

every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).

When I desire the approval of others, I resolve to replace this with the desire for the approval of God. The Scripture helps me: "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10).

When I am tempted to exercise power over others so that I can seem great, I should discern that this is a prideful attitude. Jesus said, "Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but **whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister**; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28). Genuine greatness is found through serving others.

When I am prideful, thinking that to be humble is weak, I will resolve to perceive that humility is strength! Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall **humble** himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4).

Pride is destructive. It is one of the things which God absolutely hates. I resolve to fight pride with the understanding that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. *Lord, help me!*



WHEN I AM
PRIDEFUL

WHEN I AM PRIDEFUL, I fight the good fight of faith with the encouragement of James (4:6), that **"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."** I'm reminded that my hands are too short to box against God.

When I am prideful to admit a weakness, I battle with the words of God in 2 Corinthians 12:10: **"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."** I, then, should delight in my weakness, instead of wallow in it.

When I am prideful to hold on to *my rights*, I yield my personal rights because of the example of Christ in Philippians (2:5-8): "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**"

When I'm tempted to seek vindication at all costs, I wait on God's vindication because the Apostle Peter says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that **he may exalt you in due time**" (1 Peter 5:6).

When I'm tempted to seek recognition and praise for self, I fight this urge with the inspired proverb to **"Let another man praise thee, and not**

thine own mouth; A stranger, and not thine own lips" (Proverbs 27:2).

When I am tempted to seek revenge when offended, I battle this urge with the words of God in Proverbs (19:11): **"The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; And it is his glory to pass over a transgression."** I resolve to be quick to overlook an offense.

When I am prideful to not seek advice, I battle this temptation that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding (see Proverbs 9:10) and that the way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice (see Proverbs 12:15).

When I feel the urge to continually compare myself with others, I battle with God's wisdom to refuse useless comparisons. Second Corinthians 10:12 tells me, "we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and **comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**"

When I start to think highly about myself in order to achieve a good self-image, I need to combat this thought with thinking honestly about myself with accurate judgement because the Apostle says, **"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to**