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What Do I Have to Boast About?

920-A

Series: Living Lessons From Proverbs

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ONE GREAT TRUTH

One great truth of the Christian life
Is that whether you're old or you're young,
The crucial battles are often
Still won or lost with the tongue.

So often the things we proudly proclaim
In our witness from day to day,
Are nullified by the very same tongue
And destroyed by what we say.

One such example is "boasting".
"Oh, He's everything." we proclaim.
"And of ourselves, we are nothing.
All our power is in His name!"

But then, from these very same lips of ours
There comes, "Look what I have done!"
And in thousands of ways, with boastful lips,
We steal glory from God's own Son.

Boast? —Oh, beloved Christian friend,
Of what? God paid the price!!!
We have but one of which to boast
His name... is Jesus Christ!

That poem in a few verses captures the essence of this study of the sins of the tongue. The issue is boasting, and we are continuing our journey through a study of those tiny sparks that set ablaze such great fires. Those sparks James tells us, come from a weapon no man can tame: The Human Tongue. He describes the tongue as a flame of fire that sets afire forests of lives. And it, he says, is set on fire by hell itself. James goes on to say that this seemingly insignificant instrument praises God in one breath and moments later it is cursing men and women who were made in the very likeness of the God they praise. Beloved, he concludes, this ought not so to be.

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This study of the fires of a boastful tongue shouts a hearty “Amen” to that charge of unheavenly hypocrisy. For the Christian who shouts in His testimony, “Of mine own self I can do nothing,” and then subtly underlines his conversations with echoes of his own accomplishments leaves behind him the wreckage of a confused world.

“Just what is this Christian life, anyway?” they wonder. Does God do it all? Does man do it all? Or as the evangelicals say, does the balance fall between man’s availability and God’s ability? If so, “What have they to boast about?” they wonder. Our goal for this lesson is to answer that question.

As always, we must begin by defining the terms at the center of our study. Our key word today is the word, “Boast.” The dictionary defines “boasting” this way,

To boast:

- to brag about one’s own accomplishments, talents, or possessions
- to speak with excessive pride
- an expression of vocal vanity

It is, from a Scriptural sense, verbal self-exaltation. It is man’s attempt to bring glory to himself thus diverting a portion of that glory which was designed to be given only to God. So boasting is serious business. It is self-exaltation and self-glorification. That’s what boasting is.

But the key to any expression of human worth or significance is how it fits into God’s scheme of divine self-worth. Human self-worth and divine self-worth are incompatible terms. In Christ you are everything, in Christ you can do anything, in Christ you are more than conquerors, heirs of God. All power is yours.

The wisdom of the ages is yours for the taking. You can be wiser than your teachers, wiser than the ancients, the Psalmist promises. That’s divine self-worth. You were so potentially valuable, God died for you!

Your value rests not in what you are or who you are, or what you’ve done. Your value is the result solely of where you are. You are in Christ. And God saw you there, Paul exclaimed, even “before the foundations of the world.”

You take an ordinary pen and place it in the hands of a

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Shakespeare, and it is of inestimable value. Is it because the pen is so magnificent? No, because it is in magnificent hands.

Place a piano before a Van Cliburn and it becomes a symphony of sound. Place it in front of me, and it becomes a disaster of discord. In his hands it makes music, in mine it makes noise.

Place a microphone in the hands of one who sings like Caruso, and the microphone becomes an instrument of joy. Place it in my hands and let me sing, and this auditorium would be emptied in seconds.

In the Master's hands, you and I are instruments of inestimable worth. With these simple lives, He can pen paragraphs of praise, play melodies of miracles, and sing anthems of amazing grace to a lost world. But we're the instruments; we're not the composer. Left to ourselves, the best we could produce, God describes as "filthy rags." So, "What have we to boast about?" That's the question of questions.

From a theological standpoint, we have absolutely nothing to boast about, but boast we do. The questions, therefore, are twofold:

- 1) Why do we boast?
- 2) Why is boasting such an affront to the character of God?

The answers are:

We boast because it is Satan's nature to boast, and he knows all such boasting denies God's preeminence in our lives. So whenever Satan can, he will call attention to self and to man's "ability either to do without God" (that's rebellion) or "to do for God" that's religion.

