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# **Satan's Slingshot**

**# 969-A**

**Series: Let God Be God**

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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# Satan's Slingshot

(The danger of spiritual pride.)

There he was; just a lad.  
A harmless slingshot was all he had.  
But the stone found its mark,  
As the crowd held its breath...  
And the once mighty giant...  
Met the master of death.

No one ever dreamed it could happen. Such a giant he was. So insignificant David was. But it wasn't a battle between David and Goliath. It was a battle between Satan and God. Much more was at stake than the life of an overgrown self-proclaimed hero. *The reputation of God was at stake.*

The giant never dreamed that something as tiny as a stone could be his Waterloo, so he let his guard down. Just a mite. And that was all it took.

Sometimes I believe that the church of our generation is afflicted with the Goliath syndrome. We are comfortable when we ought to be comforting. We are conforming when we ought to be transforming, and we are looking down at people when we ought to be reaching out to people. We are watching our own feats, when we ought to be washing one another's feet. We are growing in numbers, and as we grow, I fear we are growing unnecessarily in self-esteem. I think we may think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

With a lost and dying world mushrooming in immorality and with a portion of the world dying of hunger, both physically and spiritually, we are so busy "being spiritual" that some of us don't even recognize that Satan has taken aim at the church, and there is, in Satan's slingshot, a pebble marked "pride" that is flying at unprecedented speed directly at the temple of the church. Beloved, it isn't just a battle between us and the problem of pride. It is a battle in the unseen realms of the spirit world between Satan, the author of pride, and Jesus Christ, the absence of pride. It's the same battle that was fought in the

## Satan's Slingshot

garden, and the enemy is using the same set of lies today that he did then. And, as then, and as with Goliath, much more is at stake than even our spiritual health. *The reputation of God is still at stake.*

Satan's goal is to inject into the body of Christ a serum called "spiritual pride" which will hardly even be noticed at the outset, but which, once it has reached the bloodstream of the church, will carry its cancerous venom into every part of the body, until unnecessarily crippled from what could have been a curable disease, that giant we call evangelical Christianity will find itself dying of an overdose of self-respect. Therefore, perhaps it is appropriate to give the "Body" a physical body—the body of Christ, that is, to see just how far this deadly disease may have spread into our spiritual lives.

Pride, you remember, might be defined like this: Pride is preoccupation with self. It wears two faces. On the one hand, it shows up as *self-exaltation*. It manifests itself as self-confidence, cockiness, an inconsiderate, self-centered spirit. At the other extreme is *self-condemnation*, also a form of pride. It manifests itself in insecurity, self-pity, self-degradation, even self-destruction.

One is preoccupied with *how good it is*. The other is preoccupied with *how bad it is*. But both are preoccupied with self. And if you are a Christian, self is dead. You and I must occasionally remind ourselves of that, visit the graveside, pay our respects, and press on.

In Satan's slingshot is the most dangerous form of pride of all: spiritual pride. Spiritual pride is the spirit of Satan all dressed up to go to church. It is the transference of preoccupation with one's self physically to the preoccupation of one's self spiritually; and it is even more deadly, for dressed in spiritual garb, it masquerades itself as righteousness, when in reality it is the most subtle form of self-righteousness known to man.

We must never forget how God feels about pride. It was Satan's downfall; it was Eve's downfall; and it is still the greatest single enemy God's children have. That's why Jesus' greatest denunciation of sin was not to the woman at the well or the woman taken in adultery. Jesus' most scathing rebuke was addressed to those called the Pharisees, those religious phonies, so filled with pride, but so empty of reality. Everybody knew who they were,

## Satan's Slingshot

but few knew who their God was. Whatever they did, it was to call attention to themselves. When they prayed, they stood on street corners, clothed in flowing robes, and uttered prayers of utter eloquence which contained absolutely no substance. When they fasted, they made sure everybody knew. When they gave, they wanted it printed in the church bulletin. Jesus referred to them as “white-washed sepulchers”. He pointed the finger of God at them and said, “Woe unto you, you hypocrites”. Nothing grieves the Spirit of God more than a prideful spirit.

Proverbs 16:5 says this,

Everyone that is proud in heart (preoccupied with self) is an abomination to the Lord: ...He shall not be unpunished.

