

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Charles Berryhill

On the Table: Head - Ralph Burleson  
Servers - Josh Berryhill  
Lannie Key  
Eddy Dickinson

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

**Weekly Service Times**

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Visit Our Website**

[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

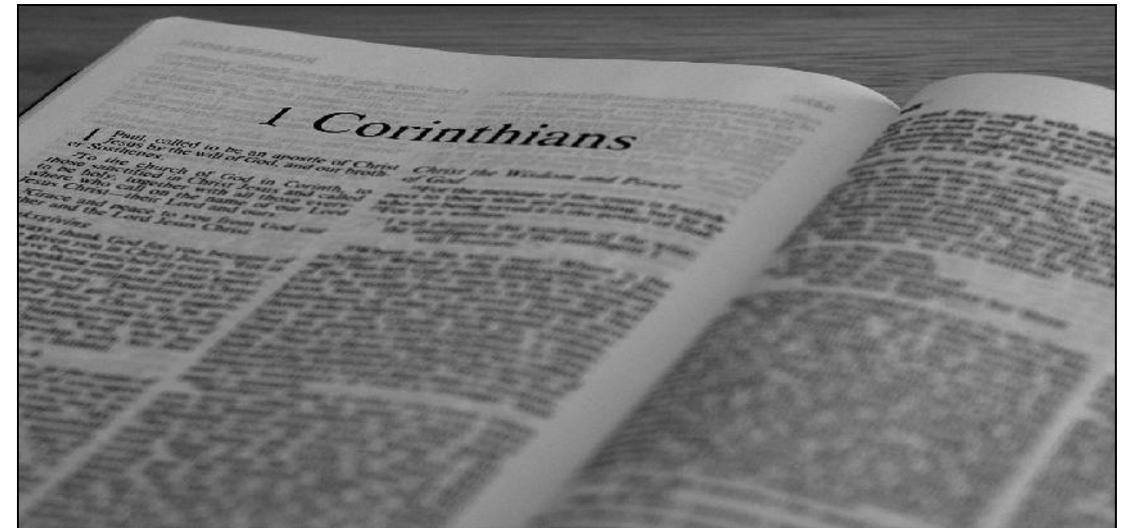
Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren  
Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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# Religious Pride



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**The Root of Pride**

By Kevin Cauley

“But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, ‘Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?’ So he turned and went away in a rage” (1 Kings 5:11-12).

I know a little bit about anger and pride. It is a set of sins that I have struggled with for many years. I am fortunate that, over the years, I have had some good brothers help me with these issues. Some have helped me out of real concern; others, not so much, but God has been working all that time, and I accept His correction in whatever form it comes.

The root of pride is the ego, and the ego is based in the flesh. Consider Jesus words in Mark 7:21-23: “For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” Paul tells us that these are all works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).

Pride is deceitful and insidious, and it is easy to be deceived by pride. We tend to rationalize our behavior, and practice self justification. This is what Naaman did. After he went away from Elisha, he rationalized his anger by telling himself that he was worth more than what God had to offer him: a seven-fold baptism in the Jordan river. He thought he was increasing his value by comparing himself to the prophet’s hand waving gestures, and his own homeland. He really only cheapened himself. A person is so much more valuable than an impressive showing, or a clean river.

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Faye Cotton: recent scans showed no new growth, please be praying that some new treatment can be found that will help her

Mary Eddy: she is recovering from knee surgery, please be praying that the she makes a full and quick recovery

Barbara Wilkinson: still having problem with infection on her feet, please pray that the medicine she is taking will cure this infection

Bill Foster: surgery went well to replace aorta valve, please be praying that his health will continue to improve

Danny Harbin: recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, please keep him in your prayers

Mable Weeks: recent scans showed no new growth of cancer, please continue to pray that this cancer can be defeated

Barb Lemay: friend of Christie & Aaron, from the Midway congregation – she has advanced colon cancer; please be praying that treatments will help

Denise Kimbrell: has completed her treatments; please be praying that cancer will not return

Sandy McCaleb: has started cancer treatments, please be praying that this cancer can be treated and defeated

Edward Skinner: has been recently diagnosed with cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Kay Dodd: has started treatments and will take them through November, please be praying that the treatments will defeat this cancer

