**Standing Strong (No Matter What Life Throws At You)!**

Part 6: HEAT

August 6, 2017

1. Name some areas in life that could easily lead to the temptation of pride.

2. Daniel 4:4 tells us that King Nebuchadnezzar was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity in his kingdom as he lounged in his palace; he was taking it easy and didn’t have a care in the world. When we are richly blessed, we ought to be praising God for His gifts. Why is it that during our most successful times, we tend to focus less on God?

3. Daniel warned King Nebuchadnezzar that he had grown arrogant and was ignoring God. And, as a result, the King was about to lose his kingdom and his sanity (v.24-25). Share some reasons someone might head down a destructive path and not heed God’s warnings.

4. Daniel went on to implore the King to change his ways, to stop sinning and to do what was right. Even when others have advised us, why do you think we put off doing what we know is right?

5. Nebuchadnezzar ultimately lost everything in his life for a period of time, but then came to his senses when he “looked up to heaven” (v.34). What are some practical steps we can take to “look up to heaven” instead of focusing on ourselves and on other things?

6. When Nebuchadnezzar’s sanity returned, he turned to God in praise and worship (v.34). Success can lead us into temptations that take our focus off worshipping God. But, we get better when we replace pride with praise. What have you made more important in your life than getting your focus back on God by worshiping Him, by having a consistent quiet time with Him, or by participating in a missional community or smaller group?

7. Nebuchadnezzar ultimately shared the story of the wonderful things God had done in his life (v.1-2). If God has saved you, if you have recovered from an addiction, if you’ve been healed in any way, with whom are you sharing your story? Or, do you find it embarrassing to share your experience with others? Since embarrassment is a pride issue, how can you overcome that?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we know that there are many areas of success that can lead us to complacency, temptation, pride, and idolatry. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to replace any pride in ourselves with praise to You; make us aware of warning signs (stress, chaos, or conflict) that get us into trouble or keep us from doing what we know is right. Lord Jesus, help us to live lives that exemplify Your greatness above anyone or anything and give us courage tell others how You have saved and changed us!