

“Boasting in the Lord”

Can boasting be good or acceptable?

Psalm 34: 1-2 NKJV

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. ² My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad.

- An accurate acknowledgement – Not an Exaggeration
- When we share our story, it must always point to Him
- It is saying, without hesitation: God did this! God's advertisement
- Gladness is the intended goal for the hearers

The Subtle Danger

Deuteronomy 8: 10-11 NLT

¹⁰ When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ “But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God... ¹² For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in... ¹⁴ Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God... ¹⁵ Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness... ¹⁶ He fed you with manna... ¹⁷ He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ ¹⁸ Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful

Warning Alert! Boasting hurts

1st Example: Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4: 29-32 NLT

²⁹ **Twelve months later** he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon. ³⁰ As he looked out across the city, he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! **By my own mighty power**, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.’³¹ “While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, ‘**O King Nebuchadnezzar**, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. ³² You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow...**until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.**’

Warning Alert! Boasting hurts

2nd Example: Belshazzar

Daniel 5: 22-23 NLT

²² “You are his successor, O Belshazzar, and you knew all this, yet you have not humbled yourself. ²³ For you have proudly defied the Lord of heaven and have had these cups from his Temple brought before you. You and your nobles and your wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all. But you have not honored the God who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny!

A promise...do we look forward to it?

Isaiah 2: 11-12 NLT

¹¹ Human pride will be brought down, and human arrogance will be humbled. Only the LORD will be exalted on that day of judgment.

¹² For the LORD of Heaven's Armies has a day of reckoning. He will punish the proud and mighty and bring down everything that is exalted.

Think, then, Boast!

1 Cor 1: 26-31 NIV

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Good alert! Deep thinking births good boast

Philippians 3:4-8 NLT

⁴ **though I could** have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, **if others have reason** for confidence in their own efforts, **I have even more!**

⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. ⁷ **I once thought** these things were valuable, but **now I consider them worthless** because of what Christ has done. ⁸ **Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

The cure for boasting?

Galatians 6:13-15 ESV

¹³ For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

***“I am a great sinner, but
Christ is a great saviour.”***

John Newton

Boasting allowed by God

Jeremiah 9:23-24 NLT

²³ This is what the LORD says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. ²⁴ But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!

Let us declare...

Psalm 115:1 NKJV

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,
But to Your name give glory,
Because of Your mercy,
Because of Your truth.

Discussion Questions

1. Psalm 34 describes boasting in the Lord as something that brings gladness to others. What is the difference between prideful self-promotion and genuinely glorifying God through our testimony?
2. Deuteronomy warns about forgetting God in seasons of success and prosperity. Why do you think success can subtly pull people away from dependence on God?
3. The examples of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar show the danger of pride. What are some modern ways people can take credit for what ultimately comes from God?
4. Paul says he counts his achievements as worthless compared to knowing Christ. What accomplishments, identities, or sources of confidence are hardest for people to surrender today?
5. Jeremiah says the only acceptable boasting is truly knowing and understanding the Lord. What practical habits help us keep God at the centre instead of ourselves?

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