



The "I Wills" of Pride

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Isaiah 14:13-14; Ezekiel 28:11-17



Satan was once a beautiful angel created by God for a special purpose. As part of God's handiwork, he was once "good." It is important for us to investigate what corrupted this angel, because we are all prone to this same temptation.

Day #1: Angels

Grab a calculator and press 10,000 x 10,000. Now press =. What number did you get? Keep this large number in mind.

Before God created the earth or any people, He created angels (Job 38:7). The Hebrew word for angel is **mal'ak**, which means messenger. The Bible tells us that there are countless numbers of angels. Revelation 5:11 tells of ten thousand times ten thousand angels all in one place. The angels served, obeyed and worshipped God (Psalm 103:20-21, Nehemiah 9:6).

There are different types of angels, and they serve God in different ways. Angels are more powerful than people (Hebrews 2:7). Angels are spirits, but at times they can be seen and heard (Genesis 19:1-2, Luke 1:11-13). Like man, God created angels with a mind, emotions, and a **will**; they are *free to choose* what they want to do (Isaiah 14:13-14, Revelation 12:7).

One of the angels God created was named **Lucifer**. Lucifer means light-bearer, shining one, or morning star. The Bible tells us Lucifer was a powerful angel, and God gave him a special job. The Bible describes him this way:

+ *"You were the model of perfection. You were full of wisdom. You were perfect and beautiful...I appointed you to be like a guardian cherub. I anointed you for that purpose. You were on My holy mountain. You walked among the gleaming jewels."* - Ezekiel 28:11b, 14

The Bible tells us that Lucifer was a beautiful, smart, flawless creation of God. Again, we see that the creation is a **reflection** of the Creator. Take a crisp white sheet of paper and cut out the shape of an angel. It may look like the drawing shown here. Lucifer was the model of perfection, so do not mark on it or wrinkle it. (Save this angel for tomorrow.)



***** Name your favorite physical feature of yourself. Did you know that God created you that way? (Psalm 139:14) Also, name one thing you are good at. Did you know that all of your abilities are gifts from God? (Exodus 31:3-6) Now pray, "Lord, thank You for creating me with _____. And thank you for giving me the ability to _____." Remember that everything good comes from the Lord.

IMPORTANT for PARENTS ONLY: When your child is not around, dab a q-tip into lemon juice or milk, and write **pride** on the angel. Allow it to dry. You will use this for tomorrow's devotion. (Note: Lemon juice works best. If using milk, use a liberal amount on the q-tip.)

Day #2: Pride

Parents ONLY: Preheat your oven to 400° before starting today's devotion.

Look at the angel you made yesterday. Lucifer was a strong, beautiful angel. He was important, and he worked in the very presence of God. But then something happened.

+ *Your conduct was without blame from the day you were created. **But soon you began to sin.*** - Ezekiel 28:15

*You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High (God)."* - Isaiah 14:13-14 NIV

PARENT: Place the angel your child made yesterday into the preheated oven. Together, slowly count to 30. Then the PARENT should carefully remove the angel. (Remember to turn off your oven.)

What was secretly inside of Lucifer? Pride. Lucifer began to think too highly of himself. He did not remember that God was the One who created him with all of his wonderful qualities. Lucifer stopped praising God and focused on himself. Count how many times he said "I will." Lucifer rebelled against God. He refused to be under God's authority any longer. He thought he knew best. He wanted to be in God's place as ruler of the universe. Tomorrow we will look at the horrible consequences of Lucifer's sin.

***** Notice that Lucifer didn't even say these things out loud. They were the thoughts in his heart. God is so powerful, that He even knows our thoughts. Ask God to search your heart (Psalm 139:23) and show you when you are prideful. Pray this Scripture to God:

God, create a pure heart in me. Give me a new spirit that is faithful to You. - Palm 51:10

Day #3: Cast Out

Lucifer once worked in God's presence. Did you know that in the presence of God there is no sun or moon? God's glory is so bright that no other light is needed (Isaiah 60:19). But because of Lucifer's sin, he could not remain with God. God is perfect; He is holy. He will not tolerate sin in His presence (Isaiah 59:2). Because Lucifer chose to sin, God cast him out of heaven (Luke 10:18).

