

## The Proud and Pragmatic

### A Satanic Principle

The reality is that if you don't have the grace to know that you are proud, and you are not opposed, then you do not belong to the One who opposes the proud. Our Father gives grace to the humble. Proud, according to the Greek dictionary of the New Testament, simply means one who shows himself above his fellow men in honor, preferring himself. Lk 1:51 speaks of someone who is highly esteemed in his own eyes, in the *imagination* of his heart. The proud are those who rise up. It is a satanic principle. Satan was the first to rise up.

Acts 20:30 — The word is written for our instruction. There will be people in our midst, among us, who will rise up. It will happen. We have to make sure that we are discerning these things, so that they will not lead others astray, the ones who might fall into the hands of the proud. Our Father opposes the proud, but He gives grace to those who humble themselves.

### In All Humility

There is no way that we will ever get along or even make it to the Kingdom unless we forbear with one another. Don't think too highly of yourself, and don't start judging others — the government, the elders, the authority of the Edah. That is proud. Don't ever think that you can get away with it.

Our Father only opposes the proud who are in the Body, who have the Holy Spirit.

We rise up when we think too highly of ourselves, when we aren't giving preference to others and listening to them, when we are not honoring and preferring others over ourselves. There is no way that we can get along in the Body and forbear with one another unless we are walking in all humility (Eph 4:2). "All humility" is to

humble ourselves all the way down — to listen to others, and not think that we know more than others. The Holy Spirit speaks through the least of the brothers. The greater the grace you have, the greater you humble yourself, and the greater you listen to others that you might think (if you are proud) are lower than you. Our Father speaks through the humble, even the lowly.

The man in 3 Jn 1:9 was proud and self-serving. The elders from Ephesus gathered to meet together in Miletus with Paul, and he told them, “Even among your own selves, men will arise, seeking to gather a following to themselves.” That doesn’t necessarily mean leaving the Community, but they want people to think more highly of them than others. They want to have a following to themselves — they want to have that stature and recognition that we all went to a university to gain. We wanted to be the best, and we were taught to think that way because that is the way of the world. The evil one is the ruler of the world. He had that intention, to raise his throne above all. That is a satanic principle that we have to judge.

The proud shows himself above his fellow man in honor, preferring himself. *Humble* is like Jms 1:9 and 4:6; Rom 12:16; 2 Cor 7:6; 10:1; Eph 4:2; Phil 2:3; Col 2:18,23; 3:12 — these are references to why the New Testament is so essential to us. We see how they failed. It was written down for our instruction. The Old Testament was written down for the first church’s instruction. Now, everything that was written in the Old Testament and the New Testament is written down for our instruction. How the first church fell is recorded for us, so that we will not be proud and fail also.

### **Listening to Others**

In meekness, a humble person recognizes his true condition. He recognizes when something is rising up in him to be above others and not listen to them, thinking that he knows more. Sometimes, you may think you have all the answers. A humble person recognizes his true condition, and he has grace, but he doesn’t go beyond his grace or

beyond his faith. He seeks others. If you are humble, you know when you are at the limit of your grace and wisdom; you know when you need to go ask for advice and help. You consult with your brothers and sisters, or with your other elders, and don't try to rise above them.

### **Dependant upon Him**

Our Master Yahshua recognized His absolute dependence upon His Father. He never went beyond that. He always needed His Father; He always prayed to His Father. He always prayed that He could do His will, and that His Father would speak to Him, and that He would carry out His will that He was chosen for.

Humility is a necessity for all disciples. A disciple is one who follows our Master Yahshua in seeking grace. It is an essential, necessary requirement in order to walk the way that He walked. He was without one sin, so that He would be able to be a sacrifice for our sins. Humility is essential for all disciples who are going to follow Him, or else we are not His followers at all — we are following something else, another spirit. If we are following Him, then we are following His Spirit — the one Spirit that unites us all together.

Yahshua called Himself the Son of Man — He humbled Himself. He didn't go around bragging, with His thumbs under His arms. He was humble. He was the Son of Man. He expressed what humanity is supposed to be like; He came for that purpose. And He also showed what divinity is like. When you saw Him, you would see what His Father was like. When you see us, you see what our Master is like.

### **No Double-Mindedness**

Jms 1:8 talks about a double-minded person. *Double-minded* actually means that there are two spirits at work. Our Master said that you can't drink out of two cups at once, or you will be given to change. Pr 24:21 — Don't associate with people given to change — they are double-minded. They might be led by one spirit today, and another

spirit tomorrow. It is all according to how they get up in the morning and who they turn to. They are double-minded, having two spirits working in them.

