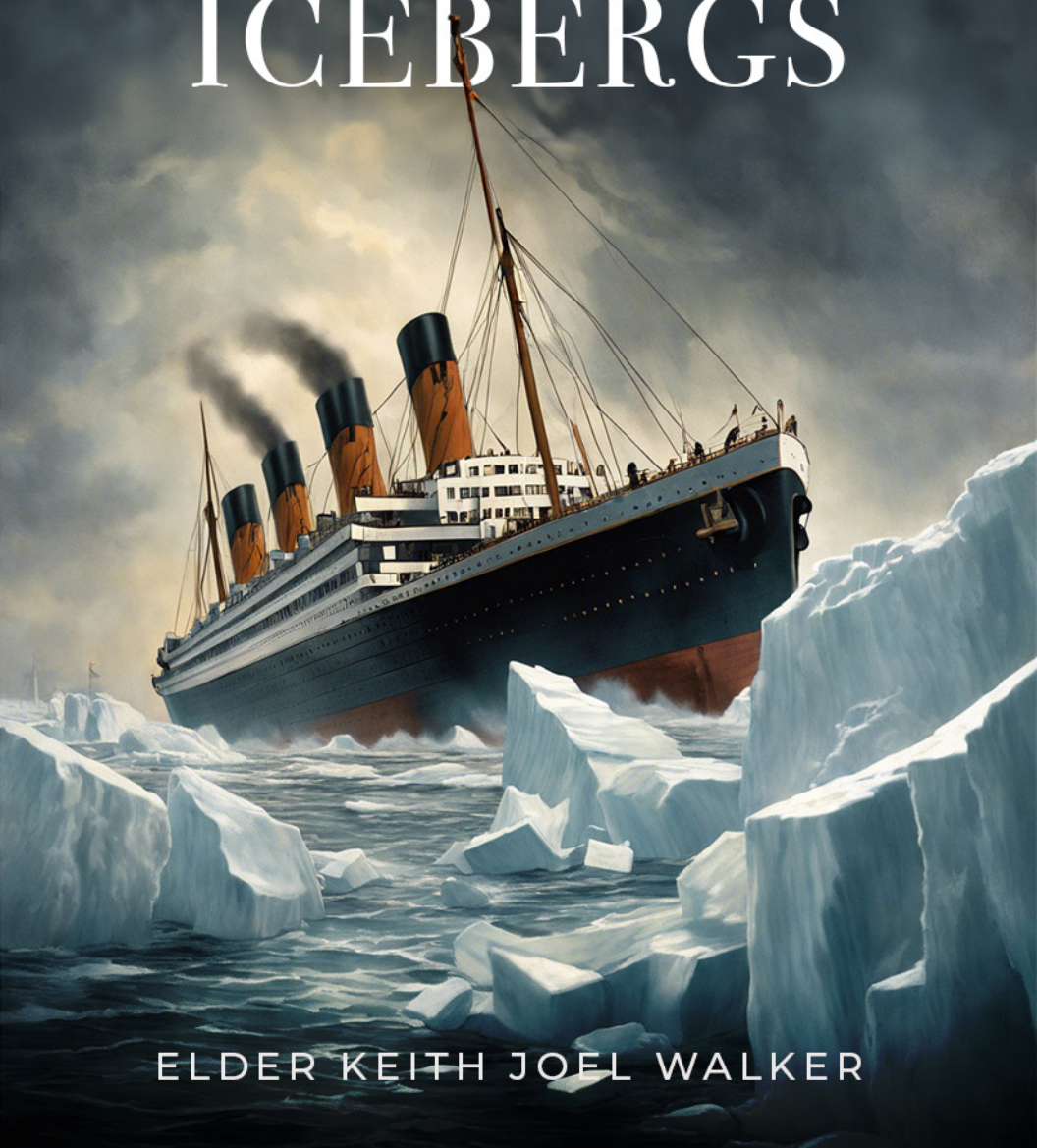


BEWARE OF THE ICEBERGS



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Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker



Introduction

“You are not the only pebble on the beach, nor the only tin can in the alley.” This metaphor serves as a reminder that we are all part of a larger body of Christ, and we must remain humble in our service. This booklet highlights the dangers of spiritual pride and the importance of humility, accountability, and community within the Apostolic Pentecostal faith.

Section 1

The Dangers of Spiritual Pride

Metaphor: The Titanic

- The Titanic was hailed as an unsinkable ship, a marvel of modern engineering. However, it met its fate due to pride and negligence—the captain ignored the warnings about icebergs.
- Moral: Just like the Titanic, pride can lead to our downfall. We must remain vigilant and humble, recognizing that hidden dangers may lurk beneath the surface.

Fable: The Frog and the Ox

- A frog saw an ox and wanted to make himself as big as the ox. He puffed himself up until he burst.
- Moral: In our attempts to elevate ourselves, we may lose sight of our true identity and purpose in God.

Allegory: The Tower of Babel

- In Genesis 11, humanity sought to build a tower to reach the heavens, driven by pride. God confused their language, scattering them across the earth.
- Moral: When we seek to elevate ourselves above God, we risk losing our unity and purpose.
- Poetic Reflection:
 - “In the shadows of pride, the heart grows cold, A ship without anchor, adrift and bold. Beware the icebergs, unseen and sly, For pride, like a tempest, will surely deny.”