The one thing Satan cannot stand is Lordship. That's Christianity! Lordship places man under God's authority, makes him impotent apart from God, and invincible when controlled by God. Satan hates Lordship.

In Isaiah we read this account of Satan's fall and cause of it:

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
(Isaiah 14:12 NIV)

Now here is the echo of a boastful spirit:

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on

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the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.
(Isaiah 14:13,14 NIV)

Talk about boasting! “I can do it,” Satan bellowed. “I’m the one who can!” But you see, the power of positive thinking apart from the sovereignty of God is a dangerous, destructive disease. Some say, “I can do it because I think I can. It’s what you think that counts.” Others echo, “I can do it because I say I can! Saying will make it so!”

But what does God say?

We give thanks to you, O God, We give thanks for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds.

You say, “I choose the appointed time; it is I who judge uprightly.

When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.

To the arrogant I say, ‘Boast no more,’ and to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up your horns.

Do not lift up your horns against heaven; do not speak with outstretched neck.”

No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man.

But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.
(Psalm 75:1-7 NIV)

So we might add, “What have we to boast about?” We boast simply and purely because it is Satan’s nature to boast. Satan’s humanistic religion is so engraved in the philosophy of our society that we allow it to seep into the reservoirs of our theology unnoticed, and out comes a deadly mixture of Lordship and selfship that ruins the Christian and confuses the world.

Man proclaims, “I’m the one who can!” It’s a lie. You’re not the one who can. But Jesus proclaimed, “I’m the one who can’t!” and

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him [self] the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
(Philippians 2:6,7 KJV)

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Then clearly declared,

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. (John 5:30 NKJV)

He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. (John 7:18 NKJV)

Jesus came declaring that apart from the Father, he could do nothing. And in John chapter 15, He declared that apart from Him, we can do nothing.

So you would have to ask, “Then what have we to boast about?” Apart from Him, we have nothing to boast about. But it is the nature of Satan to boast and to declare man as productive, independent of God. It’s what he told Eve, “Go for it! You can be like God.” It’s what he told Jesus, “Go for it! You can make it without the Father.” And it’s what he tells you, its what he tells me everyday. It’s the nature of Satan to boast, so he will in a thousand ways try to entice us to do so. This verse confirms it:

For everything in the world—the cravings of this sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.

(I John 2:16 NIV)

So that answers question 1, “*Why are we so tempted to boast?*” Because it is one of the most basic characteristics of Satan’s personality and he gives it a high priority as a basis for attacking Christians.

Question 2, was this: “*Why is boasting such an affront to the character of God?*” For the answer to that we go back to John 7 and read more closely. There Jesus said,

He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory;

(John 7:18 NKJV)

The issue is one of glory or honor. The world wants to bestow glory somewhere, so it points to three things in man, if you remember our dictionary definition: his talents (natural abilities); his accomplishments (fruits of his efforts); and his possessions (things he has accumulated). If the world can bestow glory on man, it elevates man, thus eradicating man’s need for God. The whole world’s system is designed to GLORIFY MAN.

God meanwhile did not design man to wear glory. Glory is a

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garment custom-tailored only for deity. He rather designed man as a vehicle, a conduit to channel glory from man back to God.

The world is a glory dispenser, man is meant to be only a glory conduit because God is designed to be THE GLORY RESERVOIR. But Satan has assigned to each of us a glory bucket. He has lied to us and told us we can keep a certain amount of the glory for ourselves. (“A boasting bucket” might be a better term.) And every time we boast, either subtly or overtly) about “our talents” or “our accomplishments” or “our possession,,” we are stealing glory from God, siphoning praise belonging to him into our “boasting bucket” where like the manna the Israelites tried to store, it will only spoil and smell. It will stagnate. It has no place to go!

Revelation clearly states where all the glory has to go.

“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, And by Your will [Thy pleasure] they exist and were created.”

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV)

Boasting is not a laughing matter with God.

May the Lord cut off the flattering lips and every boastful tongue

that says, “We will triumph with our tongues; we own our lips—who is our master?”