A double-minded person cannot be in unity in the one Spirit. 1 Tim 2:8 is the only way that the Edah, the Witness, can be. There is no double-mindedness (1 Cor 1:10), only one Spirit that we are all in communion with. It casts out the pragmatic, oppositional thinkers who take away from faith, entertaining doubts. Some translations say “without doubting” in 1 Tim 2:8. All the men in every place will lift up holy hands without double-mindedness, without any dissention whatsoever between them. There are no oppositional thinkers, there is no pragmatic rationalizing, doubtful reasoning, or disputing.

In the second century, when James wrote his letter to the twelve tribes, to the Body of Messiah, they were declining. Demise was setting in. They had left their first love behind. The lampstand was being taken out of the way in every locality, in every place. Their religion was useless because they weren't watching over the words that they spoke (Jms 1:26-27). They were double-minded. They weren't caring for the widows (those who don't have husbands) and the orphans (the single brothers and sisters). *Visit* means caring within the Body of Messiah, not going to visit somewhere. They weren't doing that, so they were not relinked to God anymore. They were in the flesh, in their pragmatic ways.

### **The Humble Find Grace**

Our Father gives grace to the humble (1 Pet 5:5; Jms 4:6; 1:9; Rom 12:16). Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and be submissive to each other. You cannot be submissive unless you humble yourself. Try it sometime. Can the proud submit to one another in the Spirit of grace? No. Can the pragmatic? No. Can the natural-minded? No. If you are proud, you are coming into Satan's hands because that is who he is. Pride is his chief sin — thinking that he knows more than anyone else. He is the chief

angel; he took over, led a following to himself, and he loved it. If you are proud and our Father is not opposing you, you are in Satan's hands.

Jms 1:14-15 — Temptation comes according to the thoughts and the desires a person has. The evil one gets a hold of them, brings the temptation, plants his spirit in the "ovum," and sin is conceived, producing death. Death comes to birth. Death is born. It is just like when babies are born. Then you become a servant and a minister for him (2 Cor 11:15). You are working along with another spirit, and you are not even aware of it in your pragmatic position. Pragmatics may agree with the spiritual leaders today that what they concluded is practical and right on, but then the next day they say it's not. They are double-minded.

### **He Must Possess our Souls**

In Acts 4:32, when the Holy Spirit was filling every person's soul, they were of one heart, one mind, one soul, and one spirit. If the Spirit is not in your soul, then He is outside, He has receded into your spirit. If He is only in your spirit, you are functioning as a natural man. You understand as a natural man, you are pragmatic, and you have to depend on your natural abilities. You are absent from the Spirit's leading. You may hear Him knocking on the door of your soul to let Him back in. He must be in your soul in order for Him to lead you and guide you, and communicate through your soul to your physical aspects. Your brain somehow communicates from the spiritual to the physical, mobilizing your whole body, to be as our Master represented our Father.

Everything Yahshua said, everything He did, and everything He heard was right. Everything He saw was right. Everything He said was right. Everything He did was right. It's not what we hear, but *how* we hear. It's not what we see, but *how* we see. It's not what we do, but *how* we do it. It's not what we say, but *how* we say it. Our Master was the example of that. He wants us to be just like Him. He doesn't want us to be any different from Him. When you are looking into each other's eyes, you are looking into

each other's souls, because the eyes are the windows to the soul. You are looking out of your soul, and my soul is looking out at you. We are looking into each other's souls. If the Spirit is not in our soul, then we can hardly stand it.

### **The Humble Mind of Messiah**

If you think you know more than the humble, you are pragmatic. Pragmatic simply means someone skilled in law or business. If you are engaged in that, you can be pragmatic, and you can put your spirit out of your soul, and pragmatism can rise up. That is what happened to the evil one.

Pragmatism is relating to matters of fact, practical affairs, as opposed to the mind of Messiah — the spiritual. Paul said that he had the mind of Messiah, and we have the mind of Messiah. The natural, pragmatic man can't understand the things of the Spirit. He only understands practical things — the facts. He is schooled into thinking pragmatically; he is educated that way.

1 Cor 2:14-16; Phil 2:5 — We have to have the same mind as Messiah. What if we don't have the same mind as Messiah? Are we commanded to have the same mind as Messiah? How are we going to do it? We have to have the same attitude, the same way of thinking. Was He pragmatic? He didn't do anything or say anything unless the Father told Him. He didn't do anything apart from the Father. If He is in our soul, we aren't going to do anything apart from Him either.

