

## COMBATING PRIDE

### Power Struggle Series - Part 6

#### Ben Rudolph

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Good morning Life Fellowship. It is good to see you here this morning. Turn in your Bibles to I Peter Chapter 5, as that is where we are going to be this morning. We are in a series on Spiritual Warfare. To me this has been one of the most beneficial series that I have ever preached through because I think it is so needed today. We have been talking about the power of God every week. We are not just focusing on the power of the enemy; we are focusing on the power of God to overcome the power of the enemy.

So every week we have been looking at different aspects of the power of God. We talked about the power over temptation, and power over strongholds, and power over the strategies of the enemy, and power over sin. And today we are going to look at power over pride. Power over pride. Now most of us do not equate pride with spiritual warfare. In fact most of us when we think of spiritual warfare think about this dark fiery creature and little innocent lambs. And a lot of times we think of spiritual warfare as looking very dark and very demonic. And it can be that way.

But many times the work of the enemy in spiritual warfare is very subtle. Sometimes it even seems to look good. So a lot of times when we think about spiritual warfare and evil creeping in, we don't think of it as looking dark or evil. I love the Lord of the Rings movies, and they make the bad guys look really, really evil, and they make the good people look really good. But we live in a world that is intermixed between good and evil. And even within us there is the flesh working inside of us, and then there is the Spirit of God working inside of us.

So there is this tension that we all feel. And we have to be aware that one of the most subtle ways that the enemy works to attack us and to invade our hearts and our minds is through pride. Pride is the very first sin ever committed, whether it was Satan himself wanting the glory from God in the throne room of Heaven, or whether it was Adam and Eve at the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and that voice from the serpent saying, *'Hey, you can be like God.'* Pride is at the root of all sins.

In fact I love what C. S. Lewis said. He had a lot of things to say about pride. But this is the one quote from C. S. Lewis that I believe is so powerful. He said, *"Through pride the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every vice. It is the complete antigod state of mind."* And I believe pride is at the root of every single other sin that we commit.

I remember as a kid I used to take a lot of pills. I was one of these sickly kids growing up and I was always having to take pills. Have you ever had one of those pills that start to dissolve in your mouth, and it just tastes disgusting? I don't know when they started putting that little sugar coating on the pills, but I like those because you can let them sit in your mouth for a few seconds before you swallow them.

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Well, pride is that sugar coating around every other sin we commit because it looks and feels so good for a moment. And we can justify so many things because of pride. And pride can lead to all of these other sins. We can steal based on pride. We can lust because of pride. We can lie because of pride and we can covet because of pride. We can rob worship of God because of pride.

One of the things I believe that we have to take a look at this morning, and the text we are going to look at this morning, has to do with how pride invades and corrupts the good things we do. Okay? One of the subtle ways that the enemy loves to work is not just to get you to do bad things. We have talked a lot about that, struggles, temptations, and sin. We are talking about something that can look so good to everyone but we are doing it for the wrong reasons.

Pride just infects everything. And we have to be so aware of the way that pride is just kind of like glitter. Do you know what I am talking about with glitter? I have a daughter that when she was a kid loved doing crafts. And when she would come home from Michael's with a project and there was glitter involved I immediately wanted to sell the house. (*Laughter.*) I mean even this morning I think God was teaching me something because once you open up that little tube of glitter it is done. You can vacuum, you can wipe everything down, but you will still find glitter in your house years after the craft project is finished.

I came to church this morning, and as I am walking in to go sit down over here in this corner I looked down at these seats and there was glitter on the chairs. I am like, *'How in the world did glitter get in here?'* And so as I walked around I was hoping there was nothing on my back side after sitting on glitter this morning. Glitter just gets everywhere and that is what pride does too. Pride is this sticky, icky stuff that just seeps into everything that we do. And it doesn't just make us do bad things but pride can motivate us to do very good things as well.

In I Peter Chapter 5 the text, or the context, of this passage is that in the first four verses Peter is addressing elders. He is addressing the leaders of the church. And the entire book of I Peter was written about the time of Nero. Christians were undergoing an immense amount of persecution and suffering. So Peter first sets up this whole idea of if you are an elder and you are in leadership you are to act this way. He addresses the whole idea of being a leader with the right motives for why they do things.