(Psalms 12:3,4 NIV)

Boasting is a great temptation because it is a primary characteristic of Satan’s personality. Therefore it is a cardinal weapon in his arsenal to attack the nature of God. Boasting is an affront to God because it accrues to man glory intended only for God Himself. For He is all and He does all and by Him all things exist. To Him, and only Him, be all praise and honor and glory.

It’s the nature of Satan to boast. It’s the nature of Christ to transfer all glory to the Father. It’s the choice of every man continually throughout every day, whether to obey Satan or God, whether to store glory or transfer glory. If, by your conversation you call attention to:

YOUR talents, YOUR accomplishments, or YOUR possessions,
YOU are boasting... and YOU are stealing glory from God.

God is specific in scripture. Not only does He say that we should not boast or steal His glory, He lists specifically the things which we are tempted to boast of and warns us in each case of

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the pitfalls. WHAT A GOD OF DETAIL WE HAVE!

Let's take a trip through the scriptures right now and look one by one at some of the things about which we are never to boast. There are dozens of them. For the sake of time, we'll only examine a few and mention but a few more in passing. Our goal is to keep our glory buckets empty. For after all, "What have we to boast about?"

We'll look first at those found in the book of Proverbs, then proceed from there. Here is a spiritual checklist to help us keep our glory buckets empty:

Admonition 1- Don't boast about tomorrow. (Don't boast about the future.) God makes it so clear:

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. (Proverbs 27:1 NIV)

The Living Bible says it this way:

Don't brag about your plans for tomorrow—wait and see what happens.

We are not to boast of our plans, but we are to plan! Jesus said which of you would go to battle or begin building without first counting the cost. We are to plan, but Proverbs sums it up this way:

We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God's hands. (Proverbs 16:1 TLB)

So what do we have to boast about? We are to plan. But we are not to boast of our plans or to presumptuously assume God owes it to us to fulfill our plans.

It's wonderful, for instance, to plan your business for the coming year, and then quietly lay those plans at God's feet for Him to do with as He chooses. But that "We're gonna reach two million this year" mentality or that "We'll be number one by Fall" kind of boasting is simply not of God. It presumes He wants you to be #1, thus presuming it would be spiritually good for you. It presumes He doesn't want your competitor to be #1 (which you couldn't possibly know).

You've met guys like that, haven't you? Maybe you look at one in the mirror every morning. The whole flow of their conversation is a river that runs back to them, and it all presumes on what they're about to do! They're gonna win the title this year. Ever

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notice everyone's going to win before the season starts. They're gonna win the election this fall. Have you ever met a man that said he might lose? They're gonna capture the market. They're gonna lose 50 pounds. Don't you get tired of hearing how they're gonna lose that same 50 pounds every year? They guarantee this year will be different! It may be, but then again, it may not be. Boasting will not make it so. Boasting presumes it's God's will, and boasting presumes you'll be there to make it happen (which you don't have the right to presume). God says don't do that. And James tells us why:

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Instead, you ought to say, If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.

As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

(James 4:13-16 NIV)

It's not, "I'm gonna do this." That's boasting. It's, "If the Lord wills, I plan to do this." That's WISDOM.

It's not just tacking on the words, "Lord willing," after every sentence, either. It's the spirit that quietly yields to God's sovereignty and knows it to be best; that makes it right. That transfers all the glory on to God, and leaves none to siphon off for your boasting bucket. So do not brag about how much weight you plan to lose (just lose it!) or how well your children will do, or how big your church will get, or how much money you're going to make.

James says, "All such boasting is evil." Instead, quietly make your plans. Pray and begin to be faithful. Once God makes it happen, (if He chooses to do so) those about you will know it's happened, and you can quietly give God the glory. So don't boast about the future. That's admonition 1.

Admonition 2- We are not to boast about our accomplishments.

Let another [man] praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips. (Proverbs 27:2 NKJV)

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Whatever you have accomplished is of grace; therefore, only God deserves the credit. Just quietly acknowledge His miracle-working power whenever others call attention to what you've done, but let them bring up the subject. Let others praise you, the Spirit says. It should never come from your lips. It's not our place to initiate any conversations that are designed to draw attention to us. If God wants us to have praise, He'll place it in another man's heart to do so. We're not to be our own P.R. men, and churches ought to exhibit the deepest form of humility in their expressions of praise. So often you hear, we've had 6,000 conversions this year, or we've raised \$12 million dollars, or we've built seven new buildings, or we've sent \$1 million to missions. So what? God did it; we didn't, and He can double it if He chooses or cut it in half if He chooses. He sets up one. He puts down another.

