

[Faith, Hope & Love\\_Part12](#)

We are continuing our study on the Kingdom of God and its building blocks: faith, hope, and love. We have been studying the first block, faith, for quite some time and it led us down the path of studying the names of our King. And we have ventured down this path because if we don't know the Name of our King we will not be able to bet our lives upon His character and nature, as revealed in the Name. Accordingly, the willingness to bet your life on His name is the baseline definition of this building block called "faith." With that said, we are now studying the Name **Jehovah Jireh**—the Lord our Provider.

As we studied last week, Jesus is our complete provision—our **Jehovah Jireh**—and everything you need to fulfill your assignments on this earth will be provided to you—both physically and spiritually. He even provides for us everything that we need to, not just replace, but completely fill, the areas in our soul which are occupied by the Lord's enemies, which are: fear, our personal goodness, pride, insecurity, selfishness, envy and the victim mentality. We have spent a significant amount of time on this issue of our personal goodness (which is rooted in the original lie told to Eve and is the very sin that has corrupted Boulder, as well as our own church); and last week we also dealt with this issue of God being our provider for fear. So this week we are going to talk about Jesus being our provision even for pride. Now keep in mind, these enemies are inbred, so they are closely related and tend to overlap.

Pride is closely tied to the original lie of personal goodness as well as to shame, which is produced as a result of our failure to actually be good (as I said, these enemies are inbred and derive from the same spiritual DNA, so to speak). And I find

pride to be very interesting in that it is so uniquely tied to the angelic being named Lucifer, for pride is the reason Lucifer (which means light bearer or “shining one”) became transformed into Satan (the adversary) and the devil (the accuser or the one who slanders). Make no mistake, before evil entered his heart, Lucifer was the greatest, most beautiful, and the most privileged of all the angels. God endowed on him power, position, and glory. But once he opened his heart up to evil, pride was the enemy that destroyed this greatest of angels; and, as a result, Lucifer is eternally doomed. I would argue that Pride’s brother—personal goodness—had a lot to do with Lucifer’s demise and that he was the enemy that provoked the flames of pride in Lucifer’s heart.

There is some history about Lucifer that is given to us in both *Ezekiel* and *Isaiah*. These passages use a double entendre or a meaning within a meaning to enlighten us about Lucifer. The text itself addresses the King of Tyre, but it is a layered message which helps us understand Lucifer’s background and his transformation into Satan and the Devil and the role which pride had in this whole debacle.

### ***Ezekiel 28:1-19***

The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, "Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord God, Because your heart is lifted up and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods in the heart of the seas'; yet you are a man and not God, although you make your heart like the heart of God — behold, you are wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that is a match for you. By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired riches for yourself and have acquired gold and silver for your treasuries. By your great wisdom, by your trade

you have increased your riches and your heart is lifted up because of your riches — therefore thus says the Lord God,

Because you have made your heart like the heart of God, therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, the most ruthless of the nations. And they will draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor. They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die the death of those who are slain in the heart of the seas. Will you still say, "I am a god," in the presence of your slayer, though you are a man and not God, in the hands of those who wound you? You will die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers, for I have spoken! declares the Lord God!"

Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.

By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your

heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrified and you will cease to be forever."

Lucifer was created with such magnificence that no one compared to him. Imagine, he was the seal of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty; he was the anointed cherub whose job was to cover and protect. He was even able to walk before the very presence of the Lord on His holy mountain, amongst the stones of fire (which just might be another image describing the seven spirits before the Lord's throne mentioned in ***Revelation 1:4***). But he gave room for unrighteousness to enter his heart when he started thinking that he was a god. For some reason, he forgot that it was the Lord that placed him in this seat of high honor, and his heart became lifted up—which is another way of saying that *pride* began to sit deep in his soul.

### ***Isaiah 14:12-21***

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars

of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, “Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?”

All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb. But you have been cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch, clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit like a trampled corpse. You will not be united with them in burial, because you have ruined your country, you have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever. Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter because of the iniquity of their fathers. They must not arise and take possession of the earth and fill the face of the world with cities.

In learning how these enemies of personal goodness and pride schemed to successfully transform Lucifer from the morning star into Satan, we can begin to understand how these enemies have worked their same transformative evil in our hearts. As with Lucifer, these enemies of personal goodness and pride have targeted the chosen of God, the ones who have been marked for glory, and they have worked their perversion into the heart of every child of God. Did you notice what Lucifer did? All his beauty, all his glory, all his majesty, all his power, all his privilege, and all his position were given to him by God. None of what he possessed did he create or establish with his own hands. They were all from God, as every

good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights (**James 1:17**).

