


1 Pride That Expands Before Collapse

Proverbs 16:1-9 & 16-18 : “Pride goes before destruction, haughtiness before the fall...”

Hebrew word for “pride”: *gā’ōn* (גִּאְוֹן)
→ Means **exaltation, swelling, rising up, arrogance**

Deeper Insight:

This word paints a picture of something **swelling beyond its limits**—like pressure building before an explosion.

 Pride isn’t just thinking highly of yourself, It’s **self-inflation beyond truth**

- Pride looks right in our own eyes
- Pride is an abomination to God

- Commit our works to God & He will establish our thoughts
- Pleasing the Lord defeats our enemies

Example:

- Sodom’s sin was PRIDE (See Ezekiel 16:49)

Revelation:

Pride is often hardest to detect **right before collapse**, because it *feels like strength* when it’s actually instability.

2 Pride as Self-Deception

Obadiah 1:3 -4 : “The pride of your heart has deceived you...”
Galatians 6:1-3: “ ... they deceive themselves”

Hebrew word: *zādon* (זִדְוֹן)
→ Means **presumption, arrogance, willful rebellion**

Deeper Insight:

This isn’t passive pride—it’s **intentional independence from God**.

(Obadiah) The word for “deceived” (*nāšā*) means:
→ **to lead astray, to seduce, to cause to wander**

(Galatians) The word for “deceive” (*phrenapata*) means to **deceive the mind or delude**.

Revelation:

Pride doesn’t just make you wrong—it makes you **confidently wrong**.

 It creates a **false internal narrative** where you trust yourself over truth.

3 God “Opposes” the Proud

James 4:1-6 - “God opposes the proud...”

Greek word: *hyperēphanos* (ὑπερήφανος)

→ “Appearing above others,” **over-shining, conspicuous superiority**

Greek word for “opposes”: *antitassō* (ἀντιτάσσω)

→ A military term meaning **to arrange in battle against**

⊗ **NOTE:** Pride distances us from God (see Psalm 138:6)

Revelation:

Pride doesn’t just distance you from God... It puts you on the **wrong side of a battlefield.**

 **Deeper Insight:**

God doesn’t passively resist pride—He **actively positions Himself against it like an enemy army.**

4 Pride is Something God Hates

Proverbs 8:13 : “I hate pride and arrogance...”

Hebrew word: *gē’āh* (גָּאָה)

→ **Rising up, elevation, majesty used wrongly**

👉 So pride is **taking something that belongs to God (exaltation), And assigning it to yourself**

Revelation:

Pride is not just self-love—it’s **misplaced glory.**

 **Deeper Insight:**

This word can actually be used for **God’s majesty** in other contexts.

5 Pride Comes From Within

Mark 7:17–23 : “...pride...comes from within...”

Greek word: *alazoneia* (ἀλαζονεία)

→ **Empty boasting, false pretension, exaggeration of self**

Revelation:

Pride is not always loud arrogance, It can be **quiet exaggeration of identity** (trying to seem more than you are)

 **Deeper Insight:**

This word was used in Greek culture for:

→ **A wandering fraud who exaggerated abilities to impress people**

6 The “Pride of Life”

1 John 2:15-17 : “...the pride of life...”

Greek phrase: *alazoneia tou biou*

→ Literally: “the boasting of one’s livelihood or existence”

 Deeper Insight:

This isn’t just ego—it’s:

👉 Confidence rooted in **what you have, achieve, or control**

👉 Focus on what *you* like, dislike, want or prefer

Revelation:

The “pride of life” = Building identity on **status, possessions, or independence**

7 Nebuchadnezzar’s Pride

Daniel 4:28-33 : “Is not this great Babylon I have built...”

Aramaic emphasis: repetition of “I”

→ Self-attribution of glory

 Deeper Insight:

His judgment wasn’t random—it mirrored his pride:

👉 He lived like a beast because he **exalted himself above human dependence**

›**Reflect:** This is the struggle of recognizing accomplishments & progress without becoming prideful.

Revelation:

Pride disconnects you from reality, Even your **identity can become distorted**

8 The Hidden Form of Pride

Luke 18:9–14 : Pharisee vs. tax collector

Greek phrase: *pepoithotas eph’ heautois*

→ “Having confidence in themselves”

 Deeper Insight:

The Pharisee’s pride is subtle:

👉 He thanks God—but compares himself to others

›**Reflect:** This is the struggle in being thankful for the growth that GOD has cultivated in our lives, without being prideful of the people we become & even being *graceful* to other as others are growing in their journey.

Revelation:

Pride can exist even in **religious language**, When your identity is built on being “better than”

9 Pride Creates Conflict

Proverbs 13:1 & 10 : “By pride comes nothing but strife...”

Hebrew word: *zādon* again (presumptuous arrogance)

Deeper Insight:

Conflict isn't always about disagreement—it's about:

Unyielding self-certainty

›Reflect: This is the struggle of viewing things from OUTSIDE our own perspective.

› From the other person's perspective

› From God's perspective

Revelation:

Where there's constant strife, pride is often **the hidden root**, not the surface issue.

10 The Antidote to Pride

Philippians 2:1-11 : “Do nothing from selfish ambition...”

Greek word: *kenodoxia* (κενοδοξία)

→ Empty glory, vain glory

Deeper Insight:

This is glory with **no substance behind it**.

 It's the opposite of Christ in this chapter, who:

- Had true glory
- But chose humility

›Reflect: This is the struggle in setting ourselves aside & submitting to the Spirit

› “I think” vs. “God Thinks”

› “I feel” vs “God Feels”

› “I like” vs. “God Likes”

Revelation:

- Pride = **grasping for glory you don't have**
 - Humility = **releasing glory you actually do have**
-

Big Picture Insight

Across Hebrew and Greek, pride consistently means:

- To “rise” beyond true position
- To believe a distorted version of yourself (or others)
- To position yourself *above* others—including God
- To project value that isn’t truly there
- To place confidence or trust in self rather than God

Pride causes:

- ❖ Conflict
- ❖ Destruction
- ❖ Stunted growth
- ❖ Distance from God
- ❖ Spiritual blindness
- ❖ Sensitivity, hurt, offense



Warning: Pride creates an open door for spiritual attacks.

Pride isn’t just thinking you’re great, It’s:

- Misplacing glory
- Trusting self over God
- Inflating identity beyond truth

And ultimately...

[→ Living out of alignment with God](#)

Thoughts & Further Discussion?