

Find your place...

“Oh, that’s not for me.” This would be my immediate response when anyone would speak on the topic of pride. You might even be thinking the same thing now reading through this devotion. But stay with me as I share my heart.

Pride was something that I never thought would be part of my life. In fact, I would say that I struggle more often with the opposite of pride. It feels that the Holy Spirit daily reminds me at least once that “I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me.” (Phil 4:13) However, I have come to discover that this shortage of self-confidence is not the opposite of pride but merely another entrapment of it.

You see, as I allowed myself to dream again, I began to think about those God-given dreams. I began to hope for those dreams. I would pray about my dreams. At least I thought that I was praying for them. However, it felt as though my prayers were trapped somewhere between my lips and the ears of our heavenly Father.

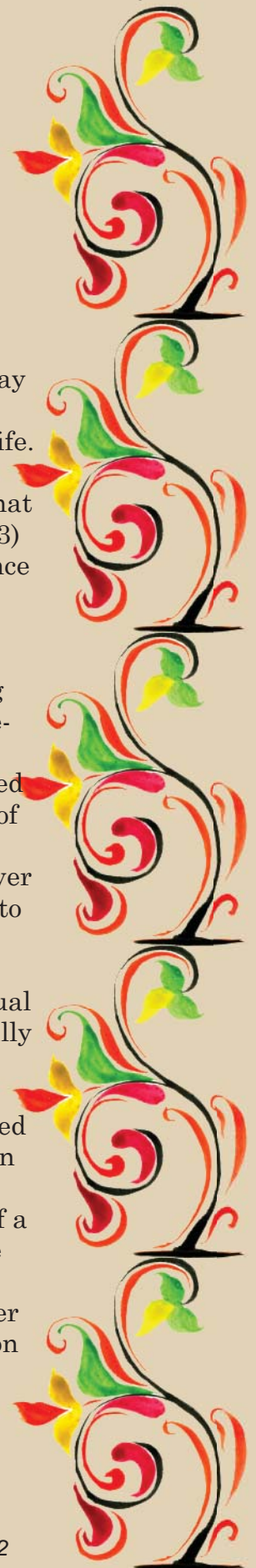
One day I ran across a life-changing book by Bill Gothard entitled *The Power of Crying Out* that has propelled me into another jaunt of my journey with Christ.

Just how was my life changed? It was changed because my prayer life changed. I was challenged to find a place where I could cry out to the One who meets my every need.

I learned through Gothard’s writings that my words were mere words wrapped up in pride. I, being a single woman, have a continual gnawing on the inside; a gnawing need to somehow always be “totally together.”

There may be a few of you who are not familiar with this life-stealing sentence. However, I’m confident that you are out-numbered by those of us who deal with this monster daily. This monster, given the chance, would dictate that I must present myself as perfect to compensate for the lack of a spouse and a family. You know - because the world appears to not validate a woman until these items are part of her life. So the monster gnaws and gnaws until we hesitate to mention to anyone - ourselves included - that we have our own struggles. Gothard pens, “Pride tries to project a polished image of competence and confidence.” And our

continued on page 2



desire to appear competent becomes the roadblock of pride between us and the answer to our prayers.

However, when I allow myself, with all the emotion attached to my petition, to cry out - I can feel something happen in the heavens on my behalf. This type of prayer is often resisted because it is a humbling experience.

The Bible tells us that God resists the proud. Dear one, the cry of the humble God will not forget but He will give grace (James 4:6; Psalms 9:12).

Girl friend, break away from pride's trap and find your place in the presence of our loving Father. Cry out to Him with all the emotion that you have so carefully stored away, and receive a fresh outpouring of God's grace today. Find your place and cry out to Him.

Focus Questions

1. What do you find to be "stumbling blocks" to praying in public?
Can you ascribe these hindrances to pride?
2. In what areas of your life do you feel that you have to be perfect?
3. Read Psalm 116:6 and Proverbs 29:23. What changes do you need to make in your thinking patterns based on these scriptures?

*The Diamond Monologue 1-2007 is written by Melody Barnard.
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