



SERIES: APRIL – YES, YOU CAN! OVERCOMING YOUR STRUGGLES

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, 04/26/2022

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18

TITLE: Make the Trade

When my kids were little, they would stack blocks. They weren't very good at first, but as they grew, their skills improved. Now that they are older, they have moved from confident to cocky. They have competitions to see how high they can stack blocks, wood, Legos, or whatever they can find. But what inevitably happens is that their pride inflates, and they attempt to create these massive structures only to see them fall.

We all suffer from pride. Pride can show up at work, school, at home, in marriage, at church, even in the pulpit. But pride only leads to ruin. This is what King Solomon said about pride in Proverbs 16:18 (CSB).

*Pride comes before destruction,
and an arrogant spirit before a fall.*

Tell me one good thing that comes from pride. I didn't say confidence or ability. I said, pride. Nothing good comes from pride. Pride drove Adam and Eve to sin. They thought they could be like God and ultimately play God, but pride drove them out of the garden and condemned them to die.

The people in Genesis 11 decided they wanted to make a name for themselves by building a tower that would stretch to the heavens. Their pride led to God confusing their language and scattering them throughout the earth. Judges contain many stories of God's people doing what was right in their own eyes. This resulted in a constant cycle of disobedience, pain, and deliverance.

We'd like to think that we're different. We'd like to think if we were in the garden, we'd avoid sinning. That simply is not true. I can't go one day without falling prey to the sin of pride.

All sins come from the seed of pride. Your fight with your spouse. What happened? What was the reason for it? Dig deep enough. It's because your pride was poked. The issue at the airport or the rental car company. What made you flip your lid? Chances are, pride was underneath the surface.

We all want control. We all want to play God. The problem is we are not God. And when we play Him, he lovingly lets us fall.

So what's the solution? Maintain a humble, dependent heart. Solomon wrote, *"A person's pride will humble him, but a humble spirit will gain honor"* (Proverbs 29:23). James wrote,

“But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:6-7).

So here’s my challenge: make the trade. Trade out pride for humility. I travel a lot, and I am quite dependent upon my laptop. But I can only run so long without plugging it into the wall. We need to remain humble and dependent upon God. Without God, we are nothing. Pride comes before the fall, but humility gains grace and honor with God.

So today, make the trade and stay plugged into God. When we remain humble, we will win the day.