Section 2 Scriptural Foundations

Scriptures from the Apostle Paul:

1. Timothy 6:4: “He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings.”
 - Meaning: Pride leads to division and strife within the body of Christ.
2. Romans 12:3: “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”
 - Meaning: We should maintain a sober estimation of

ourselves, recognizing our dependence on God's grace.

3. Galatians 6:3: "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."

- Meaning: Self-deception is a consequence of pride; we must remain humble and aware of our true state before God.

Allegories:

- The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27): Each part is essential, and no part can function independently. We must work together in humility and love.
- The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14): The Pharisee's pride led to his condemnation, while the tax collector's humility brought him justification.

Additional Allegory: The Blind Men and the Elephant

- A group of blind men encountered an elephant, each touching a different part and describing it based on their limited experience. Their pride in their understanding led to conflict.
- Moral: We must recognize that our perspective is limited and be open to the insights of others.

Section 3

The Call to Humility and Accountability

Clothed in Humility:

- Ephesians 4:2: “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.”
- We must embody the meekness and kindness of Christ in our ministry.

The Importance of Elders:

- Hebrews 13:17: “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account.”
- We need the wisdom and guidance of Apostolic Pentecostal elders to avoid the pitfalls of pride.

Grace and Mercy:

- Titus 3:5: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”
- Our salvation is a gift, and we must approach our ministry with gratitude and humility.

Poetic Reflection:

- “In the garden of grace, humility blooms, Where pride is a weed, and darkness consumes. Let us walk hand in hand, in unity’s light, For together we rise, in love’s pure delight.”

Section 4

Those Who Shipwrecked Their Faith

New Testament Examples (Paul's Writings)

1. Hymenaeus (Ἄ Hymenaῖος)

- Meaning: “Wedding song” or “a hymn.”
- Reference: 1 Timothy 1:20 - Hymenaeus, along with Alexander, was delivered to Satan for blasphemy and shipwrecked his faith.

2. Alexander (Ἀλέξανδρος)

- Meaning: “Defender of men” or “protector.”
- Reference: 1 Timothy 1:20 - Alexander is mentioned as someone who opposed Paul and also shipwrecked his faith.

3. Demas (Δημάς)

- Meaning: “Popular” or “of the people.”
- Reference: 2 Timothy 4:10 - Demas forsook Paul, having loved this present world, leading to his spiritual downfall.

Old Testament Examples

1. Saul (שאול)

- Meaning: “Asked for” or “prayed for.”
- Reference: 1 Samuel 10 - The first king of Israel who ultimately disobeyed God and fell from grace.

2. David (דָּוִד)

- Meaning: “Beloved.”
- Reference: 1 Samuel 16 - Although David was a man after God’s own heart, he committed adultery and murder, leading to significant personal and national consequences.

3. Solomon (שְׁלֹמֹה)

- Meaning: “Peaceful” or “peace.”
- Reference: 1 Kings 11 - Solomon’s heart turned away from God due to his many foreign wives and their idols, leading to the division of the kingdom.

4. Judas (יְהוּדָה)

- Meaning: “Praise” or “thanksgiving.”
- Reference: Although Judas is primarily a New Testament figure, his name is derived from Hebrew roots. Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, leading to his own demise.

5. Moses (מֹשֶׁה)

- Meaning: “Drawn out” (of water).
- Reference: Exodus 2 - Moses failed to enter the Promised Land due to disobedience (Numbers 20:12), reflecting a significant personal failure despite his leadership.

6. Aaron (אַהֲרֹן)

- Meaning: “Exalted” or “high mountain.”

- Reference: Exodus 28 - Aaron, though a high priest, participated in the making of the golden calf (Exodus 32), leading to a breach in Israel's covenant with God.

7. Gideon (גִּדְעוֹן)

- Meaning: “Feller” or “hewer.”
- Reference: Judges 7 - Gideon led Israel to victory but later made an ephod that became an object of idolatry (Judges 8:27).

8. Samson (שֹׁמְשֹׁן)

- Meaning: “Sun” or “service.”
- Reference: Judges 13 - Samson's strength was his gift from God, but his failure to uphold his Nazirite vow led to his downfall and eventual death.

Conclusion

In both the New Testament and the Old Testament, we see that individuals who experienced significant failures or challenges often did so due to pride, disobedience, or a lack of accountability. These examples serve as cautionary tales for us today, reminding us to remain humble and vigilant in our walk with God.

Final Thoughts:

- “Watch out for the little pebble; it may cause you to trip and fall.”

- We must remain vigilant against the subtle dangers of pride and self-reliance.
- Call to Action:
- Let us commit to serving with humility, seeking the guidance of our elders, and acknowledging the grace of God in our lives.

Additional Resources

Recommended Reading:

- “The Pursuit of God” by A.W. Tozer
- “Humility: The Beauty of Holiness” by Andrew Murray

Prayer and Reflection:

I encourage every reader to spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal any areas of pride in your life and ask the Lord to fill us with His humility. My sermon booklet serves as a comprehensive guide for Apostolic Pentecostal preachers to understand the dangers of spiritual pride and the importance of humility. It combines metaphoric storytelling, scriptural foundations, practical applications, and poetic reflections to encourage a spirit of humility and reliance on God’s grace.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker
Read and Obey Acts 2:38

