



The Deception of Pride Robert Morris

Focus Pride is one of the enemy's most effective and deceptive tricks. But don't fall for it! Walk in humility and swallow your pride—or it may swallow you. Admit that you can't "see" without God.

Fun Play the "Blind Leads" game. Break off into teams of two—one person is blindfolded and one is not. The sighted person can either hold the other person's hand or use vocal commands to guide their partner around the room. Make the path as easy or as "bumpy" as you like.

Review Key Scriptures: Daniel 6:1–7

1. **Pride opens the door to deception.**

Daniel 6:8–10; 1 Kings 8:35–36; Psalm 55:17

Satan takes us into bondage by getting us to believe his lies, and we are most like him when we walk in pride. Insecurity, however, is at the root of all pride and allows deception to creep in. Pastor Robert believes that King Darius was insecure because of his heritage—he was a Mede rather than a Persian. If the king hadn't been so insecure and prideful, he would not have been deceived into thinking that he was on the same level as God.

2. **Pride always brings regret.**

Daniel 6:6, 18

When we make decisions based on pride rather than principle, we always regret it. King Darius respected Daniel and had actually appointed him to a high position within his empire. The king was distraught when he had to send Daniel to the lion's den. He didn't eat, and he didn't sleep.

3. **Pride causes spiritual blindness.**

Daniel 6:23–24; John 9:6–15, 18–21, 24–27, 39–41

The cure for spiritual blindness, Pastor Robert says, is admitting that we are blind without God. After Daniel emerged from the lion's den unharmed, King Darius saw God for himself and was "healed" of spiritual blindness. He declared "that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel."

Group Dynamics Idea Pastor Robert says we are most like God when we walk in humility. Consider sharing stories about how you have been humbled by God, when you have willingly humbled yourself, or tips on how you stay humble. Be as transparent as possible about the struggles you've encountered.

Discuss

1. Why did King Darius' officers and administrators try to find fault in Daniel? What was at the root of their efforts? (Daniel 6:1–5)
2. Similarly, what caused King Darius to quickly sign this new law into effect? (Daniel 6:6–9)
3. As king, Darius probably could have changed the law if he wanted to. Why do you think he didn't? (Daniel 6:8)
4. Foolish pride often has a domino effect. Who else was harmed by the actions of King Darius' officers and administrators? (Daniel 6:24)
5. Daniel's experience caused the king to have a change of heart, and King Darius' spiritual eyes were "opened." Consider some areas where you might be spiritually blinded by pride as well.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Satan takes us into bondage by getting us to believe a lie.
- We are most like Satan when we walk in pride. We are most like God when we walk in humility.
- The key to getting over pride is admitting that we are blind without God.

Prayer Lord, thank You for being patient with us when we are prideful. Soften our hearts and open our eyes to see You, Father, so we can experience You and all Your glory. Let us walk in humility and follow Your will rather than our own. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Pastor Robert is pretty transparent about his past struggles with pride. If you feel led to do so, share your own journey about the same issue.