



—**Sin**— hinders the work of God.

“All who belong to the Lord must **turn away** from evil.”  
*2 Timothy 2:19*

If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every **good work**. *2 Timothy 2:21*

We hinder the work of God with —**pride**—.

“*Pride is spiritual cancer.*” C.S. Lewis

“God **opposes** the proud but gives grace to the humble.” *James 4:6*  
Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble, but he **keeps his distance** from the proud. *Psalms 138:6*

Pride leads to —**destruction**—.

Pride goes before **destruction**, and haughtiness before a fall.  
*Proverbs 16:18*

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled...” *Luke 14:11*

But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his **downfall**. He sinned against the Lord his God by entering the sanctuary of the Lord’s Temple and personally burning incense on the incense altar. *2 Chronicles 26:16*

Uzziah, who was holding an incense burner, became furious. But as he was standing there raging at the priests before the incense altar in the LORD’s Temple, leprosy suddenly broke out on his forehead. *2 Chronicles 26:19*

How do we get rid of pride?

—**Humble**—yourself.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.  
*James 4:10*

1. —**Admit**— you are proud.

“*If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell them the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud.*” C.S. Lewis

Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves... *Romans 12:3*

2. See everything in your life as a —**gift**—.

What do you have that God hasn’t given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?  
*1 Corinthians 4:7*

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

### Introduction

God is always working. He invites us to partner with Him, and the choices we make can either help or hinder the work He wants to do in us and through us.

### Discussion Questions

1. The Hindrance sermon series has revealed four ways we can hinder the work God wants to do in us and through us – the wrong perspective, a lack of faith, hypocrisy, and pride. In which of these areas do you find your biggest opportunity for improvement? **Why?**

How has the teaching in this series caused you to evaluate your ability to be used by God, and your relationships with others?

2. Read Ephesians 2:10, 2 Timothy 2:21, and Colossians 3:5-10. God’s plan is to use us to accomplish His will. As believers, how does the sin we fail to put to death become a hindrance to what God is trying to accomplish?

Danny said, “I believe pride is the root of all sin.” When you look at the lingering sin in your own life, how difficult is it to agree with Danny’s statement? **Why** do you think this idea is difficult to accept?

3. Read Proverbs 16:18 and James 4:6. Pride leads to a fall because God sets Himself up against you. In order to get rid of pride we must first admit that we are proud. Look at the statements below and circle any you see in your own life.

I find it difficult to apologize.  
I have a judgmental spirit.  
I feel the need to be in control.

I am often unable to reach out for help.  
Anger often drives my decisions.  
I have a difficult time receiving criticism.

How do the actions/traits listed above indicate unhealthy levels of pride?

Read Romans 12:3. What specific steps can you take to recognize the pride in your life?

4. Another way to get rid of pride is to see everything in your life as a gift from God. In 1 Corinthians 4:7, Paul wrote, “What do you have that God hasn’t given you?”

What are some areas of your life that are easy to recognize as gifts from God? **Why** are these areas so easy for you to acknowledge? What are some areas of your life where it’s not your natural tendency to see them as a gift from God? **Why** are these areas more difficult to acknowledge?

What steps can you take to create this necessary shift in your perspective of what you have?

### OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

#### OUR CHURCH

Ask your small group leader about serving opportunities at Emmanuel. We need help with the host team, in the Children’s Ministry, on the production team and on student ministries teams.

#### OUR COMMUNITY

As a group, think about skills, talents and passions you are able to use together, such as helping a single mom with yard work, visiting a nursing home to spend time with the residents, or repairing a vehicle for someone who can’t afford to pay. Start discussing and praying about ways you can help meet the needs of those around you.

#### OUR WORLD

Start praying and planning for your opportunity to be a part of an Emmanuel team who travels to support one of our mission partners. For a list of our Global Mission Partnerships and the dates for upcoming trips, go to [eclife.org/next-steps/serve/global/](http://eclife.org/next-steps/serve/global/).

### Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

I’m accountable for \_\_\_\_\_, and their action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_

This coming week, I’m praying for: \_\_\_\_\_