

Proverbs 16:18

¹⁸ **Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**

This scripture makes me think of Satan, when he was the Archangel standing before God. I believe that many Christians are without understanding of who Satan was. Before his fall, Satan's duties were to worship the Lord continuously. He was over all of the other angels, and he was second only to the Trinity! His beauty we are told was second to none. Daily he stood before the Lord and worshipped Him. Can you imagine standing before God, having seen Him, talked to Him and personally worship Him; only then to allow pride to swell up inside to the point where you believe that you are equal to Him. That is exactly what Satan did. He was either quite convincing, or a great many of the angels were dissatisfied as well; because a third of the angels in heaven tried to overthrow God from His throne. Ultimately, Satan and the band of angels who decided to follow him were thrown out of Heaven. Actually hell was created specifically for them. To be damned, is to be removed from God's presence. It was never designed for mankind, and it only came into the picture once Adam and Eve chose to eat from the "tree of knowledge of good and evil." Once sin entered in, man then had to choose whom he was going to serve. The final outcome of that choice would for all of time establish one's eternal destiny.

If Satan could fall from holding the highest office in heaven, outside of being God; to being eternally damned because of pride and disobedience; don't you believe that man can end up in the same place because of his choices? God clearly hates pride, because pride always tries to flaunt itself as an equal to Him. Pride also blinds us of things that we would otherwise see or heed to. We become desensitized to the very thing that can ultimately destroy us. Pride is a tool of the enemy that can blind the strongest believer. When I was in Bible College, I often heard that the three things that would bring a man of God down quicker than anything else were gold, glory and gals. Each of us struggles within our flesh with at least one of these temptations. Riches either call out to us, pride and control or the lust of our flesh. This is very serious. Of the three, I believe that pride is the one that is most often ignored until the damage is done. We believe that somehow God needs us to accomplish His will. Our ministry just couldn't succeed without us at the reins. We convince ourselves that we can do more than we truly can, and we start looking for the accolades that only belong to our Lord. I have actually witnessed a ministry where they taught that the tithe belonged to the pastor; the people were even encouraged to call the pastor and his wife, dad and mom. This deceived couple was placing themselves into a position in their church where they were not only taking God's money, but leading His people to look to them, instead of to Him. There is nothing new about any of this; Satan was quite successful manipulating Eve in the Garden as well. The question for you and me is who is Lord in your life? Is it God, you or another person? If it is God, then the fruit of that decision is humility. If it is anyone else, then the fruit is always pride.

Don't let pride separate you from the living God. I exhort you today by the mercy of God to repent and place Him back, as Lord of your life!