+ *So I threw you down to the earth.* - Ezekiel 28:17b

Before Lucifer left heaven, there was a battle between the angels. About one-third of the angels sided with Lucifer.

Day #3 continued:

Lucifer and his angels lost the battle, and they were all thrown out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9).

The name **Lucifer**, which means light-bearer or shining one, no longer described this fallen angel. He became known by other names. One name is the **devil** which means liar (John 8:44). Another name is **Satan**, which means enemy. Since Satan could not become like God, he seeks to destroy everything that God loves (John 13:2, 1 Peter 5:8). Satan attempts to stop God's plans (1 Thessalonians 2:18, Matthew 4). Satan lives to trap people in sin and darkness (Acts 26:18, Revelation 12:9). He does not want people to know God and have eternal life in heaven (Luke 8:12).

But God has a plan to destroy Satan, and God's plans cannot be stopped (Hebrews 2:14, Job 42:2). The time is coming when Satan and his demons will be cast into eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:12, 20:10).

 Just as it was with Lucifer, our own sin separates us from our holy God.

But your sins have separated you from your God. They have caused Him to turn His face away from you. So He won't listen to you. - Isaiah 59:2

As a reminder that sin separates us from God, try not to talk to anyone for a 30 minutes. When you are finished, take a moment to pray and thank God that He provided a way for us to be brought back into a right relationship with Him (Colossians 1:21-22).

Day #4: Humble Perspective

The opposite of pride is humility, or being humble. Being humble is having the **correct** idea of who you are and who God is.

Find a pencil. Now, describe the pencil as accurately as you can. The pencil is not beautiful, but it is very useful. We rely on pencils every day. What if the pencil could describe itself, and it said, "I am the most beautiful, expensive item in the house." Would this be true? No, it would be trying to be more than it actually is. But what if it said, "I am no good. I'm not pretty, so I'm not good for anything." This would not be true either. The correct perspective is that the pencil has a definite purpose. It is not the greatest item in the house, but it is very useful in the hand of its owner.

How do we have (and keep) the correct perspective about ourselves? How do we view ourselves as wonderfully made by God, yet remain humble and far from pride? The Bible tells us to think of other people as better than ourselves.

 *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ*

Day #4 continued:

Jesus had. - Philippians 2:3-5

The greatest example of humility we will ever know is Jesus. Consider what Jesus gave up in order to serve others. In the beginning, He was constantly in the presence of God, He ruled over heaven, and was adored by angels. But, for a time, He set those things aside. He left the presence of His Father, He came to earth as a baby in a manger, and was abused by those He came to save (Philippians 2:5-8).

Lucifer wanted to be greater than he was. Jesus is just the opposite! He IS the greatest, but He set His greatness aside and became the lowliest. Though He was perfect, He died to take away the punishment of the worst sinner.

 As Christians, we must set aside what we want for the good of others. Is there something you could give up for someone else? Perhaps it is a seat at your lunchroom table for someone who needs a friend, or maybe it is giving up some of your free time to help your mom do the dishes. Keep your thoughts on Jesus who gave up everything for you.

Day #5: The "I Wills" of God

We have seen what Satan's pride said: "I will be great; I will be like God." Often, our own pride statement is something like, "I will do what I want without thinking about what God wants for me." Do you hear how much like Satan's attitude that statement is? It, too, declares, "I will be like God, because I will run my own life."

Now, let's look at what God promises that **He will** do. These words were written about God's people after they had turned their backs on Him, and treated His mighty name as though it were worthless.

 **I will make you completely pure and clean.**
I will give you new hearts.
I will give you a new spirit that is faithful to Me.
I will remove your stubborn hearts from you.
I will give you hearts that obey Me.
I will put My Spirit in you.
I will move you to follow My rules.
I will make you pure from all of your sins.
And I will be your God.
(Taken from Ezekiel 36:25-28)

Certainly, God could have declared that He would punish His unfaithful people. And He would have been perfectly justified to do so. Yet, God declares He will clean them and be with them. Truly, God is forgiving, merciful, and loving!

Satan wanted to take matters into his own hands with his "I will" statements. Yet, look at the good things that come with God's "I wills." God's ways are far, far better than our ways.

 Commit to some "I wills" of your own. This day, put off your pride and say "I will follow God because He is good and loving. I will obey God's word because it is always right. And I will tell others about God's goodness."