

## Another Word on Pride

### Scripture

“He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.” (Pr 28:25 NKJV)

### Devotion

Pride is a terrible sin that causes contentions, and has terrible consequences. The proverb points out that it stirs up strife. It is unwilling to let an issue go. Surely everyone has at sometime in their lives become a victim of this evil.

Maybe there is a difficult person at work, or school, or even your own spouse has provoked you, and you find it is impossible to let the thing die. Pride is that way. It stirs up strife because it seeks its own pleasure.

This same unwillingness to let an issue fall harmlessly by the wayside is a core issue between you and God. God hates pride because ultimately it has God as its focus. If God is sovereign and He is, then everything that comes into your life is at the good judgment of your Heavenly Father (Rom 8.28). You are saying to God when your pride takes over, I don't want you in control of my life: your way is not good God. This may be understood by the antithesis between the first part of the couplet and the second.

The proud of heart stirs up strife, but he who trust in the Lord will be prospered. The antithesis is between pride and trust. The proud does not trust but strives for control. If the prideful person is not able to gain control, then divisions happen, and other sins are incubated in the heart.

There are two other emotions/sins that seem to always accompany pride, anger and frustration or anxiety. These sins are fueled by pride like gasoline thrown on a fire. Knowing this may be useful to you.

If you become angry or anxious because some person has crossed your sense of fair play, look carefully at your heart as pride is likely the culprit making you feel that way. Trusting in the Lord is the vaccination against pride. There are lots of reason God may have put you to this trial. None of those reasons lack the compassion of God. Remember, “. . . all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose” (Ro 8:28 NKJV). Walk with thankfulness the path God has put before you, and you will prosper.

Those who trust in the Lord will be prospered. Keep in mind that proverbs speak to the general patterns of life. You should not believe that if you are able to walk in humility trusting the Lord He will bring you great wealth. He might do that, but I think the emphasis is on the spiritual. Remember, God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Which would you rather be?