

## IN WHO OR WHAT DO YOU BOAST?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.’”

When used as a noun the word boast means, “talking with excessive pride and self-satisfaction.” When used as a verb the word boast means, “talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements, possessions, or abilities. Who or what gives you self-satisfaction or pride? Who or what causes you to boast?”

Yahweh, through Jeremiah says there are three things you should not boast about. They are wisdom, strength and riches. This word from Yahweh is a difficult word for your old sinful nature to hear. Having wisdom, strength and riches is a desired goal for many. Note what Proverbs 11:28 says about trusting in riches, “He who trust in riches will fall. . .” In 1 Timothy 6:17 St. Paul tells Timothy to “instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” In regard to relying on your own strength the Disciples learned that after they had done what they could to catch fish, Jesus did what they couldn't. (Luke 5:4-6) Finally, Solomon wrote in Proverbs 3:7, “Be not wise in your own eyes” and Proverbs 26:28 “Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool . . .”

The words of Yahweh continue in Jeremiah 9:24, “let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. . .” Solomon expands on these words in Proverbs 3:5-12 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” These

words, were written by Solomon who was known as the wisest, strongest and richest man on earth.

Prayer: O Lord, through Your Holy Spirit, grant me faith to trust You for all my earthly and spiritual needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Entrust your days and burdens To God's most loving hand;  
He cares for you while ruling The sky, the sea, the land.  
For He who guides the tempests Along their thund'rous ways  
Will find for you a pathway And guide you all your days.

Rely on God your Savior And find your life secure.  
Make His work your foundation That your work may endure.  
No anxious thought, no worry, No self-tormenting care  
Can win your Father's favor; His heart is moved by prayer.

Take heart, have hope, my spirit; His wisdom rules for you  
In ways to rouse your wonder At all His love can do.  
Soon He, His promise keeping, With wonder-working pow'rs  
Will banish from your spirit What gave you troubled hours.

O blessed heir of heaven, You'll hear the song resound  
Of endless jubilation When you with life are crowned.  
In your right hand your maker Will place the victor's palm,  
And you will thank Him gladly With heaven's joyful psalm.

Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen; With joy our spirits bless  
Until we see the ending Of all our life's distress.  
And so throughout our lifetime Keep us within Your care  
And at our end then bring us To heav'n to praise You there.  
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