

Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (KJ V).

Pride Clothed in Humility

"Flesh bows before Spirit"



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Book Conception 7/11/2019

Book Completion on 5/2/2020

Book Published on 7/23/2020

Published to Website on 10/10/2020

Created by Catrice C. Jackson, CoCreator with God, in the mind of Christ guided by the Holy Spirit

A Free E-Book at BEvolution LLC Website in “The Act of Repentance” Series

Book Cover Created by Catrice C. Jackson

Image References

The Waterfall: Nvision Photography of Atlanta

The Image of Catrice and Makayla:

New Birth Photographer

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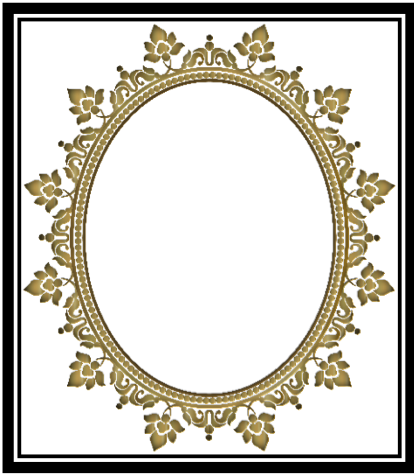
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Introduction - "The Mirror on the Wall"

I wrote this book when I experienced the face mask of pride and my reaction to its presence. I could not run from what was being shown to me in my dogmatic attitude. Christ dealt with that attitude and showed me how to fix it in humility. Without Christ, I was blind to my life concerning my character that had not been fully revealed or developed. At times I would think that my attitude was good enough. It wasn't about being good enough. It was about hearing the voice of God and making the corrections as necessary with the help of the Holy Spirit and reading God's word so I could evolve into who God ordained for me to be in this world. Christ is gentle in correcting me. God is not. God is very authoritative and when he says do something, he expects me to do it wholeheartedly. Pride can be visible, or it can be hidden. In order to face pride, it had to become visible or revealed by the Holy Spirit or I would remain ignorant to its different masks. A lie can continue to be the reality if not confronted by the truth or

testing in accordance to the spirit of God. I remember someone telling me, “some people can’t handle the truth”. Why? Is it because truth challenges everything from the foundation of beliefs to who they see in the mirror daily or is it because your truth has become your image and not the image that God created for your life? There are many



questions and answers, but I was led to the truth through my calling by God. When I saw the truth, I had to unmask, d-crown and change everything learned to truly follow the

Almighty God. This reminds me of the saying from Snow White, “mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?”. If we only talk to the mirror and not God who created the mirror, we live in a distorted truth and a deceptive lie that continues to grow through pride. It will be the fall of an empire when the day of the Lord arrives. Before facing pride and bowing to the spirit, I lived in an

image that my mind created and when I was confronted by the truth through the word of God, my behavior was defensive, angry, prideful, jealous, envious and other faces of pride that reared its head before the spirit of God. I had to submit these behaviors to Christ so that he could break the yoke off my shoulders. My mind gave me reasons to justify my behavior, but it was unacceptable to Christ. When I was redeemed in 2013, I had to go through a 7-year process before the “spirit of pride” was casted out of me, and the spirit of self-control and peace was birthed. This was a miracle that began to grow within me as I lay praying on the floor at the alter at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in August of 2015.

Chapter One - "Pride in Possessions"

Facing pride and bringing the sin under submission to Christ begins with humility. Humility is a weapon to cast down imaginations and arguments that exalt itself above the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:5). When I humbled myself before the Lord, he will exalt me in the spirit according to James 4:10, NIV. What I did not realize about this scripture is it begins in the spirit, and the results are seen in the physical. The results were the fruit of peace in my life for the Holy Spirit to manifest the will of God. It did not matter what I was experiencing in the storms. I had peace during the storm because my spirit was already prepared. The physical storms I was experiencing prepared me for future events. I never thought the pride of having an education, possessions or being successful in my life was a problem until I met Christ in 2013. It wasn't about what I had or the degrees I had accomplished. It was about who I was in Christ which was not being manifested in the flesh although I was claiming

to be a Christian and doing everything that I thought was right. I was exalting these areas above Christ, the Holy Spirit and God. I was doing the right things in the wrong timing and manifesting no harvest because I was not serving the Lord. I was serving the system through my mind, emotions and physical assignments. The things I had possessed and accomplished became idols in my life. That's why "seeking the Kingdom of God and his righteousness" was important because all the things needed was going to be added once I accepted my assignment and walked in obedience.