We are going to read verses 5 through 11. Beginning in verse 5 it says: ***"Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*** So Peter first talks about the younger being subject to the elders, and then he

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says all of you clothe yourselves. This would be the elders and the people who are following the elders, the younger, or the newer in the faith. He was telling all of them that they all needed to be humble because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. So he goes into this humility thing.

Verse 6: ***“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties (or your cares) on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”***

Verse 10: ***“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”***

We are going to talk this morning about why pride is a problem, how pride becomes a problem, and then how Jesus solves our pride problem. We first have to understand why pride is a problem. Then we have to figure out how Satan uses pride to get into our lives, and then we are going to look at Jesus’ antidote and how He can help us to figure out our pride problem.

This text is really cool and I have really enjoyed it. One of the things you will notice when you read this passage if you are familiar with some other passages of Scripture, is that there is a lot of overlap. In fact I think that the connection between pride and the devil here that Peter is making is not just here in this text, it is also found in the book previous to this and that is the book of James in Chapter 4. And I want to show you some similarities between these two passages.

Now in James Chapter 4 the context is, ‘*Why are you guys fighting amongst yourselves?*’ So he is dealing with the context of when there are arguments and tensions and fighting among people, whether it is in a marriage or whether it is just a group of people. But I want you to see these verses because the context of Peter is within church life, while they are doing ministry they are to be aware of pride.

So let’s look at James Chapter 4 versus I Peter Chapter 5. In James chapter 4 and verse 6 it says: ***“But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*** Compare that to I Peter Chapter 5 and verse 5: ***“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”***

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Then compare I Peter Chapter 5 to James Chapter 4. In I Peter Chapter 5 and verse 6 it says: ***“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you.”*** And in James Chapter 4 and verse 10 it says: ***“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.”*** So we see the same kind of idea.

There is one more comparison we are going to see. And that is I Peter Chapter 5 and verse 9 where it says: ***“Resist him, (talking about the devil,) firm in your faith,”*** and then looking at James Chapter 4 and verse 7 where it says: ***“Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil.”*** There is the same wording, the same verbiage, ***“And he will flee from you.”***

Both of these passages connect humility and the problem of pride to resisting the devil, which tells us something. This is a problem, because Satan knows that this is his game plan and it has worked from the very beginning. He knows every single human being struggles with sin. Now not all of us struggle with the same kinds of sin. Some of us might struggle with lying and others don't struggle with lying. Some might struggle with lust while others of us don't struggle with lust. Some might struggle with stealing something, or not being honest with your resources or finances, and others do not have a problem with that. Some might have a problem with gossip while others aren't tempted to gossip.

It doesn't matter though, because we are all in the same pride boat together. Satan knows every single one of us, every single one of us, struggles with pride. He has seen it work again and again and again. And so if we look at this issue of pride in Scripture we will see it is immense. There are many passages that talk about this issue of pride and how God is opposing pride in our lives. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

But there is a couple of things we need to understand. How does pride manifest itself? Remember I said this is in a context of doing good things. He is talking to elders and people in the church body and he is addressing this issue of pride. Clothe yourselves with humility and humble yourselves. Why is Peter saying that? It is because one of the easiest ways that the devil can infect our good works in our church life is through pride.

Look what he says here again in verse 6. ***“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.”*** Now pride is immense and it covers a lot of things. But there are three aspects of pride that this passage is talking about.

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The first thing Peter says is to *“humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.”* Pride can manifest itself with control. We all love control. And control again can manifest itself in a lot of different ways. It can manifest itself in a demanding spirit. *‘I deserve this.’ ‘People should treat me differently.’* It can come out in ways of how impatient we are with people or things.

I mean just this week we ordered out. I called in an order to a restaurant like fifteen minutes before I was to go there to pick it up, and do you know what I had to do? I had to wait another fifteen minutes. And after about five minutes I am like, *‘What is taking so long?’* Is anyone else like that? I am so impatient when it comes to food it is unreal. And after fifteen minutes I am thinking that I can’t wait to get on Yelp, I just cannot wait.

