

The Tree: Hubris, Humility, and Hope – Ezekiel 31

Week 11 in *Visions of God* Series

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“They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do” Ps. 1:3

TREES GROW LARGE: Hubris is the great _____ .
(Ezekiel 31:1-9)

- Pride takes what _____ has given, and claims it as its own.
(Ezekiel 31:9, Deut. 8:12-14, 17-18, 2 Chron. 26:3-5, Prov 16:18)
- Pride _____ itself with others. (Ezekiel 31:5, 8)

TREES FALL DOWN: Humility is a _____ . (Ezek. 31:12-18)

- Humility will come to everyone, because everyone will _____ .
(Matt. 13:31-32)
- Embrace humility _____ . (Rom. 12:3a, 16)

BECAUSE OF ONE TREE: Hope is _____ . (Gal. 2:13)

Remember!

To allow God to change our hearts, we want to connect with Him. *The Daily Connections (Good Morning God, Spiritual Boost, Good Night Review)* open up our lives to allow God to change us from the inside out.

Good Morning God is to be done when we first wake up in bed at the beginning of every day. Your *Spiritual Boost* connects you with God's words in the Bible during the day sometime when you have 10 minutes of quiet. Finally, you finish your day with *Good Night Review*, and you allow God's joy and forgiveness to come to you as you drift to sleep.

These three spiritual exercises take only 20 minutes each day, and they have been part of following Jesus for many of Jesus' followers over the last 2000 years. Try it yourself and see how your relationship with God deepens and how you are fundamentally changed by spending time with God!

Spiritual Boost Bible Readings

Day 1: Ezekiel 13:1-9 – This chapter gives a word picture of a mighty tree. Ezekiel's message to the king of Egypt describes the former greatness of Assyria and gives a warning to Egypt not to follow the same pattern.

- ✳ Who the true source of my strength and beauty? Thank God for His gifts.

Day 2: Ezekiel 13:10

- ✳ Why did God allow Egypt to be destroyed? Ask God to reveal any areas of your heart where there is arrogance or a tendency to forget Him.

Day 3: Ezekiel 13:5 & 8; Luke 18:9

- ✳ In these verses we see overconfidence and comparison. Do I ever compare myself with others? Do I consider myself better than others?

Day 4: Ezekiel 31:12-18 – A word picture of Assyria's fall and warning to Egypt.

- ✳ Read verse 14 again. What is the ultimate end of both the high and beautiful "trees" (people/nations) and the less prosperous ones? And my physical end?

Day 5: Romans 12:3-16.

- ✳ What specific direction does God give us in verses 3 and 16? Take time asking God to protect you from overconfidence and pride. If we see this tendency in people of both the Old and New Testaments, is also common in hearts today.