But Lucifer internalized what he had been given and before long he forgot the Creator and began to think that he was good enough on his own. At first he thought he could be like the Most High. In fact, he had the nerve to say, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” Six times, Lucifer pompously declared, “I will.” He loved his goodness and all that he possessed and he convinced himself that he had the power to create. And pride started to work deep in his soul such that he said, “I will make myself...” He became blinded—totally deluded. Lucifer cannot make anything—he is just a created being—but this is where we see pride blind him to the truth. And before long, he was not just saying that he would be “like” the Most High, but he convinced himself that he was a god—that he actually ascended on high. “I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods in the heart of the seas,” (or in the midst of the nations).

But as we read, Lucifer’s foolish declarations do not change reality. God is God and he is not. And because Lucifer surrendered to the evil enemies of personal goodness and pride, the Lord will crush Lucifer and his demise will be bad. He will be engulfed in shame and failure and it will be a public spectacle—before all of creation—and there will be no escape. It will be an eternal judgment. And all of Lucifer’s “sons,” or those who have chosen to follow in his ways, will likewise go down to this place of eternal slaughter.

These are the same two enemies that come after each and every child of God. We take what we have been given and like Lucifer we also internalize it; and instead

of praising and thanking Jesus for His wonderful gifts, we begin to think that we can be good like God. Yet, the Bible clearly declares an unbendable and eternal truth: only God is good (***Matthew 19:17; Luke 18:19***). He may give of His goodness to man; but man is not good, never has been and never will be (***Romans 3:10-18***). And the ironic thing is that as we believe that we are good, can be good, or should be good, like Lucifer we start to transform in to the very evil that entered our souls. Lucifer started out as the beautiful one, the covering cherub, but is now thoroughly corrupted; and instead of covering the brethren he is the accuser of the brethren (***Revelation 12:10***) and the adversary to all who are chosen of God.

Likewise, our personal goodness actually transforms us into something quite ugly and gross as we try to be what we can never be. Goodness is a gift from God, it is part of His character and nature that He graciously shares; but it is not something we can create. Yet, we say, "I will be good," "I can be good;" and yet, when we fail, we declare in the depth of our souls, "I should have been good." But like Lucifer, we are just created beings who have no capacity in and of ourselves to create anything good. Our foolish declarations do not change reality. God is God and we are not. Everything we have, including all the goodness we have accomplished, has come from God and God alone; none of it has come from our own hands (***Isaiah 26:12; Hebrews 13:21; John 3:27; Ezekiel 36:27; 1 Kings 8:58; Philippians 1:11; 2:13; 2 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Chronicles 30:12; Ezra 1:5; James 1:16; Jeremiah 32:40***).

But the enemy of pride starts to quickly move in once we give room to the lie of personal goodness. And pride starts to bloat us, puff us up, and convince us that it is possible—we can be good. We may not say it in words, but our actions prove out what pride is telling us: "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the

stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” Thus, in this delusional state of blindness, we try so hard to be good and pleasing to God. We serve our religion convinced we are serving him. We convince ourselves that this time we are going to do it “right” and not “wrong.” We pledge that we will give up this and that for God. We even determine that this time we are going to take care of the people in our life and love them, and so on. Then we get angry when we “fail” Him and fail others, as if it is even possible to fail **Elohim**, and we bury ourselves in the shame of it all so we can feel the pain of our failure, as if that form of “suffering” is rightful penance. We even take pride in the fact that we suffer so deeply in shame when we fail as if it is something that is good. It is all sick and twisted and perverted and it sickens the heart of God.

The Word of God makes it clear that there is only one way to be pleasing to God and that is by faith (**Hebrews 11:6**), for without faith it is impossible to please God. It does not matter how much you “do for God” and it does not matter how hard you try, or even how noble your intentions might be, you have no ability in and of yourself to be good and pleasing to God. And if the goodness you have comes from God, *by faith*, then why do you act as if it belongs to you. It doesn’t; it never has been yours and it will never be yours.