The Living Bible says it this way,

Pride disgusts the Lord. Take my word for it—proud men shall be punished.

Proverbs 26:12 goes even further,

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

More hope for a fool! And do you know how God feels about a fool? Proverbs 24:7 says a fool can't handle wisdom. Proverbs 26:1 says a fool can't handle honor. Proverbs 23:9 says don't even waste your breath on a fool. Yet God is saying that a fool has a better chance than a man or a woman filled with conceit or pride. The difference is that it is easier to convince a fool of his foolishness than it is to make a proud man see his pride.

God hates pride. That's why Jesus proclaimed, in John 5:42 (NAV) “I receive not glory from men.” I crave no human honor. I look for no mortal fame. What a verse to memorize. My friend, that is the mind of Christ, and the mind of Christ in you and in me has not changed. It seeks no human honor, either. It looks for no mortal fame. It seeks only to elevate the Father, only to honor Him. Therefore, Christ in us says “no” today, just as it did in Jesus, to any or all acclaim that would prematurely accept glory in this life at the expense of glory in the next. Mark it.

Another incredible passage to meditate on is John 6:15. It says this,

Jesus, seeing that they wanted to make Him King, withdrew instead and went up into a hillside to be alone.

(Paraphrase)

## Satan's Slingshot

What an example to follow. They wanted to make Him a king. He already *was* a King. They had their kingdoms confused. They were offering Him position instead of possession. It was the same offer Satan had made Jesus three years before in the wilderness. It made Jesus sick. It still does.

The truth is that God hates pride. James says, "God resists the proud" (He stiff-arms them). Peter goes on to say, "God resists the proud. But (He) giveth grace to the humble." So there is a decided difference in how God responds to you, depending on how proud or how humble you are. When we are humble, God's response to us is totally different than when we approach Him with any degree of arrogance, presumption, or pride. Approach God in humility and He rushes to meet you with outstretched arms, floods you with grace, and fills you with power. Approach Him in pride and He dons His uniform for battle, prepared to protect His throne from intrusion. He stands against us as though we were His enemies. There is even a difference in how He responds to our prayers.

Lord, you listen when the humble cry.

(Psalm 10:17 paraphrase)

So the issue is clear. God hates pride and God resists the proud. Is it any wonder, then, that since his first challenge to man in the garden, Satan's slingshot has been aimed with deadly accuracy at the heart of the King's kingdom? He has focused his heavy artillery on getting the church and on getting Christians preoccupied with themselves, their spirituality, their doctrine, their miracles, their experiences, their buildings, their church, their ministries, and their preachers. It is anything but the person of Jesus Christ. *And to whatever degree he has succeeded, he has robbed the church of its power and robbed God of His Glory.*

In the natural realm, pride takes the form of our being preoccupied with who we are, how we look, what we can do, and how we compare with others. Somehow, as insidious as it is, this form of pride can nonetheless be detected more readily than spiritual pride.

Spiritual pride is Satan's most impressive touch, because he has moved right onto the Christian's home turf and taken the very things that mean the most to us and used them against us. In effect, he has taken the very building blocks of spiritual success and used them to build an altar to the false god of self.

## Satan's Slingshot

No wonder it says "he disguises himself as an angel of light".

To accomplish his goals, he has devised a clever counterfeit for godliness. It is called religion. It is a cheap imitation of the real thing, but he has designed it so cleverly, even a student of the faith can be easily confused. Learn the difference between religion and Christianity because the primary by-product of religion is spiritual pride, but the primary by-product of Christianity is godly humility. Here are some of their basic differences,

<b>Religion says</b>	<b>But Christianity Says</b>
Man is looking for God	God is looking for man
Man must "do" for God	God has done it all
Man can become	God is; therefore we already are
Self can please God	Self is dead
We must earn God's favor by what we do	By grace we are saved; by grace we live (apart from Him we can do nothing but die... it's been done.)

So it is really a "do or die" situation, and the devil has superimposed his satanic substitute over the Christian movement in the name of Christ until the world can no longer see the difference. Religion gives man every cause to be proud of himself. Christianity gives none. Religion glorifies the work of man. Christianity glorifies the work of God. The keys are these,

- 1- God alone through Jesus Christ saves you.
- 2- God alone through Jesus Christ keeps you.
- 3- God alone through Jesus Christ enables you to live in victory.

