

Lent 2021

A CHANGE OF
HEART
THE VACCINE FOR
ARROGANCE

FEBRUARY 17-APRIL 4



stayconnected

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2021 LENT DEVOTIONAL

February 17-April 4

Salem Bible Church

2283 Baker Road | 5460 Hillandale Drive

Atlanta, GA. 30318 | Lithonia, GA. 30058

Dr. Joseph L. Williams, Senior Pastor

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

Dear Salem Family and Friends:

This past year certainly has presented us with some unique challenges regarding our health, our politics, and our faith. Even so, God has allowed us to be preserved and to persevere and for that we are grateful.

The 2021 Lent season is upon us and we pray that you will be blessed by our program this year. In keeping with our 2021 church theme Loosed, Salem's 2021 Lenten theme is: A Change of Heart: The Vaccine for Arrogance. Arrogance is the first of the seven-character flaws that we will study and be freed from during this calendar year.

The A Change of Heart theme will be the focus of our Bible study classes, our growth groups discussion, our daily devotions and even some of our sermons. We will learn and discover how we all have been guilty of being arrogant and how we can be freed its attraction and power. Other features of our Lenten observance will include:

- Daily prayer, Bible readings and personal worship
- Daily Devotional Readings and Journal
- Wednesday noonday Bible study and weekly Growth Group meetings
- Fasting & Prayer Times (personal and corporate)
- Virtual Sunday School classes
- Children & Youth Ministry calendar and events
- Maundy Thursday Observance
- Saturday Communion Distribution and Easter Gift Drive-through
- Easter Sunday Services (6:00 am, 8:00 am, 11:00 am)
- Special Easter Offering (over and above regular tithe and offerings)

Finally, please know that although we are unable to meet and greet you, you are constantly in our thoughts and prayers. We pray that you are safe, in good health and that God will prosper you. Until we see you again, Shalom and God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Joseph L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jasper W. Williams, Pastor Emeritus

Monday, February 22, 2021

Eliminating Arrogance

Scripture Reading:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11: 1-16)

Devotional Reading

In order to eliminate arrogance, we must first desire to be more like Christ. Every imperfection we have is something that makes us less like Christ. For this reason, the development of our faith must be step one.

On today, focus your thoughts on assessing where you are in your faith walk with God. What issues can you address? What problems are you having? What is keeping you from being more like Christ? These are questions we all need to have. They are questions that when answered will give us the steps to our healing, growth, and progress.

Reflection

Once we assess our faith, we can focus on specific issues like arrogance. What is arrogance? Essentially, it is when we place ourselves above God. Often, we do not view arrogance in this fashion, but it is the manifestation of the spirit of arrogance. Placing God first in all things is the remedy that allows us the chance to dispel arrogance in our lives. Placing God first puts structure and guidance in our lives. It prevents us from putting our wants, desires and wishes before others.

When our faith is developed and God is placed first, the act humbles us. When we are authentically humble, arrogance cannot exist in our hearts or in our minds.

On today, assess your faith and recalibrate your heart. When God is in the right place, everything else will fall into place.

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

You Are Not All That!

Scripture Reading:

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (James 1: 17-19)

Devotional Reading

Many times, “arrogant” people can think they are “all that!” I am sure you have seen that, not only in others but perhaps yourself. We allow our money, status fame, position, home, or education to make us feel value. We allow human titles and worthless things to make ourselves feel value.

When people give value to things that are not spiritual, those material possessions and man-made titles can make us feel a false sense of value. Our speech to others becomes condescending. We become entitled and we engage with others having an air of arrogance and pretentiousness.

This occurs when we forget who we were and why we have the things that we do. All things that we have come from God. All blessing flow from God. God is the source and reason for all things. When this is placed into proper perspective, we see our blessings, degrees, titles and platforms as things given to us by God instead of things that we “made happen” ourselves.

