

Proverbs 28:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

Analysis

He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife (רַחֲב־לֵב יַגְרֵה מַדּוֹן, rechav-lev yegareh madon)—רַחֲב־ (rachav, 'wide, broad') לֵב (lev, 'heart') suggests arrogance, the inflated ego. This יַגְרֵה (garah, 'stirs up, provokes') מַדּוֹן (madon, 'strife, contention, quarreling'). Pride demands its way, refuses correction, resents challenges. Proverbs 13:10: 'Only by pride cometh contention.' James 4:1-2 traces wars to selfish desires.

But he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat (וּבֹטֵחַ עַל־יְהוָה יִשְׁתָּן, uvoteach al-YHWH yedusshan)—בָּטַח (batach, 'to trust, be confident, secure') in יְהוָה (YHWH, the covenant name of God) results in יִשְׁתָּן (dashen, 'to be fat, prosperous, flourishing'). Biblical 'fatness' symbolizes abundant blessing (Genesis 27:28, Psalm 36:8). Security rooted in God produces peace; pride produces conflict. Humility trusts God's vindication; pride demands self-vindication.

Historical Context

Israel's history repeatedly demonstrated this principle: humble trust brought prosperity (Jehoshaphat, 2 Chronicles 20); proud self-reliance brought disaster (Uzziah, 2 Chronicles 26:16-21). Jesus embodied ultimate humility (Philippians 2:5-11), entrusting Himself to the Father; God exalted Him to the highest place.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Where does pride create strife in your relationships—and how might humility bring peace?
2. What insecurities drive your need to be right, to win arguments, to defend yourself?
3. How would deeper trust in God's vindication free you from proud self-assertion?

Interlinear Text

רָחֵב	לֵב פֶּשַׁע	יִגְרֶה	מַדּוֹן	וּבֵטֵחַ	עַל
He that is of a proud	heart	stirreth up	strife	but he that putteth his trust	
H7342	H5315	H1624	H4066	H982	H5921
יְהוָה	יִדְשֵׁן:				
in the LORD	shall be made fat				
H3068	H1878				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:25 (Creation): The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Proverbs 13:4 (Creation): The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 10:12 (Parallel theme): Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Proverbs 13:10 (Parallel theme): Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

1 Timothy 6:6 (Parallel theme): But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Psalms 84:12 (Faith): O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Proverbs 29:22 (Parallel theme): An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Proverbs 15:18 (Parallel theme): A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Proverbs 29:25 (Faith): The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 21:24 (Parallel theme): Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.