



THE OPPOSING POWERS OF PRIDE AND HUMILITY DANIEL 4

When the king knows...

Everyone Needs to Know This

“...to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.”
(Dan 4:17 ESV)

The Power of Pride...

The Power of Humility...

“According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison... Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.” (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

When the servant knows...

“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Rom 15:4 ESV)

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2Ti 3:16-17 ESV)

Going Deeper

(For individuals or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read Daniel 4. What are some repeated phrases or words? How does this help you identify the major theme?
2. What can you learn from Daniel's role in this story?
3. Read Romans 1:21-32. Consider Nebuchadnezzar's judgment in light of Paul's teaching on God "giving over". How can pride lead to dehumanizing?
4. Read carefully Nebuchadnezzar's language before his humiliation (vv.29-30) and after his restoration (vv.1-3 and vv.34-39). What are some marks of humility, some changes, you see in Nebuchadnezzar's words?
5. Is there a time in your life when God, in His graciousness, humbled you? How did you grow through that experience?
6. How can you use this passage to build a healthy self-confidence?
7. Spiritual Exercise: The king's state of mind changed when his eyes moved and he looked upward. This week, if your pride is showing in insecurity or arrogance, or you are feeling anxious from scarcity or while "content and prosperous", turn your eyes to heaven in humble acknowledgment of God's rule and ask Him to restore your "reason" and find peace in His reign.