Reflection

On today, reflect and search yourself to see if these aforementioned things exist within your heart. It is easy to focus on others; however, it’s difficult to see the haughtiness of our own soul. Examine your own actions; see them for what they are as well as how it has appeared to others. Address the issue and give God the praise and Glory for all things he has done!

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

You Messed It Up for Yourself

Scripture Reading:

Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

(1 Samuel 2:3)

Devotional Reading

The spirit of arrogance turns people off when they are exposed to it. The spirit of arrogance makes people feel threatened, small, insignificant and not appreciated. No human being likes the feeling that is manifested within their hearts when they are around arrogant people.

When a person is arrogant, it creates a target on their back. They become hated and others are motivated to remove them, embarrass them, or set them up for failure and public disaster.

Many people have allowed their arrogant spirit to create obstacles and barriers that otherwise would not be there. Many people have slowed their own progress at work, school or within their own relationships. There are many people who have allowed their arrogance to mess things up for themselves!

Reflection

How many times have you allowed your spirit of arrogance to turn others off? Maybe you thought nothing about your actions. Maybe you did not mean it. Maybe it came off innocently but the impetuous of the spirit was an arrogant one. Maybe you talked more than you should have listened. Maybe you thought your opinion was right while everyone else was wrong. Maybe you would not allow others to help you. Arrogance is a sneaky spirit at times in that it can exist, and you are not aware of it.

Search yourself and be honest with the question. How many times have you stood in my own way? How many times have you made enemies when they could have become my friends?

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Dealing with Arrogant People

Scripture Reading:

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Romans 12:3)

Devotional Reading

Everyone has had encounters with arrogant people. Sometimes this can be at work, school or even in the House of God! Whenever it happens, it always leaves a bad taste in our mouth and at times it can cause anger and resentment to rise within our hearts.

As Christians, how do we deal with this? How do we handle people who treat us in this fashion or manner? This is a question many have asked themselves; however, many times we fail to respond in the “correct” way.

So, what is the correct way? The best way to handle people who are arrogant, is to handle them with grace, love and understanding. Some people need to be given the grace to not be perfect and right. God gives us this grace daily! It is not our job to check these people or put them in their place. We do not know why they act as they do nor the trauma or pain that may be attracted to their actions. For all we know their spirit of haughtiness and arrogance could be rooted in fear and insufficiency.

Not only should they be given grace, but we should love them as well! This means we interact with them as best we can without allowing hate to fill our hearts. An arrogant person will create more pain for themselves than they are aware of. All of what you do not like about them, they will have to pay for one way or the other. Many times, they

never get ahead and will hang their own noose. Pray for them that they learn to grow and move past their mistakes. Do not judge them; leave it in God's hands.

Reflection

How have you handled the arrogant people in your life? Have you judged them or attempted to “put them in their place?” This can be a natural feeling but sometimes it is a waste of energy. Arrogant people most times refuse to see their faults as they are presented. The times you have not responded as you should have, what could you have done differently?

Friday, February 26, 2021

You Have Everything You Need

Scripture Reading:

Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
(Proverbs 16:18)

Devotional Reading

Have a sense of self-sufficiency is a great thing when in proper context and spiritual moderation. In that, when a person feels they have what they need because God is the ultimate sustainer is a healthy biblical way of thinking. It's something all of us should aspire to embody; however, there are times when the sense of self-sufficiency can manifest as "I have everything I need and don't need anyone else!" This statement is one rooted in arrogance and should be checked.

There are many women who feel they do not need men. There are many men who feel they do not need women. There are people who never like to be assisted or helped. There are people who always want to give to others but never desire others to give to them. All of these are examples of arrogance that we need to be mindful of.

God will send us blessings in many ways. There are times when those blessings are blocked because we allow our pride and arrogance to stop what God is trying to do in us and through us.

Reflection

Do you have issues allowing others to help you or assist you? Have there been times when you refused help or didn't want to ask someone for help you knew they could provide?

It is important that you answer these questions and reflect upon the times when it occurred in your life. This could have been a blessing that you prevented from manifesting on your own life.