

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. The text 'PROVERBS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below it, a thin white horizontal line separates the word 'PROVERBS' from the phrase 'LIVING WISDOM', which is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters.

PROVERBS

LIVING WISDOM

3:34 Toward the scorers he is scornful,
but to the humble he gives favor.

8:13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.

11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with the humble is wisdom.

11:12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense,
but a man of understanding remains silent.

13:10 By insolence comes nothing but strife,
but with those who take advice is wisdom.

15:25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud
but maintains the widow's boundaries.

15:33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom,
and humility comes before honor.

16:18 Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall.

28:26 Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool,
but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

29:23 One's pride will bring him low,
but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

The Root of Pride: *What it is*

8:13 The **FEAR of the LORD** is hatred of evil.
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.

We've been made
IN, WITH AND FOR
God's glory.
Pride is being a
Glory Thief

Pride = "Swelling"; "Vain-Glory"

...The essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.

C. S. Lewis

The Root of Pride: *What it produces*

11:2 When pride comes, then comes **disgrace**,

13:10 By insolence comes nothing but **strife**,

15:25 The LORD **tears down the house** of the proud

16:18 Pride goes before **destruction**, and a haughty spirit before a **fall**.

29:23 One's pride will bring him **low**,
but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

LIVING WISDOM

It's PRIDE that...

...makes us "one up" others in conversations.

...keeps me from admitting and repenting of specific wrongs (while I crave and fish for compliments)

...leads me to subtly remind others of my resume.

...stretches the truth.

...tells me I am better than some and worse than others.

The Hope of Humility: *What it is*

15:33 The **fear of the LORD** is instruction in wisdom,
and humility comes before honor.

Humility =
“Needy, Low, Weak”

Not thinking less of yourself,
But thinking of yourself less.

Realizing that:

Outside of Christ and in my own efforts, I am broken/empty.
Yet, In Christ, I am fully satisfied and complete, a child of infinite value.

The Hope of Humility: *What it produces*

11:2b but to the humble he gives **favor**.

13:10b but with those who take advice is **wisdom**.

15:33 and humility comes before **honor**.

29:23b but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain **honor**.

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek, for they shall **inherit** the earth.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will **exalt** you.

As I slowly realize that I am satisfied in Him, I am free:

1) From perpetually defending myself and being right.

2) To share God's love others without strings.

It's PRIDE that...

...makes us "one up" others in conversations.

...keeps me from admitting and repenting of specific wrongs (while I crave and fish for compliments)

...leads me to subtly remind others of my resume.

...stretches the truth.

...tells me I am better than some and worse than others.

It's HUMILITY that...

...makes me interested in hearing others' stories.

...helps me accept correction and freely repent (and graciously accept compliments)

...frees me from (constantly) building my public image.

...enables honesty.

...tells me I am enough because of Jesus' gift.

The Humility of Christ

Philippians 2

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, **which is yours in Christ Jesus**, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ **Therefore** God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus emptied himself of GLORY and took on our "VAIN GLORY" so that we could be restored to GLORY

2 Corinthians 4

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”
— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

Moving Forward

- 1) Perpetual belief that I dabble in painted-on-glory while full glory has been acquired for me on the Cross.
- 2) Because of that, I can own my failures and my successes while not demonizing or deifying others.
- 3) How do I try to "add filling" to what God's already filled me with?
(in my words, attitudes about others, behavior...
in my superiority complex *and* inferiority complex).