And what is it about us that make us think that we deserve better? If I have to wait fifteen more minutes for my food, how dare they? But that is pride. And pride can manifest itself in so many ways. We want control. *“Under the mighty hand of God.”* Listen, God’s hands controls things and not ours. God opposes the proud. And He will keep doing things in our lives over and over again to show us we are not in control; He is. Some of us think Satan is after us when it may be God is after us, because He is addressing the issues of control in our lives.

Not only does Satan use control, but he also uses attention and affirmation. Peter said: *“Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you.”* See, we want to exalt ourselves. Our desire for glory, for attention and affirmation is to court every part of us. And what we need to understand is sometimes we do things because we want people to look at us and say, *‘Wow, look at him.’ ‘You are so great.’ ‘You are so kind.’ ‘You are so good.’ ‘I can’t believe how well you do at playing music or singing.’ ‘I can’t believe how great you are with kids and working in Kid Life, or working with the youth.’ ‘I can’t believe what a great teaching that was.’*

I mean we do all these things. Why? It is because we are looking for someone to give us value and exaltation as opposed to saying, *‘God, I want you to get the glory.’* God is to exalt us and not ourselves. But we like to do things because we want something, and it is the pride driving us.

Not only is there control, attention and affirmation, but there is also self-sufficiency. It says, *“Cast your cares upon Him because He cares for you.”* We are to cast our cares on Him because we can’t do it on our own. We need God to do it for us. I remember a number of years ago when we were first starting our church in Denver. It was probably back in 2007. We had one of the leaders in our church come to us with this great idea about doing this service for people in need in our community, providing

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health care, clothing and food. It was just to reach out to the neediest people in our community and to bless them.

I immediately loved that idea and we worked hard towards this putting in a lot of hours on it. Our whole church became surrounded with this plan. And I remember the day of the event that we had less than ten people show up to it after we were all so prepared. We had doctors there, and we had all kinds of health care available. We had a food pantry, we had clothing, we had all these services for people in need and nobody showed up. I remember looking back on that, and the reason why I believe God allowed that moment, that event, to fail was because deep down, if I was going to be honest with myself, I was excited to do that because I thought it would make me and our church look really good. And God will not share glory with anyone.

About five or six years later this idea came up again to do something like this and I remember saying, *'God, you are going to have to do this this time, because I remember last time.'* And we created this event called 'Love Denver.' And Love Denver has been an event that has been going on now for close to ten years in the Denver community. A number of churches now own it. The churches in Denver now own this event and it has been God all the way. It wasn't me, it wasn't just our church, it was God. And I thank God for what He did and how it has expanded every year. There are over a thousand people that are blessed by what the church of Jesus Christ does in the community of Denver every summer.

And when I think about what happened I know it can happen to a lot of us. We can be motivated by control, by attention, by affirmation and self-sufficiency, and we can try to do all these wonderful things. We can serve in the church, the community or even in the way we parent our children because we want to have our hands on it and we want to look good. And it drives us to this place where we are doing it not for God but for ourselves.

So what we have to do instead of control is to submit. Instead of affirmation we need to worship and instead of self-sufficiency we need to have dependency. See God knows the destruction that comes from pride. He knows how easy it is for us to latch on to pride, to latch on to something. And pride is a problem for all of us because we are driven by control, by affirmation, by attention and by self-sufficiency. And we have to acknowledge that when it is in our lives. When we feel it working inside of us, when we feel it motivating us, when we feel it makes us do things, or say things, or not do things, we need to acknowledge that it is pride.

We can always tell when someone is motivated by the orbit around why they are doing it. And that is because the moment there is tension they will say they are not going

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to do that anymore. They are not going to serve any more because there is no guarantee they are going to get what they want. And that is something we have to always address internally. That is why pride is a problem.

So how does Satan use pride as a problem. Let's look again at what Peter says about this. Right after verse 7, he says this: ***“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.”*** Now why is Peter saying this? I love when you read Scripture, and especially some of these apostles' letters, and you can trace it back to an experience in their lives. I believe that Peter is writing this text with a lot of it being from his own personal experience.

