

BIBLE STUDY CLASS: **Sin and Its Effects**

Righteousness By Faith

Central Valley Deaf Ministries - Fresno Central SDA Church

One Small Seed... Five Levels of Growth

It all starts with a seed of pride — and it grows into a full-blown sin.

Pride is the root. All five are the same sin.

1

SEED

Pride begins in the heart — a small thought, attitude, or desire to be better than others.

Proverbs 16:18

“Pride goes before destruction...”

2

SPROUT

It takes root in our thoughts and attitudes, shaping how we see ourselves and others.

James 1:14–15

“Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

3

PLANT

It grows in our words, choices, and behavior, leading to self-centered living and comparisons with others.

Galatians 5:16

“The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit...”

4

TREE

It becomes a strong stronghold in the heart, producing attitudes and actions that hurt others and dishonor God.

Proverbs 11:2

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace...”

5

FULL GROWN

It leads to open rebellion, separation from God, and spiritual death — unless it is uprooted and replaced by humility.

James 4:6

“God opposes the proud...”

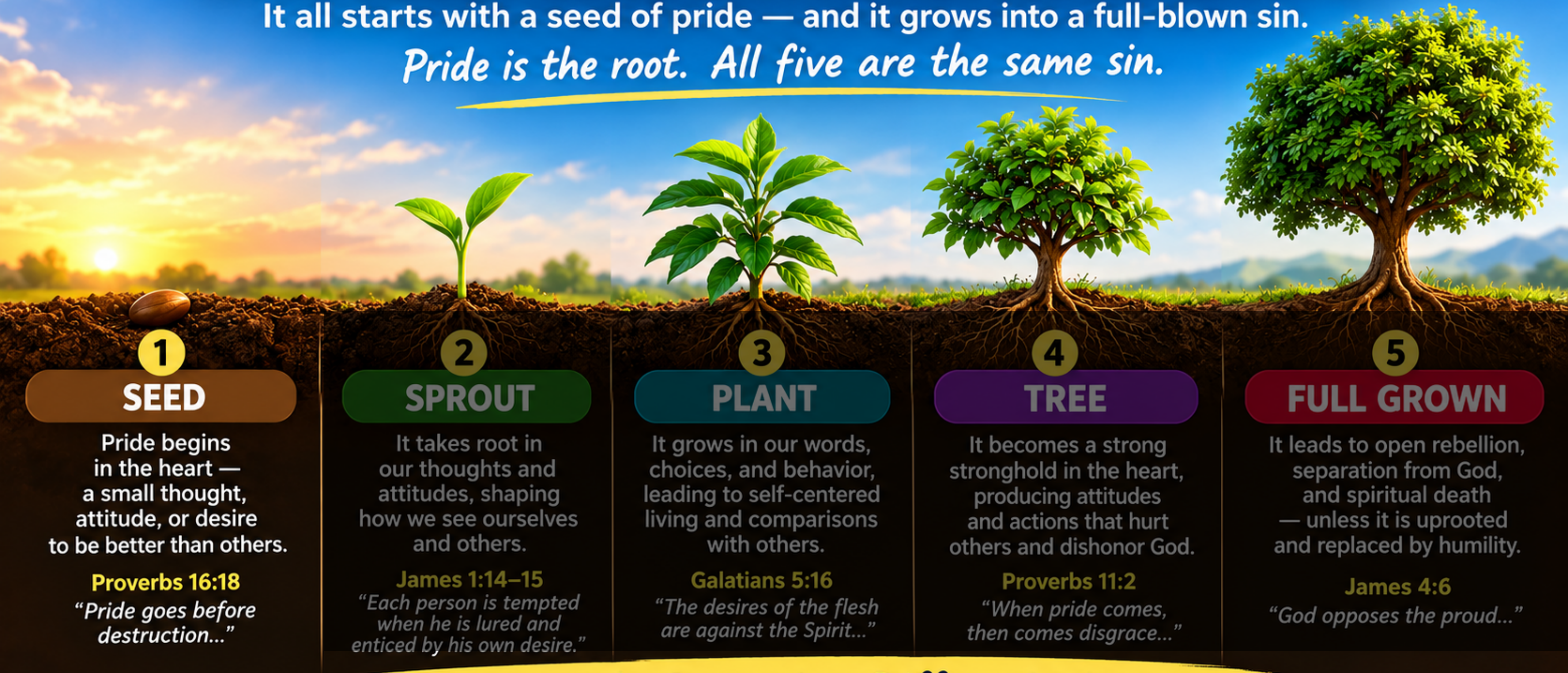
Same seed. Same sin. Different stages.

