



PUNCTURED PRIDE

Fasting Guide | September 2024

As we pray over the *people*, *churches*, and *communities* God has placed in our lives it is important to not only fight AGAINST the things that seek to hinder our humility but also FOR the things that **puncture our pride**. Like a deflated balloon, these tools suck the air out of our *arrogance* and allow for the cultivation of true *humility* in our hearts.

The process can be painful, but it is often **necessary** and while these might *sound harsh*, keep in mind that when God's hand is in something He is always working **for our good**. As we fast this month, pray for the following:

1. Intentional **ISOLATION** (Psalm 25:16; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16)

- a. **NOTE:** When pride is isolated, *it starves*. When all of the **things** and **people** that encourage and support our arrogance are removed we can then *turn to God* in humility.
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, please grant us the **gift of isolation**. Cut off our pride from all that *feeds it* and separate us from anything and everyone that **encourages our arrogance** so that we might *turn to You* and hear from You clearly."
 1. **REMEMBER:** *Silence and solitude* are a **blessing** to our spirit but a **curse** to our flesh. (Lamentations 3:28)

2. Holy **HUMILIATION** (Proverbs 29:23; 2 Chronicles 33:10-13; James 1:10)

- a. **NOTE:** Humiliation can be one of *the greatest gifts* God can give us. When our **dignity** is injured and our **ego** is brought low, we are finally in the *proper position* to **approach God**.
 - i. **For Ex.** "Father God, if we refuse to **humble ourselves** voluntarily I ask that You bring about the *complete and utter humiliation* of our pride, not out of any vengefulness or malice, but out of Your love for us so that we might discover and embrace a **posture of humility** that *leads to blessings*."
 1. **REMEMBER:** It is better to face *temporary embarrassment* than to suffer *eternal consequences*. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

3. Divine **DESTRUCTION** (Proverbs 16:18; Galatians 5:24; Romans 8:28)

- a. **NOTE:** Often, our pride is like a *strong but wicked fortress* built up in our hearts over time. Even when **isolated** it can withstand a siege. Even when **humiliated**, it gets back up again. In times like this, *destruction is a blessing*. Out of the **shattered pieces**, God can make us whole.
 - i. **For Ex.** "Dear Lord, we are a *stubborn and stiff-necked* people. Our flesh is **strong** and we are **weak** without You. Pour out on us Your *cup of destruction* so that in our **brokenness** we might turn to You and be healed."
 1. **REMEMBER:** The same God who **wounds you** wants to *heal you*. (Deut. 32:39)

REMINDERS For Fasting:

- Every *desire* for what is given up is a **REMINDER** to **pray**!
- Every *moment* of weakness is a **REMINDER** of our **dependence**!
- Every *temptation* of the devil is a **REMINDER** to keep **fighting**!