And I want to take you back thirty years prior to when this passage was written, when Peter was a young man, and to the night when Jesus was betrayed. If you remember they are in the Upper Room, and there is this amazing passage in Luke Chapter 22 where they are all arguing and fighting over who is the greatest. And beginning in verse 31 of Luke Chapter 22 Peter has this moment with Jesus.

Verse 31 says this: ***“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. Peter said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”***

This moment is in all the gospel accounts where Jesus is foretelling of Peter's denial. But it is only in the Luke passage that Jesus interjects this one little phrase and that is: ***“Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat.”*** He wanted to destroy Peter. He was seeking Peter to devour him like a lion. And we all know what happened later with Peter that night. There had been this moment where Peter was going to stand up for Jesus, and he had said in his pride: *‘Hey, if everyone else falls away, I am not going to do it, Jesus. I am going to stay with you.’*

But what happened? A little teenage girl frightened Peter and he denied Jesus three times. I believe Peter is writing this because he understands the struggle of pride. I love it when biography becomes ministry. When biography becomes ministry is when we know that God is really working. And listen, this is kind of a side bar, not my main sermon, but I just want to say that all of us are going through something. And God is looking to humble us, every single one of us, because He knows that when we are humble we are moldable. When we are humble He can use us.

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And some of you are going through some intense circumstances right now where you might be feeling a lot of failure. The struggle is real. But just like Peter experienced this sifting, this attack from Satan, his failure, and how God restored him, let me tell you that God wants to do the same thing with you. God wants to take the failures that may have happened in your life that have brought humility to you, and He wants to change it into ministry. It is your biography that he can transform into ministry, and we can see that in this text of Scripture right here, and I think that is so powerful.

Peter knows how Satan works. And the way that he describes Satan is as a roaring lion that prowls around seeking someone to devour. If you have ever watched National Geographic shows, you probably have seen how the lions hunt. If you have watched it you will notice that lions hunt in two ways. One is to get a big group of them together where they kind of strategically corner a larger animal and attack it together. But for the most part the most predominate way in which lions hunt, most of which is by the females, is they kind of crouch down in the high grass and they stalk. Then they slowly move towards their prey, and they strategically pinpoint the weakest animal in the herd until they are guaranteed they will be able to successfully get it.

And that is what the devil wants to do with us. He is waiting. He is prowling. He watches how we act. He watches what we say and everything we do looking for a weakness. When he finds a weakness in our lives he is ready to pounce with the opportunity. That is how the enemy works. And Peter knows this.

So what he is saying is we have to understand how the enemy is working and how to combat it. The devil is looking for areas of weakness and when he knows that we love to control things, he will put thoughts in our minds that begin with: *'I must,' 'I deserve,'* or *'I need.'* When thoughts come into our minds like, *'I have to do this,' 'I must do this,' 'I deserve this,' 'I need this,'* it is control.

Then attention and affirmation are planted like seeds in our minds. Like, *'Well, I was a part of that project as much as that person, and they got all the credit.'* *'I want the credit and the attention. I want people to notice what I did.'* And all of a sudden we start getting ourselves worked up in this idea of if we don't get the attention and credit that we deserve then we are going to be upset.

Self-sufficiency says we are stronger than we really are. We think things like, *'Man, I haven't struggled with that in a long time.'* And we start thinking ourselves stronger. *'Well, I used to have a struggle with that.'* *'I used to have a weakness for that.'* *'But I am pretty strong right now.'* And we begin thinking we are stronger than we really are. Here is what we need to understand, Satan is not interested in attacking us in our weaknesses; he loves to use our strengths. He knows our strengths are what is going to

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give us that sense of pride. And that is when we let our guard down. That is when we stop depending on God.

