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Turn Back the Battle: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today  
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(Deror Books, Dec 2012)

## Chapter 6

Yesterday's faith is not sufficient for today  
Isaiah 22:8-11 & chapters 38-39

### Questions for discussion and reflection

1. Why is it imperative that we look to God before we confront suffering, persecution or threat?

How does pride work to prevent us from doing so?

2. What potentially can make our strengths and successes dangerous and limiting?  
(Consider: Proverbs 16:18)

Discuss how this works.

3. What potentially can make our weaknesses and failings a source of strength and empowerment? (Consider: 2 Corinthians 12:9 -10)

Explain how this works.

4. Pride might start out like an insignificant victimless flaw, but it grows quietly like a deadly cancer which we usually don't realise has thoroughly infected us until serious damage has been done.

But there is a remedy! What is the remedy for dangerous pride?

5. How do we 'take' this remedy? What should we be doing to nurture the dependent humility that empowers, while countering the arrogant pride that limits and destroys?

Prayer: *Keep me from dangerous pride.*

O Lord, my God and Father,  
you alone are worthy of worship and worthy of praise.

Forgive me for the times I have gloried in my success instead of honouring you,  
stealing your glory and giving dangerous pride a foothold in my life.  
Forgive me Lord for the suffering I have brought upon others  
because I let dangerous pride infect my thinking,  
and in arrogant independence did not seek your perspective, will or empowerment.  
O Lord, help me make things right.

Refine your Church, O Lord.

By means of redemptive discipline, reality corrections  
and tough-love born of divine wisdom and grace,  
purge from us the dangerous pride that poisons and deforms,  
and the arrogant independence that limits and destroys.

Help us maintain a realistic view of humanity and particularly of ourselves.  
May we thoroughly appreciate how utterly dependent upon you we are.  
Raise up Christian leaders that are humble  
-- willing to be led by you and open to being empowered by you --  
for multitudes are affected by the decisions they make.

Lord, I commit to living a Spirit-empowered life by means of humble dependence.  
I will not fear the frailty of humanity -- nor my own frailty.  
For while I am limited -- you are not!  
While I am bound by the laws of nature -- you are free!  
While I am mortal flesh -- you are eternal Spirit!  
And while I am fallen -- you are perfect in all your attributes.  
May I always remember that your strength is made perfect in my weakness.  
(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

For the sake of the Church and for the glory of the Lord,  
may I rest only in your glorious pastures,  
and never in my past glories.

*'Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!'*  
(Psalm 139:23-24)

Amen.

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