

Mastermind: The Pride Trap

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

Anybody Can Be Cool — But Awesome Takes Practice by Lorraine Peterson

Extreme Ironing by Phil Shaw

The Manly Art of Knitting by David Fougner

Dancing with Jesus: Featuring a Host of Miraculous Moves by Sam Stall

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3

Not only do we think more highly of ourselves than we ought, we think about ourselves more often than we ought.

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

A man's pride will bring him low. (Proverbs 29:23)

The pride of your heart has deceived you. (Obadiah 1:3)

God is able to put down those who walk in pride. (Daniel 4:37)

God resists the proud. (1 Peter 5:5)

The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Proverbs 16:5

Pride says "I got this. If I just work hard I can do this myself. I'm good enough to make this happen."

"Seven ways that pride can hide in us," Jonathan Edwards

1. Fault-Finding
2. A Harsh Spirit
3. Superficiality
4. Defensiveness
5. Presumption Before God
6. Desperation for Attention
7. Neglecting Others

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:4-8

There is a subtle shift God is calling us to. It's the difference between saying...

I'm gifted

I'm gifted by God

If we are going to become a mastermind we need to make a subtle shift in our thinking.

If I can just succeed enough so that other people around me will notice how good I am then I can feel good about myself.

God has been gracious enough to gift me with some skills. It feels so good when he uses my gifts to make a difference in the lives of other people.

The focus of our gifts is not to get everybody around us to value us but so that we can use our gifts and skills to raise the level of the people around us in our lives.

If I can make you proud I can make you disappointed. But if I am gifted by God no one can take that away.

Closing Question

Who is someone you need to make this statement to "You are gifted by God."