

6. *Strive to walk humbly before all, especially before the Lord.*

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you” (Jas. 4:10, ESV).

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Mic.6:5, ESV).

As you become increasingly successful in your business or career, always remember that certain dangers are inherent to prosperity and position. One of the deadliest dangers is that of pride. But in discussing pride, we must always remember this fact: there is both a good, healthy pride and a bad, unhealthy pride. Good, healthy pride is acceptable because it is a deep sense of self-respect and of confidence in one’s abilities to do things—to act, work, labor, achieve, and succeed. Very little is ever accomplished by a person with little self-respect and no confidence.

On the other hand, bad, unhealthy pride is unacceptable because it thinks too highly of self and exalts self over others. It is a deep sense of feeling better, of more value and worth than other people. It is being conceited, egotistical, and condescending—all of which is hurtful and damaging because it debases others and takes advantage of them. It can even lead to domineering and oppressive behavior. In truth, unhealthy pride is the root of *every sin*. Why is this true? Because when we exalt ourselves and our desires over others, we are exalting ourselves over God Himself and His creation. When we consider ourselves to be masters of our own lives, then we feel free to act and to do anything we want—good or bad—no matter what God says. Exalting ourselves over God is a dangerous position in which to place ourselves.

Pride can also lead you to feel self-sufficient, totally forgetting that you need the Lord. You will need to diligently guard against having a self-sufficient spirit, one that overlooks calling on the Lord. God should never see a spirit in you that ignores His Word, that faces the temptations and

challenges of life on its own, not even thinking about God and the strength He can provide. God wants to see you humbly coming into His presence, calling and depending upon Him for strength and wisdom every day of your life. With this in mind, you ought to consciously humble yourself before the Lord every day (Jas.4:10).

You are called to *walk humbly with the Lord* (Mic.6:8). What does this mean? How can you walk humbly with God? The Hebrew word for *humbly* suggests modesty. As one of God's followers, you are to walk modestly or meekly with Him, not proudly or arrogantly; you are not to exalt yourself over others, treating them as though they are of less worth than you. Instead, you are...

- to have a humble estimate of your own abilities and importance
- to be free from vanity, egotism, boastfulness, and pretension
- to trust the Lord and acknowledge Him as the source of your life as you walk through each day
- to constantly seek His mercy and forgiveness

If you are walking humbly with God, you will not be proud or self-reliant, depending only on your own strength. Rather, you will continually seek strength from God, calling on Him to help you, guide you, and deliver you from temptation. Walking *humbly* with God means you will not seek honor for your own name but for God's *Name*. All of this is because you know that it is God who has gifted and enabled you to achieve and succeed. Therefore, you want the honor and glory to be His. This is what it means to *walk humbly* with God.