MENTORING OTHERS

1-Handling Instances of Pride

(A mentoring article)

So, you've shocked yourself because you had a prideful experience that you weren't expecting. How are you to handle that?

Pride always tries to manifest in our lives, especially as we grow spiritually. It's one of the chief reasons Christian leaders 'fall' – elevation can easily lead to pride. You're not immune to it as it's a weakness in all of humanity. It's part of the downside of The Fall that Adam didn't expect when he disobeyed the directive of what not to do in Eden's Garden.

Actually, your experience is normal for spiritually adept and maturing people. Therefore we should all expect to have pride manifest while we're on our journey to maturity in our sonship.

There are a number of reasons why we constantly have to deal with pride:

1. We haven't been through enough humbling experiences to eliminate the main pressure from our soul to be prideful.
2. We haven't brought our soul completely under the authority of our spirit as we should as a son.
3. We're not living out of our identity as a son, but in the affirmation of others.
4. The enemy works on our pride because he knows how easy it is for us to succumb to it.

We (including me) must monitor ourselves all of the time because we can ever so slowly slip into pride (or anything else that's unrighteous). That evaluation allows us to detect any adverse changes in our thoughts and behaviour, however small.

The important thing when experiencing the manifestation of pride is not to 'beat yourself up' over it. Treat it as an experience and allow Father to assist you in dealing with it.

Sometimes we regress into religious thinking and the religious spirit accuses us of pride, when actually, we're living and talking out of our identity as a son. Religion doesn't like us to be elevated in any way, so living in the freedom of our sonship can seem like we're 'big-noting' ourselves when that freedom is what Father has given to us. Our freedom and liberty can actually be very confusing when we're not fully deprogrammed from religion and legalism.

Don't be afraid to think differently in your sonship. Religion would like to criticise you for. We work with Father and our King on family business, and we're permitted to talk and think more inline with how they think. That's part of our liberty being part of the royal family.

When you do experience pride, remember that Father is never looking to 'kick your butt' when you falter or fail in any way. He's wanting every experience to be a learning experience – both the positive and the negative ones.

Importantly, <u>don't pressure yourself to perform pride-free</u>.

As our King told us a few months ago:

> *“"Do not try to force change; just let it come. It will be nothing to worry about or lose sleep over. Stay focused and solid in your relationship with me," says the Lord. "Maintain spiritual diligence."”*[1]

Take it slow and steady. Father’s in no rush to change you instantly.

Just rest and relax in him and enjoy life.

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1 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (Sept. 6, 2024) www.ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2024.htm]