



THE STUBBORNNESS OF PRIDE

Robert Morris

Focus Stubbornness can lead to our downfall if we don't surrender our will to God. When we submit our will to Him we proclaim His lordship over our lives.

Fun What one thing are you most stubborn about? (Or are you too stubborn to admit it?)

Review Key Scriptures: Daniel 5:1–31

1. He saw but he didn't look.

King Belshazzar saw God at work many times and knew who the true God was. But his stubbornness would not allow him to look to God and have a personal encounter with Him.

2. He heard but he didn't listen.

Deuteronomy 32:17

Belshazzar's pride was a slap in the face to God. He even drank from vessels taken from God's own temple as an act of defiance and pure arrogance. He also worshipped the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

3. He knew but he didn't learn.

Job 42:5

Belshazzar could look to his own grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar, as a cautionary tale. Nebuchadnezzar went from "majesty, glory, and honor" to living with wild donkeys and eating grass with oxen. However,

Nebuchadnezzar saw God for himself, softened his heart, and turned his pride into praise. Belshazzar on the other hand never humbled himself.

Group Dynamics Idea Pastor Robert says the key to eliminating stubbornness is intimacy with God and others. Consider signing up for classes in Gateway Freedom ministry to help you develop deeper relationships with God and people.

Discuss

1. Why do you think King Belshazzar praised the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone rather than the one true God? (Daniel 5:4)
2. How did Belshazzar's prideful behavior influence others under his leadership? Is there anyone under your influence (spouse, children, employees, etc.) who has been affected by your pride or stubbornness?
3. The writing on the wall: God told Belshazzar his time was up. Why does God use Daniel, rather than one of Belshazzar's "wise" men, to interpret the writing?
4. When Daniel refused Belshazzar's gifts, what point was he trying to make? (Daniel 5:17)
5. Belshazzar's death—the same night of Daniel's interpretation—clearly proves God says what He means and means what He says. He is sovereign and intentional! Reflect on the times He has revealed His intentions to you as well as your response.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- King Belshazzar's stubbornness was his downfall, but if we humble ourselves and submit to God, we can avoid this trap.
- Stubbornness is your strong will turned toward yourself instead of God. Being strong-willed is okay if it's going in the proper direction.
- The key to overcoming stubbornness is intimacy with God and others. Intimacy means: into me, see.
- Some of us have never truly been saved—we believe in Jesus but haven't turned our will to Him. The good news is we can turn our will to Him today!

Prayer

Father God, thank You for Your love, mercy, and grace, none of which we deserve. Purify our hearts as only You can, Lord God. Strip away all pride and stubbornness so it does not get in the way of Your perfect will. Keep our eyes focused on You rather than our own prideful desires. Help us develop a strong will for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Pray for those who may be too proud to admit that they struggle with pride and stubbornness. Ask God to soften their hearts. If you have had a similar issue with pride, consider sharing your story with the group to help others.