In other words, the core and crux of it all is the Cross. If the world sees the church, it will try to imitate *its* righteousness. If the world sees the Cross, it must fall to its knees and receive the righteousness of God.

Religion produces spiritual pride. But when Jesus Christ is in control of the life, the Christian must cry with Paul,

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.  
(Galatians 6:14)

## Satan's Slingshot

When you and I are rightly related to Jesus Christ and filled with His Spirit, we will not boast of men or of methods or of means. We will not boast of talents, or things, or theology. We will glory only in the Cross. Satan, through various cults and pseudo-Christian systems, has cleverly disguised counterfeits of Christianity that simply detour around the Cross and thus insidiously make gods of self. But for those who are too theologically educated to fall for that ploy, he has devised an even more ingenious scheme. He has taken the truths of the gospel (that self is dead and Christ is alive), and by mixing in various amounts of self-exaltation, self-condemnation, and self-denial, he has turned on his mix-master of demonic deception and brewed a concoction of various flavors of spiritual pride, a religious kind of preoccupation with self — self-righteousness, if you please. And it is abominable to God.

So deceptive is he that many apparently mature Christians, whose ministries appear to be destined for spiritual greatness, march headlong into the abyss of self-exaltation until both they and their ministries vanish in an ocean of self-glorification. Listen to some of the lies Satan tells, and the ensuing results in the believer's life.

1- Satan says, "God needs you: He needs your talents; He needs your gifts." Sometimes even well-meaning churches will use that lie. Beloved, God wants you; but God doesn't need you. Listen to I Corinthians 4:7,

What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you had accomplished something on your own? (TLB)

Ask yourself, Do you feel your talents entitle you to some kind of special recognition in the kingdom? Do you feel nobody appreciates your talents but you? Do you tend to look down on those whose spiritual gift may be different from yours, less visible, apparently less productive? God hates that. It's self, dressed up to go to church. Humble yourself today. God isn't a talent scout and the church isn't a theater. The only one who deserves His name in lights is Jesus Christ. If you can sing, sing. But only if by singing, men and women see and hear Jesus. If you can preach, preach, but only if those who hear leave whispering, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus." So rule number one that we all need to remind ourselves of is that God doesn't need us; we need Him.

## Satan's Slingshot

The church was never intended to be a showcase for the talents of men. It was meant to be a place where men come, by love, to serve one another.

If you are so impressed with your talent that you think God needs it, you may need to lay that talent aside for a few years until self stays dead long enough for God to resurrect that talent with His imprint upon it. Then it will call attention only to Him and not to you.

So pride in your talents is the first pebble in Satan's slingshot. If that misses the mark,

2- Satan says. "Trust the system. You should be proud of the methods or the organization that seemed to have worked for you." He wants you to be proud of your method of counseling; He wants you to believe your system is the only one that works. That's nonsense. Jesus counseled every person differently. You patent a system, and you will begin to be proud of the system. Satan wants you to be proud of your method of memorization. He wants you to believe that unless you use a certain kind of little card and carry it in a certain kind of little packet, you aren't spiritual; or unless you memorize a whole chapter a week, you aren't spiritual. God is not nearly so interested in what system you use, or in giving you a medal for how many verses you've learned as He is interested in knowing that those verses have gone from the head to the heart and changed your life.

Satan wants you to be proud of your Bible study group, your denomination, your church, your favorite seminar. He wants you to at least give the impression that unless you attend that group or that church or that seminar, your spirituality is in question. The amazing thing is that God was in the business of changing lives before that group or that church or that seminar even existed. Don't you wonder how He did it?

Psalm 20:7 says this,

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

There is nothing wrong with chariots; God used them. There is certainly nothing wrong with horses; God designed them. But "things" were never designed by God as objects of trust. Satan is the pastor of the church that worships things or systems. God is the Head of the church that worships only Him. To trust in something is to place the weight of your success or give the credit



## Satan's Slingshot

for your success to that thing or person. Beloved, when Jesus comes again, your Bible study group will long since have ceased to be. When Jesus comes again, the magnificent building that houses the church you so love may well not even be. The system you use to become godly may long since have been eclipsed by something ten-fold as effective. But Jesus will not have changed.