And stop boasting about your marriage. If it's that good, the world will know. If it's not, I guarantee they'll know. Even if it is, it's God's grace in answer to God's principles. So what do we have to boast about?

Don't boast about your children, either. If they've turned out well, praise God. If not, keep praying. But either way, what do we have to boast about? They're God's children. If He wants them praised, let Him raise up someone more objective to do so. Let's face it; when we're praising our children, we're really praising ourselves. They're our accomplishments, and it's simply not God's will for us to boast of our accomplishments. Read Isaiah 10 where God condemns the King for his boasting of his accomplishments.

For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done this, and by my wisdom, because I have understanding.

(Isaiah 10:13 NIV)

Therefore the Lord, the Lord Almighty, will send a wasting disease upon his sturdy warriors;

The light of Israel [God] will become a fire, their Holy One [will become] a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briers.

The splendor of his forests and fertile fields it will completely destroy, as when a sick man wastes away.

And the remaining trees of his forests will be so few that a child could write them down.

(Isaiah 10:16-19 NIV)

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You want to see God remove His mantle of authority from your life or from your church or from your ministry? You start taking credit for what He's done. Give glory to your methods, give glory to your manpower, give glory to your message, and God, having been robbed of His glory, will remove from your midst the glory that is His. My friend, when HIS glory departs, so will your success! Many a man and many a ministry, both on the pages of scripture and the pages of history, rise up to say, "Amen." Dear God, may we not join the ranks of those who lost their power because they boasted of their accomplishments. Dear God, it's all of you. So what have we to boast about?

There are so many Uncle Harry's around. Uncle Harry won the war single-handedly. The only difference between Harry and General Patton was Patton had a better press agent. So at dinner, a simple "pass the carrots" reminds Harry of a carrot-topped lad he rescued on a mission in World War II. The kids think it was the Revolutionary War, but nobody cares. That war was over long ago, but it was the last glory Harry got so he relives it over and over and over. He's only alive by God's grace, so what has he to boast about?

Cousin Bill's another one. "Bill the Bull" they called him in college, a 280 lb. dynamo of a lineman. Now Bill the bull just shoots the bull about his "good old days" at Hardluck High. Now he's a 360 lb. tub of lard, but in his mind, he's still trim and slim and built to win. And every football game he watches he has to play Howard Cosell. (And he gets the same response Howard does.) What's wrong with Bill? He, too, is still basking in the last glory he had. It's a long time ago. But the glory's gone!

Man's glory vanishes. Man forgets. God's glory lasts, God remembers! Man's glories are treasures on earth. They are trophies that corrode and decay; trophies thieves can break in and steal...the thief of time, the thief of later failures, the thief of progress.

Our boasting over spiritual accomplishments is even more disgusting. Don't boast about how many people you witnessed to. You're bartering a heavenly reward for an earthly audience that's unimpressed anyway. Who cares how many verses you've memorized? God does, so tell Him. But we don't, so don't tell us.

When we boast about our accomplishments we steal God's glory and what have we done that HE didn't do? So what have

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we to boast about?

Admonition 3- We're not to boast about our possessions.
Listen to these Psalms paraphrased:

There is no need to fear when times of trouble come, even though surrounded by enemies!

They trust in their wealth and boast about how rich they are,

yet not one of them, though rich as kings, can ransom his own brother from the penalty of sin! For God's forgiveness does not come that way.

For a soul is far too precious to be ransomed by mere earthly wealth. There is not enough of it in all the earth to buy eternal life for just one soul, to keep it out of hell.

(Psalm 49:5-8 TLB)

What the Psalmist is saying is that you can take the richest man in all the earth, and if he were willing to give every cent he owned, sell all his houses, his stocks, his possessions and pay every cent just to redeem his brother from the penalty of sin, he wouldn't have enough for a down payment! In other words, everything in the physical realm combined does not build a ladder tall enough to reach the basement of God's spiritual treasures.

