

WINTER COMES AFTER FALL

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Acts 12: 21-23

Pride is a deadly sin. It is not uncommon nor unknown. However, many people are overtaken by this spirit. Pride is being overly self centered and self righteous. There is a thin line between confidence and pride and unfortunately many people blur the lines.

Confidence is believing in yourself. Pride is bragging on yourself. Confidence is being reassured in who you are. Pride is exalting who you are. Confidence is strength under control. Pride is strength on display. When people merge their behavior from being confident to prideful they are headed for a fall.

THE FALL

The fall season is a time of **TRANSITION**. The color of the leaves change. The weather temperature drops. The plants stop making food. The daylight starts to get shorter and the animals prepare for the long months ahead.

Just like the season changes so does your life when you are prideful. The fall of being prideful happens **SUDDENLY**. Most people refuse to acknowledge what is happening. The sudden decline of everything good happening in your life is not something to be ignored or overlooked.

When you begin to see a decline or a down spiral trend, **PAY ATTENTION**. The presence of decrease is informing you that your current season is changing for the worse. The **LOSS** of favor, privilege, prestige, honor, opportunity, goodness, etc is evidence that your pride has produced your downfall.

King Herod's pride caused him **NOT** to give God His glory. His pride influenced his mind to believe that he was

the reason for his success and greatness. His sneaky spirit of pride created his immediate downfall.

Acts 12:21-23 says, *"On a chosen day Herod put on his royal robes, sat on his throne, and made a speech to the people. They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not a human!" Because Herod did not give the glory to God, an angel of the Lord immediately caused him to become sick, and he was eaten by worms and died."* NCV.

AFTER FALL COMES WINTER

Once a person falls from grace then comes winter. Winter is a **BARREN** season. Nothing grows in the winter. Winter is a symbol of two different eras starting and ending. Winter is the end of summer which can produce solitude and depression. However, it also ushers in spring which represents rebirth and hope.

When a person experiences a fall there is no such thing as a quick recovery. Every fall from grace is **FOLLOWED** by a

season of winter. A season of bareness, lack, depression and stagnation enters. This is why God warns us throughout scripture **NOT** to be prideful.

The biggest misconception of a fall is a quick recovery and that is **NOT** the truth. What you do first creates a reaction of what follows second. Every action produces a reaction. People who fall from the spirit of pride do not recover immediately.

They go through hard times and struggling circumstances before another opportunity knocks at their door. God told us in His word that seed -time and harvest will never cease. Genesis 8:22 says, "*While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*"

Every seed that is sown is always **FOLLOWED** by a block of **TIME** that takes place. If you sow the seed of pride you will endure the **WAITING** in the winter season to reap a harvest later.

WHAT TO DO IN WINTER

If you have allowed pride to harm you, change the narrative of your next season by sowing "**GOOD**" right now. Do kind deeds. Encourage the discouraged. Focus on doing what's right and avoid evil and wickedness. The good things you do today will not change the harvest of yesterday. It will influence the quality of your future.

The worst thing you can do in the winter is **NOTHING**. Doing nothing will produce nothing. You will repeat the same season in a different time. We are the byproducts of what we do and what we say. If you are going through a bad time do not let it stop you from doing good deeds because nothing lasts forever.

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