Recently, since Covid happened, I have gotten into building some things, and I am not a builder. Before this whole thing happened I had a few tools that I looked at once or twice a year, but barely ever used them. But in this Covid world everything is different. So I had all this extra time during quarantining and I started building a few things. The first thing I built was a little chicken coop. We have chickens so I built a little fenced area and a little chicken coop. And then for Mother's day my wife wanted a greenhouse, so I started building this greenhouse. It is six feet by nine feet, and listen, I am not a builder. If you ever see me showing pictures on my phone it is not of my kids; it is of this greenhouse, okay?

But here is what I know - I am not a builder. Everything I do, every cut I make, I am like, *'Oh dear Lord, help me to do this right.'* Everything I do, every nail I hammer in, every screw I put in, everything that I cut with a saw I am asking the Lord to help me to do it right. Do you know why? It is because I know me. I know I could not build a shoebox because that is not me. And so the fact that there is now a standing greenhouse in my backyard that hasn't fallen down is wonderful. If I show you the picture of this greenhouse understand it is not my project it is God's project. I cannot take credit for it.

Do you know why? It is because I needed God for every single thing that I did. And here is the scary part. When you get done with a project and someone looks at it and says something like, *'Hey, that is a great greenhouse,'* you may be tempted to respond, *'Yes, it is, isn't it.'* *'That could go on Pinterest.'* *'Really?'* And all of a sudden when people start noticing something, the dependency of God and the glory to God can make us feel like we have a strength and we stop depending on God.

Listen, it is not your failures you need to be worried about in life, it is your successes you need to be concerned about. It is your successes in life, it is the strength that you think you have, it is all the things you have felt good about that you must be concerned with, because that is how the enemy loves to invade. He works by attacking us in our strengths.

So we understand why pride is a problem, and how pride becomes a problem, so lastly let's look at how Jesus solves the problem of pride. What I know is it is all Jesus. It is interesting in this text from verse 5 down to verse 11 there are six imperative verbs that we are to do. Peter gives six imperatives to us. They are - ***clothe yourself, humble yourself, cast your cares, resist him, be sober minded, be watchful.*** There are six imperatives there. And that gives us this idea that we have a lot of work to do. It is all on us. I have to fight this battle with pride and I have to do all these things.

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But I think many times we miss the step that Jesus is the one who is working, and He is the one who motivates us, He is the one who really helps us in this problem. Even in our attack against pride and in humbling ourselves, here is what is so dangerous. We can work to humble ourselves, and if we are doing it in our own power and strength do you know what we are going to do? We will be like, *‘I cannot believe how humble I am.’* (Laughter.) And we have thought it too, haven’t we?

Listen, we laugh but it is true. There is another quote by C. S. Lewis that I absolutely love: *“It is our pride that makes us hate the pride of other people.”* It is our pride. See, when you look at a proud person we think, *‘I can’t believe how proud they are. They should be ashamed of themselves,’* and that is our pride. What we need to do is look and say, *‘I am just like that.’*

There is a powerful phrase in Scripture in Psalms 73, where it describes the people who are against God: ***“Their pride is their necklace.”*** Now let me ask you a question. Why in the Scripture would pride be described as a necklace that people wear? Do you know why? It is because if you are wearing a necklace you can’t see it. You can’t see it, and you need God to help you see your pride. And what God does is He helps us solve our pride problem.

Look at these commands and how they are attached to Jesus. When Peter says, ***“Clothe yourself with humility”*** and ***“humble yourself”*** and ***“cast your cares,”*** why is he doing that? Number one - Jesus modeled humility for us. What does Peter mean by ***“Clothe yourself with humility?”*** Remember on the final night that Jesus was with His disciples? That word ‘clothe’ is a verb that is used to describe the putting on of an apron, or of a servant’s clothes. It is exactly what Jesus did when He washed His disciples’ feet, when He took off His outer robe and He wrapped a towel around His waist and He bent down and washed their feet. When Peter says, ***“Clothe yourself with humility,”*** he is picturing Jesus taking off His outer garment, putting a towel around Himself, and washing their dirty, smelly feet.

See Jesus modeled the ***“humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.”*** He humbled Himself by becoming a man and dying on the cross for sins He did not commit. He humbled Himself for us. He gave His life up for us. Humility drove Jesus to the cross. It drove everything about Him as He gave glory to the Father. Jesus modeled humility.

