

PART 2: Pride's Ambush

DATE: 10-01-2023

START

The single most catastrophic destroyer of your spiritual growth comes in the form of a silent attack. Pride's stealth ambush wreaks havoc within you and those connected to you.

- What has been your personal experience with pride?
- Why do you think pride is such a challenge to overcome?

READ

[1 Samuel 15:1-23](#); (NIV)

- Samuel approaches Saul, reminding him that he was King because the Lord anointed him.
- God gives Saul clear instructions to attack and destroy ALL the Amalekites. This meant men, women, children, and all the animals.
- Saul takes his army and they spare the King, and the best of the animals. Anything they viewed as weak or of no value, they destroyed. Saul then goes to Carmel and makes a statue in his **own honor!**
- Saul lies to Samuel, and Samuel exposes Saul's disobedience and declares, *"Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."*

THINK

Pride Elevates. It is the "puppet-master" of comparison. Pride Self-Deceives. It is about pointing the finger of blame at everyone else. Pride Blames. We have perfected pointing the finger at others. Pride Masks. We will mask gossip with scripture to hide it. Pride Rationalizes. Do we acknowledge our sin, or rattle a list of excuses for our actions?

- Why do you think blaming others is easier than taking ownership?
- Which of these five attributes do you feel is easier to recognize? Give an example.
- How do you feel overcoming the giant of pride will improve your faith journey?

PRAY

God, you are sovereign. Place a spotlight on the **pride** lurking in my heart. Help me see. Carve it out. I confess my sin. Forgive me. I am thankful for your grace that covers me.

ACT

This week, take some time to evaluate your mindset and behaviors when it comes to obeying God. Intentionally set some time to pray about areas of your life where pride may be spotted.

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