

A Landmine on the Path of the Believer

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One of the most damaging weapons ever invented is the landmine, an explosive mechanism that detonates when disturbed. This device is difficult to see and usually isn't discovered until it is too late. In other words, landmines are a hidden danger designed to maim or destroy whoever happens across them.

These destructive traps are a fitting description for the subtle snares that await Christians engaged in kingdom work. Just as landmines are set on trails, beneath roads, and in fields during physical warfare, Satan's traps lie in the pathway of believers. Spiritual landmines can be every bit as dangerous as their mechanical counterparts—in fact, even more so, when you consider eternal implications.

That is why church leaders are prime targets. Since pastors, teachers, and others with authority are in a position to impact large numbers of people for Christ, it stands to reason that the Enemy desperately wants leaders to be rendered ineffective. Our Adversary knows our vulnerabilities; he is an expert regarding which temptations and tricks are most likely to derail discipleship and soul-winning efforts.

Pride is a particularly devastating landmine; it is also one of Satan's favorite tools for disrupting Christian lives and influence. Defined as undue attention to one's self, accomplishments, position, or possessions, this attitude is hateful to God. ([Proverbs 6:6-19; 16:5](#)) Unfortunately, it is not a rare problem, and mature believers are just as vulnerable to its lure as anyone else. ([2 Chronicles 26:16](#)) If we take our eyes off God to exalt ourselves instead, the Lord will not bless our ministry efforts.

Because this sinful attitude is detestable to the Lord, it hinders our relationship with Him and short-circuits the Holy Spirit's work in our life. Then, our effectiveness as leaders or ministry workers is severely diminished. In addition, arrogant people make foolish mistakes because they cease to seek godly wisdom—that is why the Bible warns, "**Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling**" ([Proverbs 16:18](#)). In fact, one of the worst consequences of pride is that it breeds prayerlessness, which is debilitating for the child of God.

Be aware that pride is deceptive: Satan will often exalt us when we do well so that we will be tempted not to rely upon the Lord. To avoid this treacherous landmine, begin each morning talking to the Father and meditating on His Word. Ask Him to set the direction for your day as well as for your life. By acknowledging your dependence upon Him, you will be able to recover from your wounds or, preferably, to avoid the trap of pride altogether.