6) and with humility there is wisdom." (Proverbs 11:2) Humility welcomes the care of God and shows us how to care for others – "The one whom I look upon is the one who is humble, contrite in spirit and trembles at my word... (Isaiah 66:2) looking to the needs and concerns of others." (Philippians 2:1-11)

How can I be humble? A few closing thoughts... “The humble Christian sees so much evil in his own that he is not apt to be very busy with other hearts.” Jonathan Edwards. Submit – The start of humility is submitting to the Lord (Romans 10:9) and to His Word (“Every word of God proves true.” Proverbs 30:5) Refusing to submit to the Lord keeps ourselves on the throne, not God.

Pray – Pray the prayer of repentance and ask for restoration/help. “Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.” -Thomas Merton “It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.” –Augustine. So let us try to be like angels by having the quality of humility in our life.

God Bless You.

Bethesda Ministerial Team

