



New International Version is used for questions

1. Read Daniel chapter 4. What do you think pride or arrogance are? How did Nebuchadnezzar display pride? Have you ever known a person who was prideful or arrogant? Do you think they knew it? If we are prideful, do you think we would recognize it? What should we do to ensure we are not prideful?
2. It has been said that it is not money that is the root of all evil, but pride. Pride was the very first sin that ever occurred in God's creation, do you know the situation? Read 1 Peter 5:5. What happens when we are prideful? What do you think this means?
3. Surrender is seen as a very negative word, after all, who wants to surrender? Pastor Rick said that our failure to surrender is a cause for our moral failures, what did he mean? What are we to surrender and how do we do so? How can you tell if you are surrendered? How does pride prevent this?
4. What was God's first response to Nebuchadnezzar's moral failure? What could God do to us because of our moral failures? Could he ever send a Christian to hell because of a moral failure? It has been said that God does not want us to fear him but that we should fear what he is able to do. What do you think this means?
5. What is God's second response to moral failure? Read Hebrews 5:5-11. How can punishment for our sin purify us? Do you think God's discipline of us is ever because he is angry at us?
6. What are the four things we should do in order to receive restoration when we fail morally? Which one do you think is the hardest to do? How can we help each other to do these things?

Answers

1. *Pride is when you view yourself as being more valuable or important than other people that manifests itself a rude and overbearing manner. The opposite in scripture is humility, which is defined as seeing yourself in comparison to God. Nebuchadnezzar displayed pride by thinking that everything that had happened in Babylon was a direct result of his actions as king. Prideful people usually do not see themselves as prideful but simply as seeing themselves accurately. The best way to find out if you act in a prideful way is to ask those around you.*
2. *Pride was the first sin when Lucifer placed himself as being superior to God himself in Isaiah 14:12-15. Pride is at the root of all sin because we place ourselves above God in doing what we want and not what he wants, it is a form of idolatry. 1 Peter 5:5 says that God resists the proud, and since he can do anything he wants, he can resist and prevent everything we want in life from happening.*
3. *Surrender for a Christian is to deny the desires of our own will and submit instead to God's will in every area of life. When we do not surrender an area of our life to be used and changed by God, it becomes an area of sin and moral failure. We surrender our will by doing what God tells us to do in the Bible through the power of the Holy Spirit. We know we are surrendered by how much of God's Word we are obedient to.*
4. *God's first response was divine judgement, he turned Nebuchadnezzar into a beast of the field and caused him to live that way for 7 years as punishment for his pride. God can do anything he needs to do to each of us to humble us and cause us to submit to his will, and he knows what is needed to cause that to happen for each of his children. God cannot send a Christian to hell because of a moral failure because that is just another name for sin and Jesus paid for all of our sins. Any good parent makes sure that their children know that they are loved no matter what, but the children should fear the consequences of bad behavior: It is exactly the same with God except that he can do absolutely anything he wants to discipline his children, so we should be afraid of that.*
5. *God's second response to moral failure is purification for restoration. That is always the goal of any time God exercises his divine judgement on someone: That they change what they are doing wrong, which is what purification is and therefore they are restored to a right relationship with God. Punishment purifies by motivating the person being punished to change their behavior so that the punishment is removed. God never disciplines us out of anger, it is always for our welfare so that we change our behavior.*
6. *The four things are: a. Listen when God warns me about my pride; b. Learn that God is gracious enough to interrupt my comfort; c. Lock my eyes on God and not myself; and d. Let the testimony of my resilient restoration bring God all the glory. We can get help from each other by giving people I trust in our group the permission to hold me accountable for my spiritual condition.*