The world says trust in your position, your money, or your abilities. Once you become a Christian, you begin to see that this is wrong. So Satan takes his slingshot and fills it with a spiritual counterfeit. He wants you to trust in a ministry, a person, or a system. Psalm 49 tells of proud men who trust in things, and the principle holds whether those things be physical or spiritual. It says this,

Their inward thought is that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. (Psalm 49:11)

The secret is that nothing lasts forever but God. Therefore, any form of pride in anything else is sheer foolishness. Stop and ask yourself, How much of your conversation centers around your group or your methods, and how much centers around the Lord Jesus Himself. Beloved, you have nothing to boast about but Him.

3- The third pebble in Satan's' slingshot is just as deadly. He says, "Be proud of your facilities, your buildings, the place where you worship or serve. Say, 'Look what we built for God'." King Nebuchadnezzar had the same problem in Daniel, chapter four. He had a dream and Daniel was called in to interpret that dream, and Daniel saw the King brought to the level of an animal because of his pride over the kingdom and the palace he had built. According to verse 29, twelve months after this dream, he was strolling on the roof of his royal palace in Babylon; his pride got the best of him, and he said this,

...Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the Kingdom by the might of my power and for the honour of my majesty?

While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, Oh, king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken, the kingdom is departed from thee.

(Daniel 4:30,31)

My kingdom, my palace, my glory. God said, "No. Mine." So

## Satan's Slingshot

for seven years Nebuchadnezzar lived like a wild man, like an animal in the fields, till he came to the end of himself. Then God graciously returned the kingdom to the king. Finally, the king knew whose kingdom it was. Listen to verse 37,

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Now, you see, it was God's kingdom, God's palace, God's power.

Many a church begins to build to glorify the Lord. But after the buildings are built, men are in awe of the buildings and begin to glorify them. Then those who built the buildings begin to be proud and think in their hearts, "I did that". But our God does not dwell in buildings made with hands. God dwells in lives and changes them.

There is not one building built by man that will not one day be destroyed. But there is not one life changed by the power of God that will not stand forever. Christians are in the building business, but it is the eternal business of building lives. So don't boast of your buildings, boast of the one who truly is the builder and foundation, even Jesus Christ Himself.

4- Satan's slingshot flies again. It says. "Let's glorify people: you are who you are because of your preacher, your teacher, your disciplemaker, your spiritual leader."

"I go to Doctor Doctrine's Church;" "I'm in Reverend Realgood's Class;" "I studied under Professor Perfection."

"No, No, No," says Paul. The Corinthians (bless their disobedient hearts; we learn so much about ourselves from them), were all caught up in glorying in men and they were dividing the flock by exalting one shepherd above another. In chapter five, we read that one was saying, "I'm Paul's man," while another added, "Hey, I belong to Apollos' church". Paul said,

Who is Paul? Who is Apollos? I planted; Apollos watered.  
But it was God who gave the increase.

(I Corinthians 3:5 paraphrase)

Then he draws the net in verses 21-23,

Therefore, let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;  
Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life,  
or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

## Satan's Slingshot

And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

(I Corinthians 3:21-23)

That's a command: Let no man glory in men. It will destroy the church. It exalts self and self is dead. If God is using a certain person in your life to minister to your life, it's because He knew your needs and chose to meet them that way. Praise HIM. That person may be gone tomorrow, but the God who meets your needs will *always be there*.

Pebble 5 flies through the air and Satan says, "If all else fails, be proud of how spiritual you are, or because of all the spiritual things you do." I believe this is his most effective ploy of all. You have a quiet time. Good for you. You share your faith. Good for you. You give generously. Good for you. You serve faithfully. Good for you. Those are things you must do, but keep quiet about them.

