

# Dealing with Pride

*Philippians 3:3, Proverbs 3:5-7, James 4:6-10, 1 Peter 5:1-10*

## Introduction Prayer of Repentance

*“Dear Heavenly Father,*

*You have said that pride goes before destruction and an arrogant spirit before stumbling. I confess that I have been thinking of myself and not of others. I have not denied myself, picked up my cross daily, and followed you. As a result, I have given ground to Satan in my life. I have sinned by believing I could be happy and successful on my own. I confess I have placed my will before yours, and I have centered my life around myself instead of you.*

*I repent of my pride and my unhealthy focus on myself and pray that all ground gained in my life by the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ would be canceled. I choose to rely on the Holy Spirit’s power and guidance so I will do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit. With humility of mind, I will regard others \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with specific names) as more important than myself. And I choose to make You, Lord, the center of my life.*

*Please show me now all the specific ways I have demonstrated pride in my life. Enable me through love to be sympathetic to others and not react in pride. I ask this in the gentle and humble name of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.”*

**Please check off all the ways in which you have demonstrated or struggled with pride in your life.**

## The Symptoms of Pride

- Perfectionist—I set up standards for myself that are beyond the normal requirement.
- Lack of love—I am indifferent to the needs of others; I am hasty in judgment, insensitive and critical.
- I am self-righteous. I often think that I am more humble, spiritual, religious, or devoted than others.
- I have a poor relationship with God (God resists the proud).
- Legalism—I believe that I can gain more favor with God or those in spiritual authority by performing.
- I am selfish with my time and possessions.

- I compare myself to others.
- I am discontent and ungrateful. I have a hard time accepting my suffering.
- I am unforgiving and bitter—I cannot release my offenders to God.
- I cannot forgive myself for the past—I cannot receive God’s forgiveness.
- I project an image to other people to cover up my sin.
- I desire the acceptance of men rather than having God’s approval in the choices I make.
- I am self-willed, rather than seeking the will of God.
- I lean on my own understanding rather than seeking God’s guidance.
- I rely on my own strength and abilities rather than depending on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- I am more concerned about controlling others rather than developing self-control.
- I am too busy doing “important” things to take time to spend with God and my family.
- I have a tendency to think that I have no needs, spiritual or otherwise.
- I am overly concerned about getting the credit I feel I deserve.
- I am driven to obtain recognition and significance by attaining degrees, titles, or positions, rather than finding my significance in Christ.
- I become defensive when criticized by those that really care about me.
- I have difficulty recognizing and admitting when I am wrong. I tend to want to deflect blame.
- I talk most often about myself and I am not interested in others when conversing with people.
- I draw attention to my abilities and achievements in a boastful way.
- I feel sorry for myself when I really should not (pity parties).

*“Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ. I thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I ask now that you would cleanse me of my sinful pride.*

*Your Holy Spirit has convicted me, and I renounce that I have been prideful in the following ways (list those checked). I repent and renounce these ways I have lived out of the flesh in pride. I ask that you would take back the ground I have given the enemy in this area of my life. I ask you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you will continue to convict me when I respond in pride in the future. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”*