


 | A Communication of TBC Student Ministries

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On Spiritual Pride

Don't miss Super Bowl XLVI

2012 Missions Conference

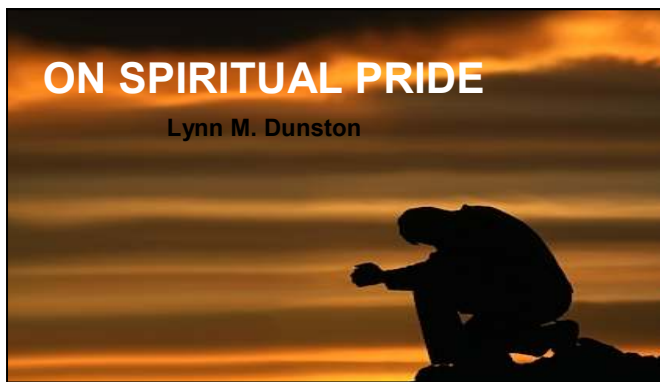
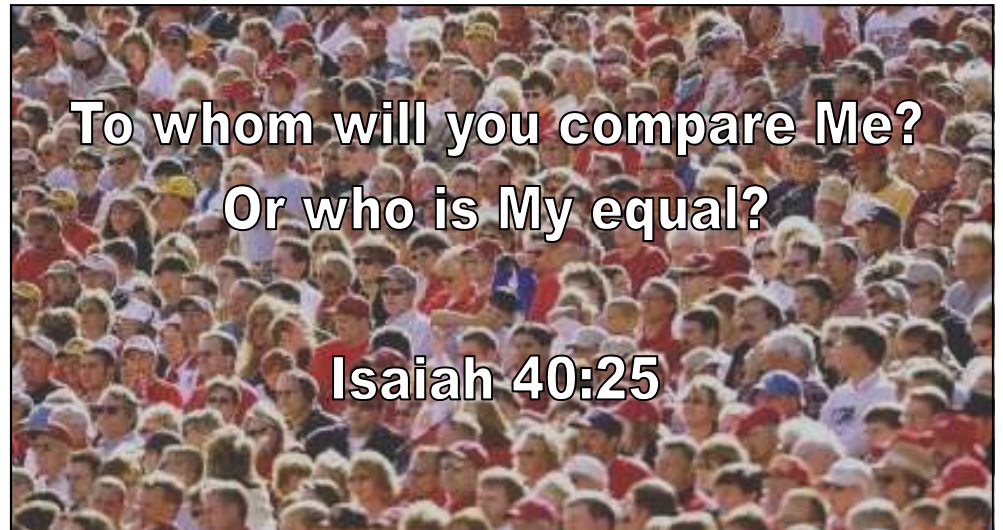
The Powells

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Here's a thought provoking piece that reminds us of our profoundly small thoughts of God and our vastly disproportionate and unrealistic view of ourselves. How important is it that we escape the proud self-delusion that deceives us about ourselves and blinds us to a true perception of God? You decide. ***"God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" James 4:6.***

"Pride is an ugly thing. I'm not talking about the kind of pride we feel when our country makes us proud, nor am I talking about the kind of pride that little Johnny's parents feel when he kicks the game-winning goal. I'm talking about an ugly spiritual pride—the kind of pride that lurks within all of us. This is the kind of pride that causes the boss to speak condescendingly to her employees because they haven't attained to her level of "success." It's the kind of pride that causes the Harvard student to roll his eyes at the community college student. This kind of pride makes the religious person grow cold in his affection towards God because his life has been free of major crises, and has never needed one of those dramatic "conversions."

The problem with spiritual pride, however, is that it's always relative. That is, when we compare ourselves *by ourselves*, we always appear shiny and polished. When we are the standard by which everyone else must be measured, then we are certainly nothing less than a limited edition. As John Calvin aptly put it, "As long as we do not look beyond the earth, being quite content with our own righteousness, wisdom, and virtue, we flatter ourselves most sweetly, and fancy ourselves all but demi-gods" (38).

The cure for this spiritual malady, of course, is to obtain a new mirror. For as soon as one gazes into the reflection of the truly Divine, then one begins to recognize all of the scratches, the variously shaped dents, and the multiple layers of imperfection that were mysteriously invisible in the old mirror called Self. All of a sudden what once appeared so magnificent—the promotion, the academic appointment, the prestige of success—now appears to be nothing but attic dust. All of this is what happens, says Calvin, when one gazes on God's holiness:

Suppose we but once begin to raise our thoughts to God, and to ponder his nature, and how completely perfect are his righteousness, wisdom, and power—the straightedge to which we must be shaped. Then, what masquerading earlier as righteousness was pleasing in us will soon grow filthy in its consummate wickedness. What wonderfully impressed us under the name of wisdom will stink in its very foolishness. What wore the face of power will prove itself the most miserable weakness. That is, what in us seems perfection itself corresponds ill to the purity of God. (38).