**Upcoming Events**

Today	Nursing Home Winfield {Devotional}	2:00 pm
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Meal	
June 18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Gospel Meeting with Keith McNeely	

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**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Samuel Walker: having some heart problems, please be praying that he will receive help for this problems

Rebert Corkren: diagnosed with lung cancer, please be praying that he will receive the help needed defeat this cancer

Jan Franks: problems with a collapsed knee, please be praying that he will receive the help he needs

This is why pride is such a problem: it reduces persons to things, and causes us not to love ourselves as God loves us, and God loves us much more than we will ever know. After all, He gave the life of His Son for us (John 3:16). How much was the son of God worth? Telling ourselves that we are worth less than what God tells us we are worth is the worst kind of self-deceit, because we can't properly love our brother if we don't love ourselves. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:39). We can make an effort at it, but we will not get very far before we become discouraged with ourselves and give up.

The flesh is deceitful making us think that we are worth some worldly object. This is why the apostle Paul told us not to be deceived by it: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). Pride sows to the flesh, and it will destroy us if it goes unchecked.

I have often had this question asked to me over the years: "Is there such a thing as good pride?" Recently a friend told me that he never read such in his Bible. I've never read such either. I have read this verse: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). I've always read this verse as if the words "destruction" and "fall" were very bad things, and it does depend upon what kind of destruction and fall one has, but more recently, I've learned that "destruction" and "falling" can be very good things if directed in the right way. Paul wrote, "And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9). There is always hope, but let us not think that we can sin that grace may come (Romans 6:1).

Obtained at: [www.churchofchristarticles.com](http://www.churchofchristarticles.com)

**Let Go, And Let God**

By Gary L. Hutchens

“Let go, and let God.” This motto, or slogan, is used by many people in trying to get across the point that we, by ourselves, cannot do what needs to be done in our lives. Only with God’s help can we ever be truly successful in life. This statement should serve as much as a reminder to us, individually, as it serves to teach others this truth. Too many times we tend to forget God in our efforts to deal with some challenging situation in our lives.

We see some problem, need, obstacle, difficulty or challenge, and we set out to fix or take care of it on our own. We try to handle it without any thought of seeking God’s guidance, much less His help. This is not saying that we should not try to do the best we can, personally, in a given situation. We need to be responsible and act responsibly. But one of the most effective thing we can do in any difficult situation is to ask God into it with us. He has a lot more power to fix things than do we.

James wrote about the arrogance and foolishness of making plans without seeking God’s counsel (Jas. 4:13-16). The truth is, we cannot even guarantee one more heartbeat. God is the creator and sustainer of life and of this world in which we live. We have no power, in and of ourselves, to make things happen.

We try to make irresponsible people responsible. We lecture them. We show them how to do it right! We watch over them. We try to make them act in the way they should, and we threaten them with dire consequences if they do not. But some people act irresponsibly all of their lives, in spite of our diligent efforts to make them do better. Why?

We try to make people more spiritual. Again, we tell them how they should do it. We scold them when they mess up. We lecture and correct and browbeat and threaten. So, why are so many people still so unspiritual?

Drug addicts and alcoholics are constantly bombarded with people trying to make them reform. Family members and friends go to unreal lengths trying to literally make them stop their self-destructive behavior. Federal, state and local governments continually pass laws aimed at making such individuals act responsibly. And, there are all kinds of medical and social services designed to help them get well. So, why are so many people still addicted to drugs and alcohol?

We cannot make the sun not rise tomorrow, and we cannot make people change lifestyles they do not want to change. The best we can do is try to help them see reality, offer them options for change, pray diligently about their situation and be there for them.

But the most effective way for people to change in the ways discussed above is for them to make up their minds and turn to God for help. Nobody will ever be the best he can be until he surrenders his will to God (Gal. 2:20). God has to have first place in our lives, even above self (Matt. 10:34-39).

Try to handle everything yourself, and you’ll be continually frustrated. Turn it over to God. Ask for His will to be done and for His guidance to help you deal with whatever happens. You’ll find more peace, more happiness and less frustration when you learn to let go, and let God...

Obtained at: [www.churchofchrist.com/articles/let-go-and-let-god](http://www.churchofchrist.com/articles/let-go-and-let-god)