

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#34) The Proverbs of Solomon 11:2-The Shame of Pride

Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34 are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom ([1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10](#)), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 11:2:

When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.

Humility is not thinking less of oneself that is deserved, but simply the recognition that God is far greater than we'll ever be. The more of God's Wisdom we possess, the more we realize how humble we should be. Moses was the humblest man on earth ([Numbers 12:3](#)); who led the Israelites 40 years to humble them ([Deuteronomy 8:2, 16](#)); a lesson Solomon was called upon to repeat ([2 Chronicles 7:12-14](#)); and the Apostle Paul would show the church of God at Corinth ([2 Corinthians 12:20-21](#)).

"Modest" also describes the "humble," as someone who does not need self-promotion. It is true today, that we should: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" ([James 4:10](#)).

The opposite of humility is "pride," which prompts the command: "Do not be wise in your own opinion" ([Romans 12:16](#)). Pride precedes: "shame" ([Proverbs 11:2](#)), "destruction" and "a fall" ([Proverbs 16:18](#)), being brought "low" ([Proverbs 29:23](#)). It is still true that: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ([James 4:6](#)) Jesus Christ scolded Pharisees with the statement: "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" ([Matthew 23:12](#)).

Children who are constantly told they are smarter, stronger, better than their own parents or grandparents, have been pumped up with the false attitude of "pride." The New Testament warns against this: "And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know" ([1 Corinthians 8:2](#)). Children who think they already "know it all" will never appreciate and learn God's Wisdom!



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God brought down those who became “proud:”

- Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar learned this ([Daniel 4:28-32](#)),
- Jewish King Herod learned this ([Acts 12:18-24](#)), and
- Roman Governor Pilate learned this ([John 19:10-12](#)).

Don't buy into the fictional belief that we are equal to, or greater than, God! If we think our country is great and powerful because we are richer, smarter, stronger, or more productive through our efforts alone, we are as proud as Nebuchadnezzar, whom God brought down for a lesson in humility! If we think our politicians, courts, and legislators are “the voice of a god, and not of a man,” we shall be brought down, as Herod, for not giving God the glory! If we think we are more powerful than Jesus Christ, we will be brought to ruin as Pilate and the Roman Empire! No “government” is greater than God, though many keep trying to be too great to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God ([1 Peter 5:6](#)).

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