

GRACE For Addictions

A One Step Program

Part 12

THE GAP

Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

All of the issues of your life, spiritual and natural, begin in seed form in your heart or soul. Once they go into the soil of your heart, they germinate, take root, and begin to produce their fruit. That fruit is then revealed through the soul or heart to produce success or failure. This is the reason we are to guard our heart with all diligence. If the wrong seed gets in our soil, it will produce the wrong thing in our natural lives.

THE GAP IS PRIDE

Proverbs 11:2 "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom."

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

When we begin to entertain the thought that our success is because of something "we did", the seed of pride enters our heart and as we continue to embrace the seed of pride, it goes deeper into our soil and then reproduces after its kind. When pride is allowed to continue to grow in your heart, it's fruit is shame and destruction.

Shame and destruction have no substance to hold them up. This is why they fall. Pride is going to fall. Once we realize that pride is working and growing in our heart, we can make pride fall or we can continue to allow it to grow and it will make us fall. The decision is to realize it's not about us, it's all about Jesus and His finished work.

HEART VERSUS PROMOTION

When the level or condition of our heart is lower than our promotion, there's a gap. That gap is where we find pride. Because pride has no substance it can't stand up to the pressures of life. When promotion comes that doesn't match the level or condition of our heart, pride will cause us to fall. A good example of how this works is found in the following scripture.

Luke 14:8-9 "When thou are bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room: lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room."

The lowest room is where a heart of pride will take you. The highest room comes with humility.

Proverbs 13:12a "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick..."

When pride enters, the heart becomes sick. When the heart is sick, it doesn't work right.

EXPANDING YOUR HEART'S CAPACITY

The way you expand your heart's capacity is by renewing your mind to the Word. It's not just reading the Word; it's experiencing the Word. If there is a gap between your heart and your promotion, expanding your heart fills in the gap. When the gap is filled with the Word, pride begins to leave. This will help you maintain a worthy promotion.

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QUESTIONS

1. We are a triune being; spirit, soul, and body. Of these three, which one determines our natural success?
2. Pride is the gap between the condition of our heart and our promotion. True or False
3. How do you avoid having pride make you fall?

ANSWERS

1. The condition of our soul determines our natural success.
2. True
3. You can avoid having pride make you fall by making pride fall.