

Lent 2021

A CHANGE OF  
**HEART**  
THE VACCINE FOR  
**ARROGANCE**

FEBRUARY 17-APRIL 4



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# 2021 LENT DEVOTIONAL

## WEEK 2

**Salem Bible Church**

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*Dr. Joseph L. Williams, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Jasper W. Williams, Jr., Pastor Emeritus*

Monday, March 1, 2021

## *Eliminating Arrogance*

### **Scripture Reading:**

*And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” (Mark 7:20–23 ESV)*

### **Devotional Reading**

#### **You think it’s pride, but it comes off as arrogance!**

It is true, arrogance and pride are two different spirits. One is needed, within healthy amounts; however, the other is never needed, wanted, or expected. There are many arrogant people who walk around with puffed out chests and their noses high in the clouds all believing they have “good” esteem or belief in themselves. Some of the same people who act as described feel their actions are rooted in pride when it is not pride but arrogance.

What’s the difference between the two? The answer is quite simple. Truly prideful people are secure in who they are. They are confident in what they know and open about what they don’t know. These are the people who speak less and do more! The truly prideful person is the person who takes his/her job and tasks seriously, never competing with others only themselves.

The arrogant person is motivated not by growth, but how they appear to others and what others feel about them. Their actions are not authentic and come from a place of insecurity. Arrogant people are prisoners of the thoughts of others while the person with healthy esteem is trying to move forward and get better!

## **Reflection**

Have there been times when you felt your actions were “pride” but really it was arrogance? If so, reflect upon your thoughts and actions. Also trace your feelings to the place that the arrogance was birthed within your soul. Address it there, grow from it and become better!

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

## *Arrogant Speech*

### **Scripture Reading:**

*Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves. A wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. Truly the righteous attain life, but whoever pursues evil finds death. The Lord detests those who hear and are perverse, but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.*

**(Proverbs 11:17-20 NIV)**

### **Devotional Reading**

We have all heard the phrase, “It’s not what you say but how you say it!” My mother always taught me that “tone” is always important. Sometimes we can say things and the “tone” is offensive to who hears us. When we say these things without considering how it sounds or the tone of how we say it, it could be classified as “Arrogant speech.”

Arrogant people are self-centered people. They are people who care little about others; therefore, they are not concerned with the feelings and emotions of others. This will cause them to speak openly and honestly about what they want of you or from you.

Arrogant speech can be condescending, demoralizing, apathetic and offensive. Arrogant speech talks down to people instead of communicating with them. The issue with arrogant speech is the person who speaks in this tone is often unaware of what they are saying or how it sounds. They are so wrapped up into themselves it makes it hard to see the error or why it is a fault.

Arrogant speech offends and creates enemies you do not need or want. It will cause people to set you up and relish your downfall. It will cause people to not invest in your dreams all while doing what they can to destroy your future.

### **Reflection**

Have you ever been guilty of arrogant speech? Have you spoken down to others? Has someone ever spoken down to you? How did it make you feel? How did you respond? We cannot often control the actions of others, but we can change the actions of ourselves.

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

## ***Entitlement***

### **Scripture Reading:**

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

**(Acts 20:35 NIV)**

### **Devotional Reading**

We all know that one person who has the spirit of entitlement. This is the person who feels they live by a different set of rules. You know the one I am talking about? The one who never wants to stand in line like everyone else? The one who wants special hours at work. The one who demands and requires special treatment at school, work, church or even in relationships. This is the person no one likes but perhaps that person is you!

The arrogant person has a spirit of entitlement, which is connected to their insecurity. Being “above” people makes them feel better about their own insecurities. Arrogant people have to be different than others; it’s a must because it’s the only way their soul becomes soothed. Seeing others beneath them, under them and not on their level is an energy that can create feelings of euphoria for them.

The humble person does not expect, want or desire treatment that is not equal. The humble person is one who is comfortable in themselves; therefore, allowing them to be less selfish and more selfless. Christ was the ultimate humanitarian. He never required much when he could have had it all!

Christ is the Son of God, yet he was born in a manger. Christ is the King of Kings, yet he never slept in his own palace. Christ changed the entire world, yet he started with 12 flawed men.

As Christians we have an example to look to. Jesus Christ was the ultimate humanitarian who was great; yet, he had a spirit that allowed him to serve others! This same spirit should be within us!

### **Reflection**

Do you desire special treatment? Do you have a spirit of entitlement? If so, when have you seen this spirit within yourself? How did it impact your life? These are questions we all need to ask ourselves. Once we answer them our focus should be on changing it and not allow the old us to disrupt the new thing God is doing within us all.

Thursday, March 4, 2021

## *Losing Control*

### **Scripture Reading:**

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV)*

### **Devotional Reading**

The arrogant man or woman is the person who lacks self-control. Arrogance is a spirit that enables the person to view themselves without seeing self for who or what it truly is. Arrogant people can act like scared dogs instead of the wise owl.

Why the scared dog? The scared dog lives in fear and will snip and bite anything that threatens it without a second thought. His fear rules over him causing him to always be emotional and unable to process any situation with love and wisdom.

The arrogant person cusses out the person who won't submit to his plan or task. The arrogant person has to always "tell people about themselves." The arrogant person always blames others for the things they cause and create for themselves.

The owl on the other hand is quite different from the dog. The owl is wise and allows his heart and soul to be at peace. The owl thinks before he speaks. The owl never gives in to his first emotion. The owl walks away instead of running towards conflict. The owl can see trouble before he is in trouble!

The spirit of arrogance effects every part of our lives. The spirit of arrogance is like water to the foundation of any house. It weakens it; in time whatever has been built will soon fall.

## **Reflection**

Do your best to always be in control of your emotions. Never act on something that could change. Be in tune with not only what you feel but why you feel it. Act with wisdom and in a spirit of Christ like love.

Friday, March 5, 2021

## *The Opportunist*

### **Scripture Reading:**

*Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man. (Proverbs 6: 6-11)*

### **Devotional Reading**

There is one mantra every Christian should live by and that is there is no shortcut to success. Hard work and dedication should be an essential part of work ethic. When people have a healthy esteem about themselves, they will take the skills and gifts God has given them to refine them over time.

The arrogant man or woman doesn't think like this. The arrogant person is a person who truly doesn't believe in themselves. They would rather take their time looking for free rides and opportunities that will quickly elevate them.

Arrogant people like to use others. They like to surround themselves around people who can open doors for them to easily access and slide into. Arrogant people will often manipulate others to create the opportunity they desire for themselves.

Arrogant people will often miss their true calling in life. They hone evil skills that can be used to manipulate, force, or easily advance their own agenda. This can be a very dangerous life because the

person will throw away years that could have been used to make real impact in God's kingdom.

The wise man and wise woman who has self-esteem works in silence all while focusing on getting better each and every day. The wise man and woman knows life is not a sprint, but it is a marathon. The wise man or woman works to open doors and doesn't rely on others to do what they could do for themselves.

### **Reflection**

Reflect on this entry. Search yourself to see if you have even been an opportunist. If so, the objective is not to judge yourself, but rather change your inner vision towards the refinement of the gifts God has already given you. When you spend time refining those gifts, you don't need to rely on the opportunities that others may provide for you.