

sep 1

pride or "the death of "i"

"for who makes you differ from another? and what do you have that you did not receive? now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" 1 cor 4:7

i don't know about you, but i have been known to boast of things before. it's so easy to grab credit beyond our effort. there is a familiar saying, "there but for the grace of God go i." so easily we respond, "but i would never ... whatever." but would you really not if circumstances had been different - often years of different?

they say lifeguards, when seeking a rescue, will tread water for awhile just beyond the victim's reach. a swimmer's kicking, thrashing and struggling could well take them both down. when the swimmer comes to the end of their strength, in essence, when they give up, they could safely be rescued.

i think God is also waiting for us to come to the end of ourselves and there's so much of "self" to get rid of. perhaps He says, finally ... now that you know you can't, I will. the apostle paul finally learned this when he heard God say, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 cor 12:9

we must all be "always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also

may be manifested in our body." 2 cor 4:10 "indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead." 2 cor 1:9 He is that lifeguard who saves us from drowning.

the bible urges us to study to show ourselves approved, but it is God that gives us the ability to study and comprehend. all things are of God and from God. He alone purchased our salvation, "that no flesh should glory in His presence." 1 cor 1:29

how easy it is for us to put "i" before something as a boast - be it looks, wisdom, provisions, ability, etc. all of it is given by God and subject to removal in a breath. it is often the mercy of God that lets us learn a hard lesson. our Lord even said, "it is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire." matt 18:8 though this life may be hard, it is temporary. eternity is everlasting.

they say pride goes before a fall. it's one of the seven deadly sins defined by the world and none of us are exempt from it. (we know all sin is deadly and needs a savior.) arrogance and boasting are sins we should run from like the plague. "let him who boasts boast in the Lord." nasb 1995

come to the end of yourself where "it is no longer i who live, but Christ lives in me." gal 2:20 that's living the crucified life. "if you do well, will you not be accepted? and if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. and its desire is for you, but you should

rule over it." gen 4:7 do well. do Jesus. let go and
let God!