

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Killing the Invisible Enemy

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**D**o you feel the Covid-19 virus has departed? After three days into the hopeful new year, are you now immune? Or, is the silent enemy of 2020 still lurking in your rearview mirror as you try to focus on a better “normal?” Vaccines are now being circulated, but the current reaction is still fear and uncertainty, not only for the virus but for the antidote. Invisible enemies are hard to defeat. The deadly virus of 2020 is not literally invisible, because it can be identified by a microscope. But it is invisible to our eye, until it speaks loudly to us with sickness, hospitalization and sadly, death. While we wish all a “HAPPY NEW YEAR,” this invisible enemy still needs eradicating.

There is an invisible enemy of the soul that is more serious, has spread more widely, and is far deadlier than any virus. All have been infected by this destructive foe, and it has a 100% spiritual death rate if not treated. It is Pride.

All healthy-minded people value themselves. God, knowing our makeup, uses this love for self to direct and govern how we value and interact with others (*cf. Matthew 22:39, Eph. 5:28-30*). Like ancient enemies, pride hides in the Trojan horse of healthy self-love to spring forth within our souls with destructive self-exaltation.

Pride is the invisible enemy of God. God does not just see invisible pride in the inward man, He “resists” it. James in encouraging humility, writes, “*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble*” (*James 4:6*). Notice James is addressing pride after it has infected the person. Pride has entered the heart making the person “proud.” God is resisting the proud and giving grace to those who embrace humility to become “the humble.” (*cf. 1 Peter 5:5*).

Pride is God’s enemy because it is antagonistic toward God. Pride displaces God in the heart as man exalts self above God. Man refuses to look up as he sees himself superior to those around him. Everyone proud in heart “is an abomination to Jehovah” And regardless of “hands joining hands” to override God, the proud will not be “unpunished” (*Proverbs 16:5*).

Pride is an invisible enemy of man’s well-being. Prideful sin will bring shame, instead of honor which the proud crave (*Proverbs 11:2*). The moment pride makes you feel invincible in your standing, you are most vulnerable for a fall. (*Proverbs 16:8*). A prideful Haman, demanding honor from all, soon found himself heading for the gallows to hang in permanent shame before all (*cf. Esther 3:5, 5:9-14, 7:9-10*).

Pride is the invisible enemy that fosters other sins. People, too proud to admit wrong, often turn to lying to justify their refusal to face reality. Factious people are people infected with pride (*cf. 3 Jn. 9-10*). Feeling superior of others, they demand their way be accepted by all. They continue their divisive ways even when their error has been exposed by the clear teachings of God’s Word. For the sake of the health and unity of the church, no wonder God has instructed us to avoid such people. They have been warned twice and stand self-condemned before God (*Titus 3:10-11*). Do not be infected with the invisible enemy plaguing them.

Humility is the antidote for pride. But we must be careful that pride does not contaminate the spiritual vaccine. We can become proud in our humility. “There are not many others so confident in their abilities that they can be so self-deprecating as I.” C.S. Lewis sums it up well when he says, “...humility isn’t thinking less of yourself, but it’s thinking of yourself less.” (*cf. Phil. 2:4*).

Entering a new year is turning a calendar page. Covid-19 spikes continue. Let us not allow the invisible enemy “pride” to enter our souls. How does “I will daily humble myself before the Lord” sound as a single, positive goal for 2021?