Jesus warned of the dangers of becoming proud of your spiritual disciplines in Matthew, chapter six. Remember? He said this,

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Therefore, when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seest in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

(Matthew 6:1-4)

Then Jesus goes on, "When thou prayest... when ye fast...". Jesus says your spiritual disciplines are no cause for glory, no reason for pride. He is saying that you can only receive glory for them once, either here on earth or when you get to heaven. Boast of them here and that's your reward. Keep them between you and God and do them only for His glory, and your God, who sees in secret, will keep those rewards stored up for you to enjoy for all eternity.

Beloved, if you are really becoming spiritual, you don't have to tell anyone. If you are faithfully memorizing Scripture, let your life demonstrate it, Don't ruin it by making it your topic

## Satan's Slingshot

of conversation at Christian fellowships. The same thing is true of physical disciplines. Nobody is interested in how far you jog but you. Don't be a bore. If you are becoming healthy by eating bean sprouts or boiled squash, let your good health speak for itself, and let them glorify your Father in heaven who invented bean sprouts and boiled squash. God hates pride in anyone or in anything, because it takes glory designed for Him and places it on people and things that were not designed to wear it. Memorize these verses from II Corinthians,

But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. (II Corinthians 10:17,18)

You might want to add I Corinthians 1:29-31,

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (I Corinthians 1:29-31)

In other words, anything you glory in other than the person of Jesus Christ is sin. You cannot boast of your wisdom or of your preacher's wisdom. Christ is your wisdom. You cannot boast of your righteousness or your group's righteousness. Christ is your righteousness. Let no flesh glory in His presence. Stop talking about your church, your Bible study group, your teacher, your methods, your spiritual disciplines, your faithfulness, your anything. Romans sums it up,

For OF Him and *through* Him and *to* Him are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)

6- Satan's slingshot has at least one more missile in it, and it may well be the most divisive of all. It is spiritual pride over our doctrine, our theology, our seminary, our philosophy. Paul talks in I Timothy 6:4 about "conceited men, proud men, who have a morbid craving for controversy, who love to dispute the meanings of words". The result of their arguing, he says, is envy, wrangling, slander, bad suspicions, perpetual contentions, using doctrine to draw crowds and raise money. "Hold fast to sound doctrine," Paul admonished; but pride over your right doctrine, that's a different matter. It breeds people and churches that are so spiritually smug and so spiritually superior that their concept

## Satan's Slingshot

of the body of Christ shrinks from day to day until they have narrowed the gospel to their interpretation and spirituality to their concepts. They lose their love, their compassion, their acceptance of others. Christianity becomes a seminary course where you dot the right "i's" and cross the right "t's" and become proud, arrogant, theological geniuses, good for nothing but sharing your exclusive point of view.

I believe a lot of us are going to be really surprised when we get to Heaven. There are going to be some folks up there who belonged to the church up the street whose doctrine was scandalous to those in our camp. And some of them will wear crowns of glory that wouldn't fit our swelled heads if God gave them to us. God has called us to pray for all the Body of Christ. He has called us to hurt when they hurt, to rejoice when they rejoice. Some of us forget we're running a relay race with the gospel. We think we're running against each other. We're supposed to pass the baton, not hit each other with it. The idea is not for the hand or the foot to look good, but for the whole body to win the race.

We've suggested this before, but let's try it one more time. Why not make a list of all of the churches in your city who preach Christ crucified, regardless of their labels, or regardless of their positions on those other issues upon which salvation does not depend, and why not pray regularly for their success, for their blessing, for their fruitfulness. If you are working or serving in an interdenominational ministry, why not take the names of those who are serving in other groups whose objectives are the same and pray regularly for them that God might be glorified in their midst? They are not your competitors. They are your co-laborers. You're on the same team. Why not begin to share prayer requests between churches and between groups?

You say, "But I wouldn't feel comfortable worshipping there". That may be to their credit. But regardless, no one is asking you to worship there. You may not belong there. But the hand can still pray for the foot without having to wear shoes. The ear can pray for the eye without having to wear glasses. And how many of you still pray earnestly for the church you used to belong to? You say, "But they don't preach the Word the way I like it." That's all the more reason to pray.

Satan wants to break the Body into little pieces and set one part of Christ against another. What blasphemy! How can Christ

## Satan's Slingshot

be divided? How can one part of the Body war against another and not, in effect, destroy the whole Body? It cannot.

