

# **NO ONE HAS DIED FROM SWALLOWING HIS OWN PRIDE!**

By Keith Greer

"Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." {Proverbs 16:18,19}

We've all known Christians who suffered needlessly because they were unwilling to swallow their pride. Sometimes people are wrong, mistaken, or outright liars who get caught. What should a person do? "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." {1 John 1:9} When we are wrong, mistaken, or caught in a lie, the easiest way to solve the problem is to do what this verse says. Consider the following:

**Pride brought destruction on Saul.** "Then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore, I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you...'" {1 Samuel 13:12,13} Saul made a mistake. At a time when he was weak and fearful, he offered a sacrifice when he should have waited for Samuel to do it. This mistake brought consequences – Saul's throne would have no dynasty; he would be the first and last king from his family. Why couldn't he admit his fault?

**Naaman swallowed his pride.** "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, 'Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.'" {2 Kings 5:15} Naaman had left in a rage, thinking the prophet should have done something different – but he was still a leper. One of his servants convinced him to follow Elisha's instructions, and he was cleansed. Naaman returned and thanked the prophet – he had been wrong, and he knew it!

Many things can cause us to be stubborn and unwilling to acknowledge that we have overstepped our boundaries. Let's strive to remain humble, willing to admit we're wrong, repent, and learn to do better. The wrong type of pride can result in spiritual death! \*\*\*