My friend, if you find yourself sick with the dreadful disease of spiritual pride—a disease to which none are immune—take pains to be cured. Don't hesitate, for this is a matter of urgent importance. Gaze intently on God's holiness and pray that his Christ would reveal to you the depravity of your disfigured heart. For in so doing, you will not only be given a new mirror through which the true reflection of Beauty can be seen, but you will also find a new and truer reflection of yourself."

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. Vol. 1. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.

Don't miss **Super Bowl XLVI**

... brought to you by tbc student ministries

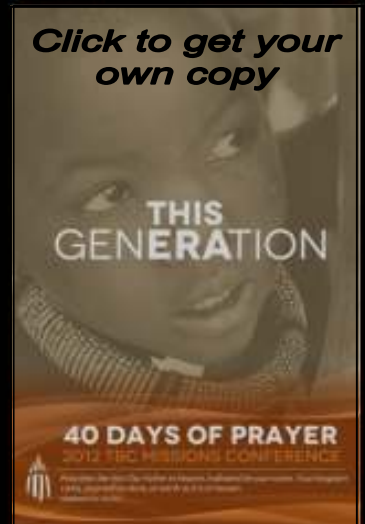
PARTY

Feb. 5th - 5:15 to 10:00 PM - TBC Gym - 7th-12th Grade - \$3.00 - Friends are FREE!

Don't miss out on this great event. **YUMMY** food, **AWESOME** prizes, **FUN** games! Invite your non-tbc friends, they're **FREE**. And don't forget to make your own signature commercial. Remember, all commercials must be submitted on disk for approval by February 1st. Hope to see you there.

RSVP to amoss@tulsabible.org

2012 TBC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

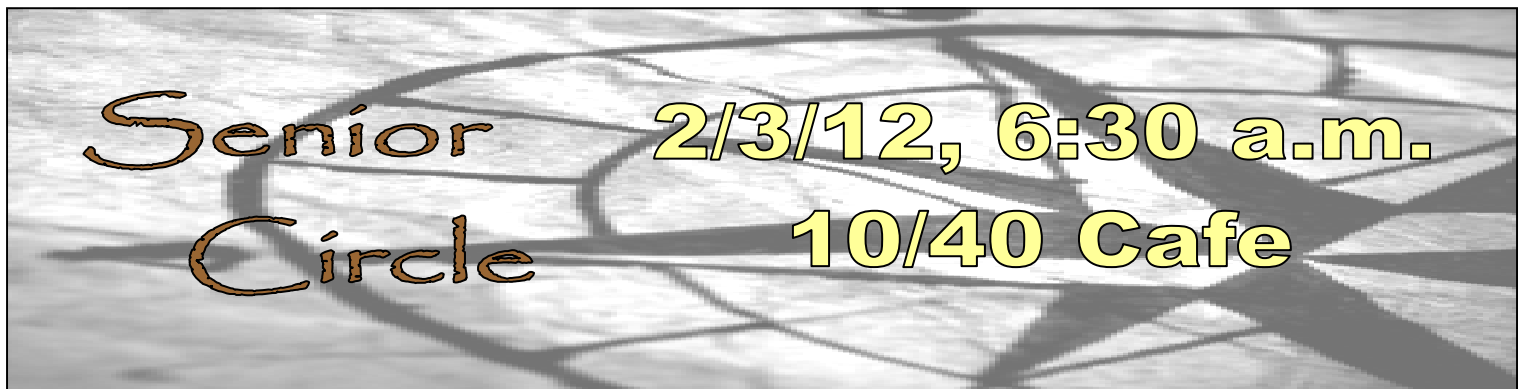


2011 Year-End Review





- Jr. & Sr. Retreat - March 2-3**
- Family Camp - April 13-15**
- Senior Banquet - May 4**



Sundays, 8:45 AM, Junior High & Senior High Sunday School



MAKING HOUSE CALLS

A physician's visit to an ailing child opens the door to a new remote medical clinic in Kenya

"This is Kyle. Where is she? Now? I'll be right there!" Dr. Kyle Jones dropped his cell phone into his pocket and sprinted into the darkness along the rutted, muddy road that led to Kapsowar Hospital, a remote mission hospital in the hills of northwestern Kenya.

In less than five minutes, he delivered healthy twin boys to a woman lying on a gurney in the entryway. It was another typical evening at the hospital.

"You're always on call," said the young physician from Tulsa, Oklahoma. "You never know what to expect."

When Kyle completed his medical residency, he and his wife, Vanessa, packed up their three young sons and headed for Kenya, following in the footsteps of missionary pioneers who had served at Kapsowar Hospital since it started as a small dispensary in 1933.

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Andrew Moss, Student/Family Pastor, Tulsa Bible Church 5838 S. Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74145
918.499.1513 x 206, www.tulsabible.org, amos@tulsabible.org