

FREE WILL, VOLITION, AND PRIDE AS A HINDRANCE

1. The development.
 - A. When the mind is conquered by pride, it destroys the freedom of human volition.
 - B. Pride becomes a conqueror, an enslaver, it causes soul slavery. That is why mental attitude sins are the worst. Pride destroys objectivity, and replaces it with subjectivity.
 - C. When pride gains complete control of the mind, free will does not operate on a bonafide basis: The basis of dealing with facts.
 - D. Instead, free will operates on the basis of who and what I am, instead of on the facts.
 - E. When pride gets into the mind, it is no longer, "What are the facts?" "What does the Word say?" But it is "Who and what I am." It is who he is and that is what counts, NOT THE WORD.
 - F. When people are operating on ego lust, then the Word of God does not stimulate them. No one can understand the issue of the Gospel, or be interested in the Divine Viewpoint when he is operating on ego lust. This leads to temporary or permanent insanity.

2. Illustration: Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel 4.
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar is not ready for Gospel hearing, yet. He has to go through seven years of living like an animal before he will consider the facts, rather than himself.
 - B. The principle of punishment for Nebuchadnezzar: Nebuchadnezzar tried to exalt himself above all men, and he came to be so mentally ill that he went below man and began to live like an animal for seven years.
 - C. The purpose of this mental illness is so God can keep His Word. God promises that when anyone reaches God-consciousness and goes on positive volition, God will provide information whereby they can be saved. John 7:17, "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself." God did leave the "stump," Daniel 4:23-26, so that when Nebuchadnezzar's ego got out of the way, he could evaluate the facts and make a decision.
 - D. This terrible illness must take place in order for the issue to be clear, in order for Nebuchadnezzar to be objective toward the Gospel.
 - E. Nebuchadnezzar could not make a decision until he could see the issue. Pride blinded him to the issue. ("Satan blinds the mind lest they believe the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ"). Through this judgment, God removed his pride so his volition could decide concerning the Gospel. God had to keep His promises to show the Gospel to anyone on positive volition at the point of God-consciousness.

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