

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

October 6, 2014

All Puffed Up

1 PETER 5:6-10 NKJV – (6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, (7) casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (9) Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (10) But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

One characteristic common among many people is that of pride. Even Christian people can be guilty of a type of pride - spiritual pride. There are modern day holier than thou Pharisees that look down their noses at people who display less religious dedication. Many in the church at Corinth had a similar problem with pride. Paul addresses this problem in **1 COR. 4:6**, "...that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other". "Puffed up" is a literal translation of the word, which refers to an inflated view of oneself, or of others. God gives many illustrations of spiritual truth in the physical world. There are some animals that puff themselves up, making themselves bigger than they really are. A bullfrog puffs up when he croaks. Have you seen a blow fish? It inflates to about three times its original size. From the text above, though, it is clear that the Corinthian believers were haughty, arrogant, and preoccupied with their own importance.

So, here's the problem. The Bible teaches that pride is one of the greatest sins against God. Pride made demons out of angels, and it ruins the spiritual life of the Christian. Pride is clearly rebuked by the word of God.

There are secular, educated accolades you may have, including: where you come from, how much money you have, or what position you serve. Remember to "humble yourself!" as your bubble can be popped! God has a spoken and written agenda and He has called every human being to conduct themselves as such. Only God can elevate you as needed according to His will. A prideful person serves Satan and they will not get very far regardless of how their lives may look.

SCRIPTURE READING

JAMES 4:4-7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you."

October 1, 2014

