

## CONFRONTING SPIRITUAL PRIDE

### Avoiding the Pitfalls – Part 5

Luke 18:9-14

December 9, 2018

#### 1. Comparison is the root of pride.

*There were some people who thought they were very good and looked down on everyone else.* – Luke 18:9 ERV

#### 2. We can always find someone that makes us feel superior by comparison.

*“One time there was a Pharisee and a tax collector. One day they both went to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee stood alone, away from the tax collector. When the Pharisee prayed, he said, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not as bad as other people. I am not like men who steal, cheat, or commit adultery. I thank you that I am better than this tax collector.’”* – Luke 18:10-11 ERV

#### 3. When we are full of ourselves, there is no room for God.

*“‘I fast twice a week, and I give a tenth of everything I get!’ ...But the Pharisee, who felt that he was better than others, was not right with God.”* – Luke 18:12 & 14b ERV

#### 4. When we empty ourselves, we are in a perfect position to be filled and used by God.

*“I tell you, when this man finished his prayer and went home, he was right with God.... People who make themselves important will be made humble. But those who make themselves humble will be made more important.”* – Luke 18:14 ERV

### TWO KEYS TO COMBAT OUR OWN SPIRITUAL PRIDE:

#### 1. When we compare ourselves to Jesus rather than others, we gain a healthy perspective.

*“The tax collector stood alone too. But when he prayed, he would not even look up to heaven. He felt very humble before God. He said, ‘O God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner!’”* – Luke 18:13 ERV

#### 2. A key to emptying ourselves is to constantly ask, “Is this about my glory, or is this about God’s glory?”

*“In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”* – Matthew 5:16 HCSB