Chapter Two - “Defining Pride”

According to scripture that is so often quoted, “Pride goes before destruction, **and** a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18, KJV). The key word is, “and” which represented inclusion. The pride and haughty spirit operate together. I was prideful with my achievements and possessions, but I did not have a haughty spirit. I wanted to understand this more because so many people quickly quote this scripture and I wanted to do some research. When I reviewed this scripture for the definition in the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, pride which means [*gaw-ohn*](#)’ in Greek was going ahead of me to destroy my life, but I did not have the haughty spirit which is arrogance. When the fall came in my life, it appeared to be destruction, but it led me down the narrow path to the life that God planned for me. The wilderness experience brought pride under humility through submitting to Christ in the face of pride. That meant I had to repent and turn from whatever was exalted above God. It was actions

such as releasing myself from additional education at the time until I understood purpose. It was actions such as throwing away awards and trophies that were in the category of idolatry for me. So, pride can even have an appearance to people who are not following the living God. They can quote this scripture out of context based on their perspective, but when I saw the perspective of Christ I had to change.

When pride which also means [alazoneía](#) in Greek showed up in my thoughts, it killed life because the Holy Spirit was not the leader in my old life. This form of pride allowed me to trust in earthly things. For example, I trusted in my education to get me a job, but many times doors slammed in my face or didn't open regardless of my listed degrees. In some cases, I have experienced my education being intimidating to others. I remember applying for a job posting as a teacher for recreational center. The lady contacted me for the position and after she explained the job and asked me questions, she

specifically said that I could take her job. She felt like I was over-qualified for a teaching position for educating diabetics. She was a perfect example of the pride which means *gaw-ohn'* an arrogant, haughty spirit. Although the information she provided was great, it did not land me the job which I was qualified for based on the job description and skills they were looking for to fill the position. It really was a form of discrimination based on education, but that is not included in the law and it would not have been work documenting because it would have been my word against hers unless I recorded her. I experienced this in 2014 while looking for employment. I was discouraged and realized that it wasn't the hiring managers I had a problem with, it was the system that was consistently poor job leads and I didn't know the right people. I should have been leaning on the Holy Spirit instead of my own flesh or job posting that were an endless cycle.

Chapter Three – “Lean on the Holy Spirit”

Christ left us the Holy Spirit as our guide, but I was not leaning on the Holy Spirit at the time. I was not trained like I am today in 2020. The Holy Spirit has a specific purpose which is to birth the character of God and the gifts from Christ in the believer through the illumination of the word of God, truth in grace. The life I was living was not built on Christ. It was built on an image which was why I was circling the same mountain of pride until I activated my belief which caused the walls around me to fall and I could see the true enemy. Prior to the walls falling, I was always fighting the wrong battle. It was best for the walls around me to have fallen then for my soul to have fallen from grace. The true enemy was idolatry in an image set up to represent God and Christ. I was also living and operating in rebellion against the spirit of God. My new life is my teachings on how Christ delivered me from self-destruction. The destruction looked bad, but it was for my good because I realized in 2013 that I was not on

the correct physical path to the will of God that was aligned with my spirit, but my life was going on the righteous path. I was out of alignment with the will of God, and the next seven years was correction. The life I was living was bound for destruction for my spirit which would have manifested in the physical if I remained rebellious and disobedient to the God of my Salvation. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's only son, saved my life from the destruction of the ways of this world which led me to the pride of life which was an image of healing, justice, freedom and liberty but it didn't deliver me from bondage. Christ set me free from the chains of bondage. I renewed my mind continuously through the word of God (Romans 12:2). I had to or I would have remained stuck in the old Eve which was deception. I know people always say the old Adam, but Eve was there too. Eve was deceived first with the fruit and she gave some to her husband. Both were involved.

