



A Towering Sin

Genesis 11:1-9

Listen! “The hatred of anonymity drives men to heroic feats of valour or long hours of drudgery; or it urges them to spectacular acts of shame or of unscrupulous self-preferment.”
Alan Richardson.

Why talk about this? There is a piece of each one of us that hates obscurity and anonymity and averageness and insignificance.

- There is a piece of pride and self-promotion inside each one of us.
- That piece of pride and self-promotion is deceptively dangerous.

The Big Idea: The result of pride and self promotion...is always opposition from God and dissipation of life.

First, all pride is rebellion against God and it motivates self-promotion. (vv 3-5)

#1 Pride and the love of security are the root motivators of self-promotion. (v 4)

#2 Pride and love of security lead to actions of self-promotion. (vv 3, 5b)

Second, God does not permit acts of pride and self-promotion to succeed. (vv 5-9)

#1 God inspects and evaluates both the motives and the actions of all. (vv 5a, 6)

#2 God justly scatters the life of proud and self-promoting people. (vv 7-9)

For Instance: Matthew 23:12 and James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:6.

APPLICATIONS: “Seek obscurity.” Francis Fenelon.

Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

The Big Idea of this passage: The result of pride and self promotion...is always opposition from God and dissipation of life.

- “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:12, 13.
- As you work through the times of reflection and self-examination this week commit to keep your work focused on your own heart and life and absolutely refuse to make applications of these questions to the lives of those around you.

Please take time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today:** Take some time for prayer and reflection and ask the Holy Spirit to show you any ways in which you are proud and are motivated by pride. Confess them.
- **Monday:** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any ways that you are motivated by personal security and thus not trusting God. Confess them.
- **Tuesday:** What comes to your mind when you consider that God is “coming down” from heaven to examine and evaluate your life? What do you need to do?
- **Wednesday:** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any ways that your life is being “scattered” or dissipated by your pride and self-promotion.
- **Thursday:** Are there ways that you practice self-promotion? Taking the best things for yourself? Funny one-liners that put others down? Cutting ahead of others? Saying things that put others down and move you up? Lying to cover personal sin?
- **Friday:** Ask God for the motivation, resources, and enabling power to confess and forsake any piece of pride and self-promotion in your life.
- **Saturday:** Are there elements of sinful grandiosity in your thinking?

“When I am proud and self-promoting I am inviting the God of the universe to “take it out in the parking lot!”