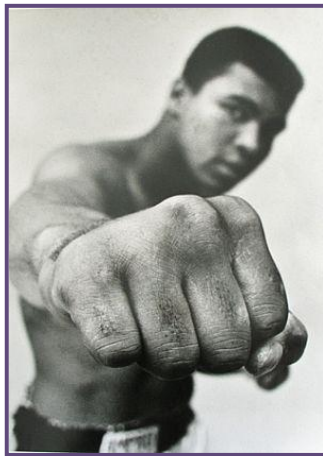


THE BOASTING OF ALI



Before his 1971 fight with Joe Frazier, Muhammad Ali said, “There’s not a man alive who can whup me.” And he jabbed at the air with his blinding left.

“I’m too smart,” he continued, and he tapped his head.

“I’m too pretty,” he proclaimed, showing the cameras his profile, like a bust on a pedestal.

“I am the greatest! I am the king! I should be on a postage stamp – that’s the only way I’ll get licked!” he shouted.

Then Ali proceeded to lose to Frazier.

Referring to that event in Ali’s career, Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., wrote in his book *Turning Points*:

“When confidence in one’s abilities and resources changes to pride and then becomes arrogance, there’s trouble ahead. Proverbs 16:18 states: ‘Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.’ So how do we find the balance? Simply by remembering that every gift, ability, talent and resource we have comes from God.

“There’s nothing sinful about recognizing and confessing what God has provided,” Dr. Jeremiah said, “but the difference between self-confidence and Christ-confidence is found in who gets the credit. A good way to keep this thought at the forefront of our life is to practice the art of thanksgiving. It’s hard to be too self-confident when we acknowledge we are nothing without God.”

In each of our nursing centers, we have an array of God-given talent. The beauty of His plan is that when we pool those abilities in one place with the mission of serving our Lord’s frail and infirm children, we are able to give them the care and compassion they need.

Live confidently – as long as your confidence is in Christ.

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God (Psalm 20:7).

– Beecher Hunter