The Lord declares that without Him we can do nothing—nothing! (**John 15:4-5**). He says that no one is righteous, not even one (**Romans 3:10**). He says that our goodness to Him is as gross and filthy as a woman’s bloody period rag (**Isaiah 64:6**). He declares that our hearts are deceitfully wicked and that no one but Him can understand the depth of the darkness in our souls (**Jeremiah 17:9-10**). Have you



ever asked yourself why He says these things? It is to lift Himself up, puff out his chest, and take pride in His goodness. Is it to make you feel bad about yourself? Is it to rub your face in the mud? No, No, and No! It is because our He wants us to comprehend the gravity of the truth. On our own, we can never be like God; we simply can't no matter how hard we try. It is because He wants us to comprehend the beauty and the glory of the exchange that He has made possible for you and for me. It is because He wants us to want His goodness.

If you understand God's heart, you will realize that these somewhat depressing passages are the keys to your freedom; they are the keys to joy, they are the keys understanding **Jehovah Jireh**. Our goodness comes as a provision from **Jehovah Tisdkenu**—the Lord our righteousness. He gives it to us, we do not deserve it, and we have not earned it; rather, it is an outpouring of His grace and love. Embrace your spiritual poverty—"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (**Matthew 5:3**). If you let this truth be your truth, you can stop your striving, stop your stressing, stop your mourning, and be relived of all your shame. You can actually know peace and enjoy His rest. He is your life, He is your goodness, He is your perfection, and He is your complete Provision for all you ever need. This is a great exchange: our filth for His goodness. Those who realize the truth of their absolute poverty, lay down their pride and stop trying to be like God, and just accept His goodness as a precious provision for their lives, will know what it is like to live in the Kingdom of our God. They will come to view all that is in this world through the lens of the Kingdom of God and they will stop trying to get the Kingdom of God to work for them in the kingdom of this world.

But heed this warning, pride will ground you and it will cement you into the

kingdom of the one who is the king over all of the sons of pride (**Job 41:34**). As with Lucifer, if you embrace pride it will engulf you in failure and shame and will lead to destruction. Let's look at God's sentiments toward your pride.

***Proverbs 8:13***

Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.

***Proverbs 11:2***

When pride comes, then comes dishonor.

***Proverbs 16:18***

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.

***Proverbs 29:23***

A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

***Isaiah 2:17***

The pride of man will be humbled and the loftiness of men will be abased; and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

***Jeremiah 13:8-11***

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Thus says the Lord, 'Just so will I destroy the **pride** of Judah and the great **pride** of Jerusalem. This wicked people, who refuse to listen to My words, who walk in the stubbornness of their hearts and have gone after other gods to serve them and to bow down to them, let them be just like this waistband which is totally worthless. For as the waistband clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole household of Israel and the whole household of Judah cling to Me,' declares the Lord, 'that they might be for Me a people, for renown, for praise and for glory; but they did not listen.'”

Nothing good comes from our pride. It is a dark path paved for us by Lucifer himself, and it is filled with nothing but destruction and hopelessness. This is why so many of you have been ransacked with hopelessness. There is simply no way for you to stand in your pride of personal goodness and get anything but pain and dishonor—no matter how hard you try and be good for God. Yet despite this experience, you still keep trying. Each of us have lived in so much pride as we have loved our goodness; and honestly it has grieved (or restricted) the Spirit of God. But even then, Jesus is our complete *Provision* for even our pride. Jesus showed us the way to walk and the way to deal with this destructive enemy, and it all comes down to humility.

***Philippians 2:3-11***

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit [*which is pride*], but with humility

of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus is God and was always God; but He did the unthinkable, the one thing that never entered into anyone's heart or mind (**1 Corinthians 2:9**): He humbled Himself and took on the form of man. And in this humbled state, He did not demand what rightfully belonged to Him; rather, He became completely obedient to His Father—obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. He gave up His body to be tortured by the very men that He created. He gave up His life in exchange for the very lives of those who would deny Him and leave Him to die alone. He gave it all up. One might say that this is the pathway He asked us to walk; but I would have to say that is far too generous of a statement. You see, Jesus is God, He is good, His claims are truly rightful; but we are not god, we are not good, and our claims to anything is purely delusional. All that we have has been given to us; whereas, Jesus is and has always been—nothing was given to Him. He is everything: always has

been and always will be. So Jesus is not even asking us to walk the pathway of humility that He walked since we really can't. He is only asking us to accept the truth and bet our lives on the truth: this is our pathway of humility.