If we aren't filled with His Spirit in our soul when we get up in the morning, we are going to be pragmatic — that's all we can do. We can't rely on the Spirit because the Spirit is not there — He has receded into our spirit. The Spirit is not going to leave or forsake us because we are sealed with the Spirit in baptism — if we surrendered our lives. But we still act as a natural man until we invite, call, invoke the Spirit back into our soul. You have to do that every morning that you live. If you do not, then you are a destroyer, and you are going to destroy the unity of the Community. You are going to

look at the elders and your brothers in a wrong way. You are going to look at them pragmatically, not in humility. You are going to think more highly of yourself than you do of others (Phil 2:3).

### **Go All the Way Down**

So start thinking more highly of others than you do of yourself. If you don't, you are proud. We have to go all the way down in order to forbear with others. What would happen if we would forbear with others due to our humility? There would be a bond of peace! Eph 4:3 — the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

That is the word that we live by. We don't live by natural food, we live by spiritual food. That is where it is good and pleasant for brothers to dwell together in unity. They did that in the first century Edah, and that is what has to be restored. Do you think Christians do that with 37,000 different denominations and divisions? They try to understand the trinity in their natural, pragmatic understanding. Our Father can't reveal one thing to us unless our soul is filled with His Spirit. That is what being "filled with the Spirit" means. Eph 5:18-19 — "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves..." It doesn't mean talking into a mirror; *yourselves* means each other. We sing to one another. We look into each other's eyes. Do we look at the ground, or get distracted and look somewhere else? No — we are singing to our Master in one another.

### **The Direction of Your Will**

A pragmatist is a man of high intellect and power who has no time for the lowly of heart or spiritual (1 Cor 2:14). He doesn't even understand spiritual things, so how can he have anything to do with it? It is only those whose souls are not filled with the Spirit that are led astray. If you are a spiritual man you don't have any fellowship with a natural man. But the spiritual man notices and loves the man who is not filled with the Holy Spirit, so he helps him. He doesn't come down on him, but he prays for him. He puts his arm around him, and asks him questions just to see where he is at. How is he

doing today? Is he filled? No. Well, why don't you do something about it? If you say that he is "doing okay," then it means that the Holy Spirit is not in his soul. When the Spirit is in someone's soul, you say that he is doing fine — he is speaking at the minchah, he is loving his brothers!

What is love? Is it gushy feelings? The practical application of love is the direction of your will. Pray for someone, love someone, put your arm around him, and help him if he has a problem, or if he is in trouble. The man in Jms 5:19 was a good man. He was the savior of the other man. He freed him from a multitude of sins that was piling up. There was a sin in his life, maybe several days ago, or several months ago, that caused those sins to pile up because he didn't confess it, and he has been a natural man ever since. You can't have fellowship with the Spirit if He is not in your soul, and He is not in your soul if there is unconfessed sin.

### **True Friends**

Pragmatism is a practical or natural approach to problems and affairs. As for spiritual matters, the pragmatic people can't seem to get it. They can't solve spiritual problems. They're always on a pragmatic level.

We are allied in the same purpose, called to the same struggle. We can take this and run with it. A friend loves at all times. A friend doesn't love every once in a while. A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity, for the struggle, allied in the same purpose and the same cause.

We love one another, and that is how we know that we have passed out of death and into life. If you don't love your brothers actively, then you haven't passed out of death and into life. You've never received the Holy Spirit, because you haven't humbled yourself all the way down in order to receive the Holy Spirit.



## United in Alliance

Israel is a name given to the twelve tribes collectively. Israel is Israel only in twelve tribes collectively. Even Elijah knew that (1 Kng 18:31). He had to put the twelve stones there, and he filled four buckets up, put it all on the wood, filled them up again, and put it on the wood, filled them up again, and put it on the wood — so there would be no question when the fire came down. He knew that Israel hadn't been together since the division of Jeroboam and Rehoboam. It was the ten tribes, and the two tribes. There was no Israel collectively. There were not twelve tribes in unity. There haven't been in 3000 years, except for a short time in the first century. I don't even know whether they were fully developed then, but Paul said, "To our twelve tribes," speaking of the present twelve tribes that he was a part of, and James wrote to the twelve tribes.

So Israel is Israel as twelve tribes collectively — completed and whole. Paul spoke of "our twelve tribes" to King Agrippa in Acts 26:7. What are we? We are a confederation of twelve self-governing tribes. We are banded together in one Spirit under one head (Col 1:18). The Body of Messiah has one head, while Christianity has 37,000, and each of those heads tells them different directions to go in, and different understandings of the Bible. Each division understands the Bible in a different way because the spirit they are under teaches them that. The Holy Spirit teaches us all things.

