

The 7 Things God Hates
Haughty Eyes – When Self Takes the Throne
Dr. John Carmichael

[Pro 6:16-19 NASB95] 16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, 19 A false witness [who] utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

- Pride is rarely announced. It doesn't usually look loud or arrogant at first. More often, pride looks like: self-reliance; quiet comparison; subtle superiority. A prayer life that is focused on our kingdom not His Kingdom.
- That's why Proverbs doesn't start with actions. It starts with eyes.
- "Haughty eyes" describe a posture of the heart that sees oneself as elevated, self-sufficient, and above correction. And Scripture is clear: pride is not a minor flaw. It is a direct challenge to God's rightful place. NET Bible Notes, "God does not tolerate anyone who thinks so highly of himself and who has such ambition."
- This is why pride is listed first. Before lies are spoken, blood is shed, or discord is sown. The heart has already crowned itself king.

What does today's Christian need to know about haughty eyes?

Here are four things today's Christian needs to know about haughty eye.

I. PRIDE DISTORTS HOW WE SEE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD

- a. [Luk 18:9-14 NASB95] 9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "**The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself:** 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- b. The Pharisee is religious, disciplined, and articulate, but disconnected. His prayer is self-focused, comparative, and defensive. **NET Bible notes: "prayed about himself"!**
- c. The tax collector is broken, honest, and dependent.
- d. Jesus says the humble man went home justified, not the impressive one.
- e. [Pro 16:18 NASB95] 18 Pride [goes] before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
- f. [Jas 4:10 NASB95] 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.
- g. Pride doesn't always reject God. It replaces Him. You can pray and still be praying with yourself. Pride blocks justification; humility invites grace.
- h. Application: Ask: Do my prayers flow from dependence or performance? Examine whether comparison has replaced confession. Choose honest repentance over religious image.

II. PRIDE OPPOSES THE FLOW OF GRACE AND THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

- a. [Jas 4:6-7 NASB95] 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore [it] says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

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- b. "Resists" literally means to set oneself in battle formation against. (Mounce Greek Dictionary) Pride puts a believer in opposition to God, not alignment. Grace flows where humility creates space.
- c. [1Pe 5:5 NASB95] 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to [your] elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.
- d. [Isa 66:2 NASB95] 2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.
- e. The Spirit does not fill what pride has already filled. Pride quenches sensitivity before it kills power. Humility is not weakness. It is spiritual positioning.
- f. Application: Identify areas where self-reliance has replaced prayer. Invite the Spirit to search motivations, not just behaviors. Practice submission to God and to one another.

III. JESUS MODELS THE POSTURE THAT RELEASES HEAVEN'S POWER

- a. [Phl 2:5-11 NASB95] 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 **but emptied Himself, [ἐκένωσεν – of no effect]** taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- b. Jesus did not cling to status. He chose humility before exaltation. The cross preceded the crown. God exalted Jesus because He humbled Himself.
- c. [Jhn 13:3-5 NASB95] 3 [Jesus,] knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 5 Then He poured water into the basin, and **began to wash the disciples' feet** and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
- d. [Mat 23:12 NASB95] 12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
- e. Many want the power of Pentecost without the posture of Pentecost. Acts 2 power followed Acts 1 humility and waiting. The Spirit fell on surrendered hearts, not ambitious ones.
- f. Application: Ask: Where am I clinging instead of emptying? Embrace servanthood over recognition. Let the mind of Christ shape ambition and calling.

IV. PRIDE IS THE GATEWAY SIN—EVERYTHING ELSE FLOWS FROM IT

- a. Proverbs 6:16–19 (the list)
- b. Pride opens the door to: Lying, Violence, Deception, Discord
- c. When self is exalted, others become expendable
- d. [Rom 12:3 NASB95] 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
- e. [Gal 5:26 NASB95] 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.
- f. Revival dies when pride lives. Unity collapses when self reigns. God removes pride to protect His presence.

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g. Application: Renounce spiritual superiority. Guard unity with humility. Choose repentance as a pathway to renewal.

- **Pride places self on the throne that belongs to God, and the Holy Spirit will not empower a rival ruler.**
- God does not hate pride because He is insecure.
- He hates pride because it destroys intimacy, fractures community, and blocks grace.
- Pride builds a throne where God alone should reign.
- Humility clears space for the Holy Spirit to move freely.
- **If we want sustained presence, if we want lasting power, if we want genuine revival, it begins with lowered eyes and surrendered hearts.**