With that perspective in mind, no matter how rich we are, what have we to boast about? And Deuteronomy brings it back down to reality:

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

(Deuteronomy 8:17,18 NIV)

God says so what if you're rich? God gave you the ability to amass that fortune. That gift was a gift. Use it wisely. Praise God for it, but don't boast about it! Remember:

"...The LORD gave, and the LORD has taketh away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."
(Job 1:21b NKJV)

Job was the richest rancher in his part of the world in chapter one of Job. By chapter 4 he was one of the poorest. Job 42:10 indicated his fortune returned and doubled. God gave...took... and gave again, but the intervening chapters indicate he learned

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more of the character of God when he had nothing than he ever did when he had everything. That knowledge of God is spendable in eternity. All of his riches weren't.

But you don't need to be rich to be boastful of things. Some of the richest men I know are humble, and some of the poorest clutch at every possession and boast that they have it. The key is attitude.

Don't flaunt your new car, just be grateful and drive it. Got a new suit? Wear it in good health and be thankful, but don't talk about it!

Got a new TV? or a DVD? or a new computer? Great! Enjoy it. But don't slip it into every conversation around those who would like one but can't afford it boasting. Whatever we have, God gave us the power to purchase. So what do we have to boast about?

Admonition 4- Don't boast about your wisdom or your strength. That includes any of the natural attributes God gave you: your beauty, your talent, your intelligence, your memory, your athletic ability, or your wisdom. Jeremiah makes that clear.

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,

But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I AM the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight.

(Jeremiah 9:23,24 NIV)

God was so concerned about this very problem that He deliberately refused to call many who were counted wise by human standards, or influential, or of noble birth.

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,

So that no one may boast before him.

(I Corinthians 1:27-29 NIV)

God says you wouldn't dare boast of your wisdom. I chose you to demonstrate that I don't need man's wisdom. So what do you have to boast about?

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God says you wouldn't dare boast of your strength. I chose you to demonstrate my strength through your weakness. So what do you have to boast about?

God says you wouldn't dare boast of your importance. I chose you to demonstrate my power through the insignificant. So what do you have to boast about?

Admonition 5- Don't boast about your spirituality or brag about your faith. Ephesians 2:8 and 9 says even your faith was a gift from God. It was not of works. It was nothing you did. You say why? Read the end of the verse.

...lest anyone should boast! (Ephesians 2:9b NKJV)

In Romans 3 Paul asked what then have we to boast about concerning our salvation? Then in verse 27, he answers, "Nothing!" GOD did it all!

Admonition 6- We're not to boast about our spiritual leaders, our denomination, our preachers or our teachers or anyone else. Paul addresses this issue and says it all:

What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?

(I Corinthians 4:7 TLB)

So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours,

And you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

(I Corinthians 3:21-23 NIV)

In other words, what do YOU have to boast about?

Admonition 7- Don't boast about your ministry or your calling. It's so subtle, but so deadly. It is men setting themselves apart as spiritual supermen because God has called them to a more visible ministry. Paul said, "Nonsense."

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.

(I Corinthians 9:16,17 NIV)

You may have a visible role in Christian work, and you strut

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around the community, as though you deserved some special recognition from the world for your calling—Stop it!

The world is unimpressed anyway. Paul said it's the natural man that wants to boast about my calling to preach as though it was my doing. "That's a laugh," Paul said. "I have no choice but to preach. I would be miserable if I didn't." If that's the case, he seemed to be saying, then what have I to boast about? Of course, there are many more, but there aren't any more minutes to share them.

In I Corinthians 5:6, Paul said stop boasting about your legalistic observances while you allow impurity in your midst. Sometimes boasting is a cover-up for a dirty heart.

In Proverbs 20:14 we were warned not to boast over the bargains we made at another's expense.

In Psalms 10:3, 52:1, and 94:4, we were warned of the gravity of boasting over our sins. In Proverbs 25:14, we are admonished not to boast of gifts we have not given. In Romans 2 Paul dealt with the Jews for their boasting, and in Romans 11 he scolded the Gentiles for boasting of their place in God's scheme of things. Jew or Gentile was not the issue; Jesus was the issue, and Jesus did it all! So Jew or Gentile, Paul was saying, what have we to boast about?

