

**PRIDE IS A DEADLY ENEMY**

In Proverbs 16:18, we hear these powerful words:

**“PRIDE GOES BEFORE DESTRUCTION, A HAUGHTY SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL:** Countless times, pride has proven to be a person’s downfall. Because of its prideful desire to be like God, Satan once an angel, was driven from heaven – banished for all eternity. Adam and Eve, pridefully believing that they could possess the knowledge and wisdom of their Creator, ate the fruit from the one tree they were forbidden to touch, causing them to be cast out of Paradise. Yes, the consequences can be of epic proportions.

Sadly, pride continues to claim its victims. We are driven by a multitude of goals and aspirations. When we achieve success in our endeavors, we are often reluctant to give credit where credit is due. We quickly forget that without God’s help, we can accomplish nothing. To be proud of our own works is nothing more than a failure on our part to recognize our place on the “Ladder of Creation.” The Lord is our Master; we are His servants. In the words of the blessed Augustine: “God created us for Himself, and our soul is lonely without Him.”

We must remember the words spoken by Moses to the Israelites after receiving the Ten Commandments. While reassuring them that God will lead them into a land of plenty, he issues this warning to them as well: “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God, that when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses, you do not say in your heart: MY power and the might of MY hands have gotten me this.” Indeed, may we, as well, never forget what God does for His faithful children.