The issue, you see, is pride — pride in who we are, pride in what we've done, pride in how we're different, pride in what we know, pride in why we do what we do; pride in our program, our plants, or our people. Satan has loaded his slingshot with the pebble of pride, but he has sugar-coated it with a spiritual mentality, and we have fallen for it, hook, line, and sinker. It's not a new problem. In Mark, chapter nine, Jesus, with His disciples in Capernaum, sat them down and began to question them about why they had been arguing on the journey there.

And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? [*What were you guys fussin' about?*]

But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. (Mark 9:33-35)

Spiritual pride. It is so subtle, so disguised in spiritual robes that we miss it. Satan has taken that old rascal "self", yanked him out of his coffin, dusted him off, and set him on the front pew. He has filled his slingshot with pebbles of pride camouflaged as spiritual righteousness, and unless we, as evangelical Christians, put on the whole armor of God, the church in this generation, with all of its numbers, all of its buildings, all of its media methodology, could well become a victim of its own success, until like Goliath, as it stands flexing its muscles and shouting in the streets of how strong it is, suddenly awakens to find itself lying on the ground, felled unsuspectingly by the deadly missile of spiritual pride.

God is not impressed with our evangelical arrogance. God is not even impressed with the distinctiveness of our doctrine. God is impressed when we become men and women who have learned to spiritually wash the feet of those who need it, who are so in love with Him that to share His glory would never enter our minds, who are so committed to exalting His name that to exalt our own would cause us to cry. He is after men and women who are not proud of their spirituality, not proud of their church, not proud of their leaders, not proud of their talents, men and women

## Satan's Slingshot

who are just in love with Jesus; men and women not too proud to fellowship with the downtrodden, not too theologically narrow to pray for the whole body of Christ, not too enamored with their talent to not pout if they can't be seen of men. They don't want to be seen unless Jesus is seen. God is looking for men and women who are willing to lay aside their robes of righteousness, take on the form of a servant and, like Jesus, give themselves away for one another. God may exalt us in due time; but if we choose to exalt ourselves, it will leave God no choice but to humble us—as individuals, as a church, and as the Body of Christ in our generation as a whole.

Satan's slingshot is loaded and ready. But he is powerless if you and I recognize the dangers of being impressed with who we are and quietly build our every thought on who God is instead.

### SATAN'S SLINGSHOT

Satan's slingshot's loaded,  
Just a tiny pebble inside;  
But it's aimed at the very heart of the church  
With a stone called "spiritual pride".

"Look at us; we're serving God!  
We pray, we work," (we fuss)  
"How could God not be impressed,  
That He has the likes of us?"

And all the while, a searching world  
Seeking Living Bread,  
Cannot see the Humble One  
For they see *us* instead.

Oh, blessed Saviour, may this day  
We fall before thy throne,  
And so transparent may we be  
That they see Him Alone!

## Satan's Slingshot

### For Focus and Application

1- How would you define "pride"? Why do you think it is so abominable to God? What other sins do you think issue forth from a prideful heart? How can self-condemnation be pride? What is the key ingredient?

2- If a prideful man is more disgusting to God than a fool, what does that say to you about His heart attitude towards pride? What do you think "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" means?

3- Why is spiritual pride so much more insidious than pride in our worldly accomplishments? How does Satan masquerade in order to do this?

4- Study the difference on page 6 between religion and Christianity. Why are these differences so crucial? How has the world equated the two?

5- Satan wants you to think that God needs your talents. His next step is to get you to think that *your talents, then, make you more spiritual*. Why does the Bible warn us about elevating new believers too quickly? How would you apply that to talented young Christians?

6- How has our 20th century Madison Avenue promotional atmosphere affected the church? How has this caused us to glory in our organizations and our numbers?

7- How has the ability to build huge plants to house our activities and our worship affected the body of Christ? What is the danger?

8- Why do we tend to glorify men and women who lead us or teach us or preach to us or entertain us? Why is this dangerous? What can we do about it?

9- Do you tend to let people know how spiritual you are by what you do? How can you stop doing that, while still maintaining the disciplines themselves?

10- How has sound doctrine become a divisive issue in our day? What is wrong with that? Does that mean we are to compromise our convictions? How can we achieve a balance?

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