Chapter Four – “Pride is a Fruit”

Pride is a fruit from the root of the nature of sin which is considered an evil thought according to



Mark 7:22. It can manifest in achievements, sex, politics, possessions, self-confidence, unforgiveness, titles, bitterness, and other

areas. These are just a few that came to mind based on my personal experience. Another example of the nature of sin that came to mind is fornication. If I did not open the door to fornication, then the fruit of abortion would have not produced in 1996. I realize that it has been 23 years and I have many people that state, “do not dwell on the past”. If I do not look at the past to see my mistakes, I would have continued to march into the future making the same mistakes without correcting the spirit behind why certain things happen in my life. Depending on what is driving the pride, it can birth emotions such as I don’t need God, stubbornness, selfishness and lacks humility. The pride that was driving me was life and the achievements I received which got me nowhere when I

appeared to challenge my Goliath which was the invisible system. People may look at challenging the system as prideful, but it's not especially when God given rights given at birth are violated. It's righteousness because I serve God and not man-made systems that keep me and others in bondage. When my mind was programmed and it was not renewed through the word of God, I could not walk in the righteousness of God. I was blinded by the lies for so long. When I needed help, I began to ask God. The word is very clear to state, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7 NIV). The door didn't open the way I expected. It opened the way God intended for me to learn the lesson, so I could elevate to the next level. Every next level in the spirit was preparing me for the future miracle and manifestation that God prepared for my life before the foundation of the earth. As my spirit elevated, the physical yoke of poverty and lack in my life was being broken.

Chapter Five – “The Spirit of Poverty and Lack”

Another area of pride that I have experienced in my life is the spirit of poverty and lack. After analyzing my situation, I really was not lacking anything. All my needs were provided by God. The additional things I thought I needed such as paying \$150 for weave and getting my hair done for \$100. That was not a need. It was a want because it was obvious that I did not appreciate the hair God gave me. I was using my resources and spending in excess. But I could not see this when I was boxed in darkness. I was enhancing an image that God did not provide. This was vanity because the image I was seeking was not God intention for my life. The image I was enhancing was opposite from the image God had for me.

Another situation was rent. Although the rent was paid at the beginning of the month, we lacked enough money for food, pampers and gas for my husband to go to work. He didn't want me to ask my family, and he didn't want to ask his family for money because he would feel

like less of a man and he did not want to keep borrowing money. He didn't agree that I should contact my family for help, but we needed the money. That's what pride looks like when you know there are people that are willing to help, but the spirit within suppresses you. The spirit can be suppressed internally or externally. It placed me in a position to call and ask because I wanted to help, but I had to be obedient to what the Holy Spirit was saying to me. Pride must be clothed with humility and if I stepped in the way, God could not do his job in my husband. I had to wait and be still to allow God's hand to move! If I was in the way, God could not be God. My actions would have been out of self-effort and it would have caused division in the house producing the fruit of "strife". Although the bills were paid, he always experienced this type of struggle during the first of the month. I am beginning to see the repeated cycle in his mind. It's not bad what he is doing, but in my opinion, it was a pattern of pride that is blinding him. I needed to be still and allow God to fight the battle.

It was pride that was standing in my way and I had to move by humbling myself in the situation. To get money, he cleaned his laptop, and I cleaned my kindle so we could pawn them for extra money. He returned and said the pawn shop wouldn't accept them unless they were Apple, Samsung and the computer needed to have Windows 10. Therefore, we still had no money. The small check that I would receive from the life center had not arrived yet, and I was not sure when I would receive it for pick up. So, I prayed that God would supply our needs (Phi. 4:19). He has never forsaken us. Added to the lack of money, his phone was cut-off for nonpayment, and he didn't go to work because he didn't have gas money. Since he didn't want to borrow money, I stayed in prayer to see the answer from heaven. God has kept us in the past with the same situation, so I had to operate in long suffering and patience until the answer was revealed. Plus, I realized that I am living for the Kingdom of God so I did not worry about what I was going to eat or drink because he would

provide like he did for the birds and the lilies (Matt. 6:25-34). Thanks to God, the check arrived just in time. It was \$90 which helped with food, pampers and gas for him to get to work the next 5 days. I am grateful because through God's grace, he will make a way. His phone was still off, but he said he will see if his mother will pay the bill. He can pay her back when he gets paid next week. The lesson I learned during this time was to be still and allow him to make the final decision and follow his leadership. I use to be so independent and ambitious that I thought my way was best. It wasn't because it switches roles in the marriage and places me in the position as the head of the house instead of him being the head. I had to be still which meant to listen without an attitude and accept the leadership God has placed in my life. I had to submit my behavior to Christ to see the fruit of the spirit birthed within the marriage, and peace was birthed in the situation. I was learning to put on my armor so I could walk in the word of God.