Elders do two things — they care for the flock, and they teach the flock. You can't care for them unless you teach them. They are not going to respect you if you aren't caring for them. Why should anyone care what we know unless they know that we care? I think a sheep likes his shepherd, right? He knows that the shepherd cares for him.

**Emet** — Humility is vulnerable. The pragmatist protects himself, not wanting to need the counsel of his brothers. The pragmatic mind wants to find an answer without humbling himself to seek wisdom.

**Shimon of Shimon** — Today, I was coming here, feeling kind of insecure because of the language, but somehow I know that this is not the root. The root started growing when I was little. When I was a child, I was always

the one who did not have to study because I am naturally smart. So this made me proud. I started to see others as stupid. The seed that you sow, you will also harvest.

When I was a little boy, I always heard that you need to study in order to be somebody. I went to study, but then I didn't want to study anymore; I just wanted to live closer to God, and move into the mountains. So I said to my father, "Father, I am going to take a blanket with me, and I am going to the mountains, I am going to eat grass. I don't want money, I don't want machines, I don't want anything." He said to me, "Please, go see a psychiatrist first."

I said good-bye to him, and I thought that I would never see him again because my plan was to take a train and go far away, into the mountains and meet someone I heard about that was living that way. He was eating grass — no passport, no need for money — nothing. So I thought that if I find this man, I can learn from him. I had to go and eat grass for seven years before I came to the Community. If I had come straight from the university into the Community, I would have come in too proud. It took me seven years of not being successful in anything. Everything was a mess. It was such a disappointment for me. But I still had my logical mind.

I came to the Community, and I heard the good news. I was so thankful, and I got baptized. Not long after that, I heard in a teaching that if you don't cry out with all of your heart in the waters of baptism, you can't be saved. I didn't think that I cried out with all my heart, so I went to my brothers, and they said that they see my life, they see the fruit, and they thought that I was saved. They said that I didn't need to go back to the river. So, for my sake, they brought me again back to the water. But, as soon as I was coming out of the water, the evil one was there, appealing to my logical mind... "Do you *really* believe in this?"

It was as soon as I came out of the water. I could not really enjoy life because the evil one was appealing to my logical mind. So then, I cut myself off two times from the Breaking of Bread because my mind told me that I wasn't saved. I went back to the river three times to be baptized, and two times to be washed. The last time I went to the river, I had been cut off for a month and a half — not because I didn't want to obey, but it was always my logical mind accusing me.

Then brothers came from Yehudah for a concert. Everyone was saying *hello*, but I could not face the shame of being cut off when they came, so I went and hid myself. It was shameful for me, the whole thing. It was a discipline. Yônêq came to me, and said that our Father was

disciplining me so that I would know that I was His son. So, with that, I went to take a walk, and that day our Father spoke to me so clearly. He said to me, “You cannot enter into the Kingdom with your reasoning.” And I fell on my knees and I cried, and I knew that was what I needed to be saved.

So I walked to the house, and it was breakfast time. I remember everyone was outside. I was considering how I could bring everyone together to express my heart. Then I just screamed, “Yahshua, save me!” Ben Jessed told me that he almost fell from his chair! When I cried out, I closed my eyes, but when I opened them, everyone was around me. Yoceph asked me, “Can you say something else?” I said that I didn’t want to live by my reasoning anymore, I just wanted to believe what my brothers tell me, and I didn’t want to believe in my mind anymore! Then everyone said “AMEN!!”

It had been cloudy and rainy for one month, but at that moment when everyone said, “Amen,” the clouds opened, and there were rays of sunshine filling the place with light. Yônêq said to me that reasoning is like the clouds; the reasoning man can’t see the light. So I went to the water again, but the iniquities are still there. After a while again, it came to me again, “Do you really believe this?” So I went to Ben Jessed, and he told me, “We cannot stop every day to go to the river to baptize you.”

The only way for me to really be saved from this is that I would submit to our Father, resist the evil one, and I can be free. Little by little, that reasoning that looked so logical and so strong, and made me fear things, began to lose weight. It still comes to me, and I say, “It’s okay, I don’t mind.” Little by little, I was saved from that.

I want to be saved from any reasoning so that I can hear His voice, and I don’t want to be hindered by logical thinking. I am thankful for restoration. I have to remember that you cannot enter into the Kingdom with reasoning, but only as a little child. It is a good lesson.

Our Father never gives up on us — He *never* gives up.