Do you get the picture? Thus far, we have defined boasting, decided why it is such a temptation (because it is such a part of Satan's character). We've looked into why God feels so strongly about it (because it steals His glory). And we've listed from the Scriptures a dozen or so things we definitely shouldn't boast about. But I hate to leave the subject of boasting on such a negative note because the Scriptures very clearly identify some things we as Christians ought to boast about!

God seldom takes something away that He doesn't give us back something better. And in addition to the reasons we've studied in this lesson, I believe one of the main reasons God doesn't want us to boast about all these things is that He's got something far better in mind for us to do with our minds and with our tongues. *He wants us to boast of Him—who He is—what He's done—what He's said.* We're not to waste our time stealing his glory; we're to use our time telling His story. So the Scriptures go beyond our instruction not to boast of ourselves, and exhort us that we have something and someone to boast about.

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I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

(Psalms 34:1-3 NIV)

Boast Beloved! Open wide your lips and boast, but boast only of Him. Then those around you will hear your boasting and rejoice and GLORIFY the Lord with you. You will have been a conduit delivering the glory on to God, where it belongs.

My constant boast is God!

(Psalms 44:8a TLB)

That's the answer. Now back to Jeremiah 9:23 where we read,

Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, or strong man of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, (NIV)

Remember? That's the negative side. But listen to the end of the passage:

But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I AM the LORD...

(Jeremiah 9:24 NIV)

Remember I Corinthians 1:26?

Not many wise...not many noble, are called?

(NKJV)

Remember why?

That no man may boast before him.

Now look at the conclusion. (It is a reference from Jeremiah 9:24.)

Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

(I Corinthians 1:31 NIV)

Beloved, that's what the Psalmist did. He "boasted in the Lord." Instead of pouring hours into extolling his own wisdom or his own power or his own might, he simply poured out his heart on paper boasting about God. When it gets to the bottom line, the world isn't interested in what we can do. They've seen the likes of us come and go a thousand times.

You want to know what they're looking for? They would like to know what our God can do!

They don't know Him.

They don't know He's indwelling.

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They don't know He's eternal.

They don't know He's omniscient.

They don't know He's omnipresent.

They don't know Him.

And yet He picked you up out of the miry clay, set your feet on a rock, established your way, and put a new song in your heart, all in spite of who you are and regardless of what you've done. He delivered you from an eternal hell and guaranteed you a private home in an unending paradise where His glory will not be diminished but rather multiplied. And both He and His gift are theirs for the taking.

My friend, you have something, you have someone to boast about! So he that would boast let him boast of the Lord! Oh, if we would take the time this year, every time Satan prompts us to say something that would bring glory to ourselves, just to stop! And quietly but consciously, make the spiritual switch and deliberately begin boasting if you please of the greatness of our God. Wouldn't Satan be frustrated? Not only would our selfish boasting have ceased, but what he meant for evil God could once again turn into good. And the more he harasses us to boast of ourselves, the more frequent becomes our boasting of Christ: *His Word...His works...His ways...His worth.*

The more we boast of Him, the more we ought to hunger to study more deeply into the depth of His character; and the more we meditate on His character, the more of which we have to boast. That sounds like a year worth living! That sounds like a story worth giving! All the glory will go to Him, and is not that where the glory belongs? He's everything! He's Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting God, Prince of Peace. Let's shout it. I'll boast of Him and Him alone, for compared to Him, what have I to boast about?

What Do I Have to Boast About?

WHAT HAVE I TO BOAST ABOUT?

What have I to boast about?
What story could I tell?
That I, a worthless sinner
Was on my way to hell?

I have no power of which to boast,
My power is found in Him.
I have no wisdom worth a song,
My path was bleak and grim.

When Jesus came and took my life
And through His grace and care,
This worthless piece of stone became
A jewel, rich and rare.

Now, I've no cause to boast, my friend,
Of what I would have been,
If left to my own selfish ways
To live my life in sin...

But oh, I've cause to boast of Him.
My heart sings all day long,
For He re-tuned my broken chords
And made of me a song.

What have I to boast about?
As through life's days I trod?
I have this to boast about,
I boast about my God!

I shout about His righteousness,
I boast His Word is true!
I gently sing about His grace
And I pray—you'll trust Him too!

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