Chapter Six – “The Armor of God”

The beauty about salvation and the armor of God is the helmet of salvation (Eph. 6:17) is what kept me out of mental destructive cycles. When I needed help in the past, I had to remove the clothes of pride and put on the garment of humility and humble myself before the Lord (James 4:10). I had to bow to the Lord in front of pride and ask for help. It kept me from cycling this mountain of poverty in my mind. Although we are struggling financially, we have never gone hungry, evicted or the utilities cut off. The beauty about my relationship is it is an example of who Christ is to the church. Christ gave his life up for the church. My husband has given up his life to take care of me and our son. He didn't have to marry me. Neither of us do anything for fun or activities outside the home. I am operating in obedience, while he is operating in sacrifice. Jesus was the sacrifice, so once belief took root, sacrifice was no longer the driver in my life. Faith is the driver. Walking in obedience caused some people to be sacrificed from my life but its only because they

couldn't go. If they stayed, they would become like Lot or an idol. If they go, a yoke is broken, and a physical elevation can take place. If they stay, it was God's intentions for them to walk with me. My husband's sacrifice on earth has allowed me to fulfill God's vision for my life. There was no way I could work and fulfill the vision God provided for me, so I am grateful that God placed him in my life to support and love me through my assignment.

I had to yield to the Holy Spirit to spiritually see what God was doing in my life. I analyze my own problems, so I can stop repeating unnecessary situations. I had to identify the battles that were not mine. Since my spouse has not given his life to Christ, none of the battles are mine. They are to help sharpen me until he decides to follow Christ, and if he never publicly accepts Christ it is okay because the word of God states, "For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife..." (1 Corinthians 7:14, NIV). He knows my belief and he support me. We will always be unequally yoked until he

gives himself to Christ, but it is not my job to force him. He still can be used by God, but just have not submitted his life to Christ as his Lord and savior. He must submit to Christ to move into the Kingdom or it will be difficult for the two of us to walk together. He has God like qualities such as provide and protect his family, but when confronting him on real problems he gets extremely defensive. This defensiveness leads him into isolation until he is ready to talk. I can not force him to change his ways. I can only change my response to his behavior. As his wife, I should not endure the disrespect and attitude that he presents, but I do it out of love and I must submit my ways to Christ. He has been like this since I met him, so I know there will be no quick changes unless he wants change and we have changed together. We grow together in each area that is not balanced. With taking care of our son, not working and our money struggles, his added behavior sometimes become too much. He says the same about me at times. He becomes needy and self-centered

about when and how he wants to talk to me. It's too much so I must get out of the way, pray and allow God to fight this battle. The problem I experienced is when to step out of the way. I know that what I am experiencing at this moment is a war between two Kingdoms. I do not have to fight so I humble myself before the Lord, fast, pray and worship because Christ will see me through it.

Once I walk away from pride, truth is manifested. It's not difficult to cast down spirits. It's about pulling down the strong hold that I can see and walk in humility. I can complain about him all day, but if I do not make the changes then the situation will remain the same in my life. When I began to walk in humility, pride began to fall from my life. It wasn't hard to see, I had to listen to the Holy Spirit and wait. My old sin nature is always trying to jump back into the picture and run the show, but not this time. God will fight the battle and I am able to see it before my eyes. It doesn't come the way I want it, but it shows up the way God needs for me to know it was him and to know

what I changed in order to see the manifestation in my life.
Walking in the spirit is the key to humility towards pride.
It is also a constant walk so there is no room to be puffed
up.