This speaks of a humility that is expressed in a willingness to believe truth and humbly declare that God is God and you are not. It is the humility to believe that He not only loves you, but also accepts you. It is the humility to believe that He can do whatever He wants with you, and in you. It is the humility to believe that God knows what is best for you. It is the willingness to believe that what you think, feel, see, and understand in the *flesh* is inadequate for obtaining true spiritual life, freedom, rest, and peace. It is the humility to believe that, apart from Him, you can do nothing. It is the humility to believe that, in your *Old Man*, there is nothing of value—absolutely nothing. It is the humility to believe that God is righteous, good, and perfect. It is the humility to believe that you are also righteous, holy, and perfect because the Holy Spirit of God lives in you. It is the humility to believe that, when the Father looks at you, He sees His Son. It is the humility to believe that all the “good works” you have done for God that were not His authorized works are eternally worthless. It is the humility to believe that all good things, and all good gifts, come from God. It is the humility to believe that the good that is in you has nothing to do with you and everything to do with Him.

It is the humility to surrender all of who you are to Him. It is the willingness to be used by Him in whatever manner He wants to use you. It is the humility to know your need for God and, therefore, stop looking to other people to complete you and meet your needs. It is the humility to believe that when everything in this life has failed you, He will fulfill you. It is the humility to know, beyond a shadow of a

doubt, that He is everything that He said He would be for you: your protector, your defender, your sustainer, your healer, the lover of your soul, your portion, your source of joy, your fulfillment, your salvation, and your very life. It is the humility to stop asking why, when, and how, and the willingness to say, “Lord, I am yours.” It is the humility to relinquish control and let Him have control. It is the humility to say, “Lord not my will, but Yours be done.” This is the humility that will obliterate the enemies of pride and personal goodness!

I have discovered something very unique about this humility and it has two aspects: one part that comes from God and another part that flows from us. **Philippians 2:13** states that God works in us giving us the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him. Thus, He is the source of our ability to live in humility: He is our **Jehovah Jireh**. In **James 4:10**, **1 Peter 5:6**, and the parsed portion of the verb “humble” in **Colossians 3:12**, we are commanded to humble ourselves before the Lord. But this command (*imperative*) is rendered in the *arist* tense and *passive* voice. Being in the *arist* tense, it is to be our way of life from beginning to end; we are to be defined as those who are humble before the Lord. But being in the *passive* voice, it is something that God will do to us if we are willing to let Him humble us. He is our complete provision even for humility. He is our source for the desire to obey Him and the power to obey Him. We just need to, by faith, exercise that desire and choose to be willing.

With that said, we are instructed in **Ephesians 4:1-2** to walk with all humility, in **1 Peter 5:5** to clothe ourselves with humility, and in the parsed portion of **Colossians 3:12**, we are told to put on humility: walk, clothe, and put on. In each of these passages the *arist* tense is once again used, so it is to be our way of life. But

the *middle* voice is used meaning that it is a choice we have to dig down deep into our soul and make. Yes, we must choose—by faith—to appropriate the provision of God for humility. **Jehovah Jireh** provides the resources and we, by faith, must choose to appropriate His provision. As with all things: the Lord gives and we must choose to receive.

### ***James 1:21-25***

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

Let's listen to this instruction and in humility receive the word that has been implanted in your souls; it can save you from your enemies; it can be the source of your freedom and great liberty. Be a doer of the Word; be willing, offer yourself up to Jesus and let Him humble you before God. Appropriate what has been given to you (both the desire and the power to obey). Humility is the ultimate "Weapon X" that will destroy the enemies of personal goodness and pride. Let **Jehovah Jireh** be your complete provision. And remember, we are told, "So if the Son sets you free

you will be free indeed” (**John 8:36**). And since it is rendered in the *future middle indicative*, we know it is a statement of fact. This is not an empty promise, this is not just puffery and fantasy. The Lord will set you free from these enemies and when you are free you will be free indeed. Being in the *middle voice*, it will be a freedom that you personally will realize. By faith, you will choose freedom by the power and desire that He has provided to you. Another way to say this is that you can chop the head off of pride and you can decapitate the lie of personal goodness. They can be permanently put down, and you will be free indeed. These are not enemies that have to keep haunting you day-after-day. Choose, by faith, to cloth yourself with humility, put it on, walk in it, and believe the truth.

These enemies still rule and control Lucifer. They do not have to rule and control you any longer—they don’t! **Jehovah Jireh** has made provision for you; embrace your freedom, enjoy your liberty, and live free indeed.

Let’s Pray