Not only did Jesus model humility, He gives us authority. Look how we are to deal with the enemy. ***“. Be sober-minded; be watchful.” “Resist him.”*** That is something that I think we need to understand. Peter is saying we can do this. We are not to be passive. Yes, Satan is prowling around looking for that area in our lives where he

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can attack. Jesus said that Satan wanted to sift us like wheat, he wanted to destroy us, but He has prayed for us. Peter is saying that as much as we know we have an enemy that wants to attack and destroy us, we also have the capability, the authority and the power of Jesus to resist him.

That word 'resist' literally means 'to stand against.' You know we have been experiencing a little bit of this during the pandemic. When the mask wearing thing came out - and I am not going to talk about the governor. And whether you are pro-mask or anti-mask this morning I am just trying to make a point, okay? All the restaurants and stores put up these signs in the front of their buildings, '*Masks are required.*' Did that stop people from not wearing masks in the store?

But then there were some stores that had people out in front and they would stop people if they weren't wearing a mask and tell them they had to put a mask on. I remember Walmart did that. They made the announcement that starting on this date they were going to have someone outside watching that people were wearing masks. We have a Walmart right next to us in Denver, and when we first went there we saw a person out there watching people. I went there the other day, and the person was under a tent, leaning against a wall and scrolling through his phone. People were walking by, the signs were still there, but the guard has kind of been let down.

See we can say to Satan, '*Stop, I will not let you have your way with me.*' But then we can get lazy, kind of give up and be passive. And Satan will sometimes back off in order to make us feel like we are safer than we really are. So we have to be careful, we have to be sober-minded and watchful and resist him. Jesus gives us the authority and the power to stop the work and the attacks of the evil one.

Lastly, Jesus is working to build us up. There are four things that He says that God is going to do. Much as Satan wants to destroy us, here is what God is going to do. Look at that verse 10: "***Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.***"

That word 'restore' means 'to literally turn us into a person the way we were meant to be.' Maybe you have seen a house that is dilapidated and that is the way you are feeling this morning. Maybe you are feeling like your life is just a wreck, you have made too many bad decisions. Maybe you have too many addictions, and there is so much destruction and pain that you have caused yourself and other people. Do you know what Jesus is going to say? Instead of looking at those things He is saying He will restore us in the way we should have lived before all these things. That is what God is willing to do. He works to restore us to live a life that we should, a life we should have been living all along with Him in control.

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He also says He will confirm us. This word 'confirm' is literally tied to the same word of 'stand.' The same root word as resist and confirm has this idea of standing. And if you don't think you can stand, Jesus is going to help you stand. Then it says He is going to strengthen us. It is His strength that we need to depend on and not our own.

And He will establish us and that means to lay a new foundation. He is going to lay a new foundation in our lives. Here is what we need to understand, everything good in our lives is from God. And He wants the glory. So when we do things, whether we are serving in ministry, or parenting our children, or all the good things that we do in life, and all the good things that can come out of our lives, God wants us to give Him the glory.

Verse 11 says: ***"To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen."*** It is God's story and not mine. It is God's glory and not mine. It is God's power and not mine. It is God's authority and not mine. It is God's control and not mine. We have to address the issue of pride in our lives so that God can get the glory that He deserves from our lives.

Here are some questions I want you to think about this morning. Number one - what righteousness, or what service has been tainted by pride in your life? What have you allowed, you know like the glitter of pride to seep in and it is there? Maybe you started with a good intention and a heart that was humble, but over time you have allowed pride to creep in.

Number two - which avenue of pride must be confronted in your life? Is it control? Is it affirmation? Is it self-sufficiency? What is it about your life that you would say, *'That is me. That is the area of pride that I allow to invade easily?'*

Number three - how will you clothe yourself with humility today? How are you going to look at Jesus' example and draw inspiration and draw understanding about how to humble yourself from Him? Not from your own idea of humility, but from His idea of humility. We have a God who humbled Himself for us and therefore we have the opportunity to humble ourselves before Him.

*The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.*