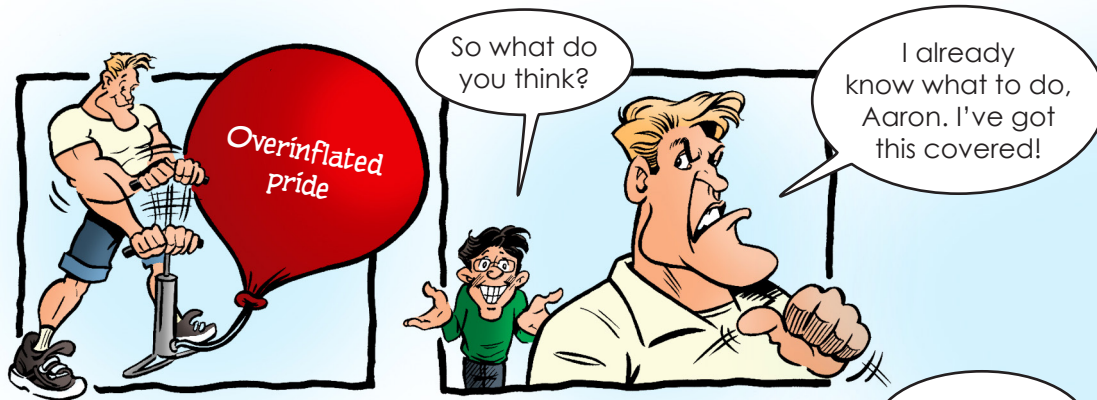# Before a Fall

King Solomon wrote that "pride leads to destruction, and arrogance to downfall."[1]

Not all pride is wrong. You can be proud of your efforts, proud of others, and proud of your beliefs. On the other hand, arrogance, boastfulness, and conceit are forms of pride that are harmful to your spirit and can cause you to depend on yourself rather than on God, which makes it harder for the Holy Spirit to have a guiding influence in your life.

When your focus is primarily on yourself and your accomplishments, this is pride, and it can distance you from others. It is much harder for you to open your mind and heart to others when pride is rooted in your mind. Proverbs 12:15 says that "fools always think their own way is best, but wise people listen to what others tell them."[2] Pride can push others away.

Overinflated pride

So what do you think?

I already know what to do, Aaron. I've got this covered!

Later

What is Kurt thinking?

I tried to say something, but he wanted to do it his way.

Overinflated pride

Conversely, humility causes you to focus on others more than yourself. Jesus is the best example of humility. Throughout the Gospels we read about how Jesus put others above Himself. His actions were ones of sacrifice for others, and when He worked miracles, He gave God the glory. He always put God and others first.

Humility is not about belittling yourself, rather it is about lifting Jesus and others up. Philippians 2:3 says, "When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves."[3] The emphasis is not on your lowness or lack of significance; rather, humility focuses on the needs, encouragement, and well-being of others.

"All of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"[4] Humility comes from God. It is the acknowledgment that everything begins with God. When your heart is rightly aligned with God, it is easier to find humility.

[1] Proverbs 16:18 ERV

[2] Proverbs 12:15 ERV

[3] Philippians 2:3 ICB

[4] 1 Peter 5:5 NLT

[5] Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven Life*

That did not go as planned! I should've listened to Aaron.

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."—*Rick Warren* [5]

Humility creates a welcoming environment for God's spirit to work in you.