

Destruction by Pride

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I. Introduction.

- A. What can destroy a “perfect” ministry leader. (2 Chronicles 26)
- B. Uzziah’s construction and destruction.

II. Construction.

- A. Uzziah was teachable and even had a mentor.
- B. He had an army of soldiers fit for war. What makes a good pastor is God and people.
- C. He had leadership abilities.
- D. He had know-how and tools at his disposal.

III. Destruction.

- A. When Uzziah was strong he grew proud.
- B. What are things that can take us down?
 - 1. Money. (Mark 4:19)
 - 2. The mishandling of Scripture. (2 Corinthians 4:2)
 - a. A tight hold on nonessential doctrine can easily break a ministry.
 - b. It is very important when studying a passage to discover the eminent truth the Holy Spirit is teaching.
 - c. One should not use worldly means of gaining guidance from God or finding His will. For example, just happenstance reading of Scripture and randomly applying it to your life is dangerous.
 - d. The believer should start on the plain clear promises of God, and for the less clear promises he should be willing to struggle deeply for it. One needs to relax concerning the promises he thinks he will receive - if they are from God, He will work them out.
 - 3. Bad spirits. Bitterness can put a person on the shelf. (Hebrews 9:13)
 - 4. Diluted objectives.
 - 5. Pride of all of these crippling entities will destroy us. (Proverbs 18:12)

C. Uzziah's pride was a religious one.

1. We have limits to our commission from God.
2. Pride is a declaration of personal independence from God and people.
3. Uzziah had gotten to the point where he could not listen to even his own top advisors; consequently, judgment fell upon him immediately.

IV. How to deal with Pride.

- A. Just as pride is the root of every evil, humility is the root of every virtue.
- B. Humility must be cultivated - we find rest in Jesus because He was meek. (John 5:19, 7:16, 8:42, 14:20, 17:4-8)
- C. Humility is something that we have to work at. (1 Peter 5:5-6)
- D. We learn humility from humiliation.

Application questions.

1. What is the link between Uzziah's successes and failures?

2. How would you define humility? How did Uzziah lack it?

3. What area of your life do you find yourself having the least humility in? Prayerfully journal some of your thoughts to the Lord about this area. What will it take to remove this pride in your life?