Chapter Seven – “The Threshing Floor”

I thank God for this marriage because it was my threshing floor. The things in me that were not like God were being separated out of my character during these past three years. I speak in my testimony book about the planted seed, and its process through darkness. Now I am in the process of fully blooming where I am planted and as I bear fruit God continues to cut away unwanted things. God provided me with a man that is organized and structured. He provided me with a man that could set a foundation for the person that I was becoming. God placed him in my life for the elevation of his Kingdom. He loved me like Christ loved the church. There were emotions and thoughts in my life that were challenged through this relationship. This relationship was the threshing floor for me to separate the good and bad traits that have been evident or hiding in my mind and emotions for over 31 years. It was the marriage to correct the things I didn't do right. The isolation allowed me time to think, listen and hear God. My relationship reminded me of the Book of

Ruth, but as a reflection. I met a man that was made in God's image because I could reflect the characteristics of Christ in the relationship. My husband reminded me of God because he made provision that allowed me to birthed God's vision for my life. He knew the problems I had experienced such as divorce, prior marital problems, my attitude, financial problems, family problems and other issues that were all laid on the table before we said, "I do". My marriage was a place of crushing in my mind and emotions and pride so I could elevate to the next level. It was very different than my first marriage because I did not know who I was in over 90% of my marriage. In this marriage, I know what God is saying and I can hear him, God placed my husband in my life for a divine purpose. He knew it as well. No matter what our differences were, my job was never to change him. My job was to love, respect, listen and encourage him. God had to teach me this and the Holy Spirit had to guide me. I was being delivered from the Eve I had become which could turn into

a Jezebel spirit if I did not answer to God's calling in 2013. God used my husband to correct the behaviors in me that were not fixed. I could not walk into the Kingdom of God puffed up with pride, anger, or that judgmental personality. He picked the best man to help me fix areas that I was blinded to in communication, trust, image and unconditional love.

References

Mirror Image: <https://www.pngfuel.com/>

Threshing floor- To separate me from my Egypt for 7 years so God to purge and cleanse mental, emotional and physical behaviors that did not represent the Kingdom.

- A place of cleansing and separation according to Matthew 3:12
- Symbolic for purification
- Symbolic for judgement
- Other Scriptures
 - God's Threshing Floor Video Example: <https://youtu.be/khzcFY1ArV0>
 - 1 Chronicles 22:1
 - Ezekiel 23:37
 - Hosea 4:12 9:1

The scriptures and definitions below have the word pride, but they have slightly different meanings based on the Hebrew or Greek definitions. The one I am lifting up today is *alazoneía* from 1 John 2:16 and the same meaning can also be found in James 4:16.

Definitions

- **1 John 2:16:** "For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the **pride** (*alazoneía*) of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (KJV).
 - **alazoneía**, al-ad-zon-i'-a; from [G213](#); an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources and shamefully despises and violates divine laws and human rights: an impious and empty presumption which trusts in the stability of earthly things.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G212&t=KJV>

- **Proverbs 29:23:** "A man's **pride** (*ga`awah*) shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit" (KJV).
 - **ga`āvâh**, gah-av-aw'; from [H1342](https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H1342&t=KJV); Magnificence, majesty, as of God; ornament, splendour; pride, arrogancy, excellency, haughtiness, highness, proudly, swelling.
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H1346&t=KJV>

- **Proverbs 16:18:** "**Pride** (*ga'own*) goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (KJV).
 - **gaw-ohn'**; from [H1342](https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H1342&t=KJV); the same as [H1346](https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H1346&t=KJV):—arrogancy, excellency(-lent), majesty, sublimity, pomp, pride, proud, swelling.
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H1347&t=KJV>

- **Mark 7:21-23:** "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, **pride** (*hyperēphania*), foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (KJV).
 - **hyperēphania**; hoop-er-ay-fan-ee'-ah; from [G5244](https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G5244&t=KJV); haughtiness:—pride, arrogance, the characteristic of one who, with a swollen estimate of his own powers or merits, looks down on others and even treats them with insolence and contempt:
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G5243&t=KJV>

- **Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
<https://biblehub.com/proverbs/16-18.htm>

- **James 4:10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4%3A10&version=NIV>