

## Pride doesn't pay.



**T**HERE IS NO ASPECT OF GOD'S WORK WHERE PRIDE PAYS. In fact, the biggest failures in the Bible were the supposed big shots that thought they could do things in their own strength or natural wisdom, and fell flat on their faces. Samuel told Saul, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?" (1 Samuel 15:17). But when Saul became proud and started depending on his own wisdom and his own arm of flesh instead of the Lord, the Lord had to abase him.

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). Success often precedes failure, because if we let that success go to our heads, we're setting ourselves up for humiliation.

*(Prayer:)* Deliver us, Jesus, from the spirit of pride that causes us to think that we are something great when we're not (Galatians 6:3). If we would only remind ourselves how nothing we are without You, we'd never entertain the sort of thoughts that lead to that spirit. Help us not to strive to be big shots that have too big a shot of our own egos, but rather to have a good shot of You and the Holy Spirit. Keep us close to You, Jesus, in that sweet place of humble serenity and surrender in Your arms. Amen.