Let's choose humility before it grows.

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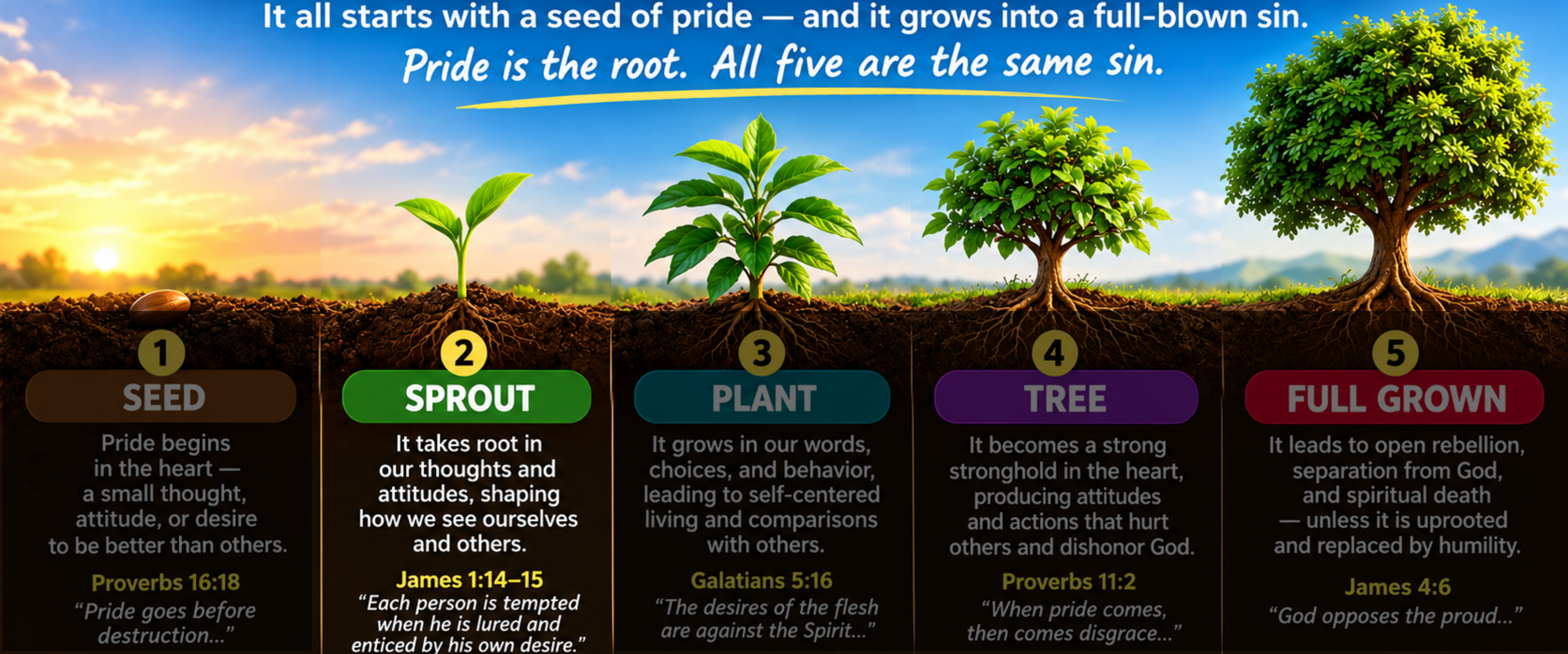
Proverbs 16:18-20 cw

Pride leads to self-destruction and arrogance to man's downfall. ¹⁹ It is better to be humble and remain poor than to be arrogant and live in luxury. ²⁰ Whoever pays attention and learns will prosper, and the man who relies on God will be happy.

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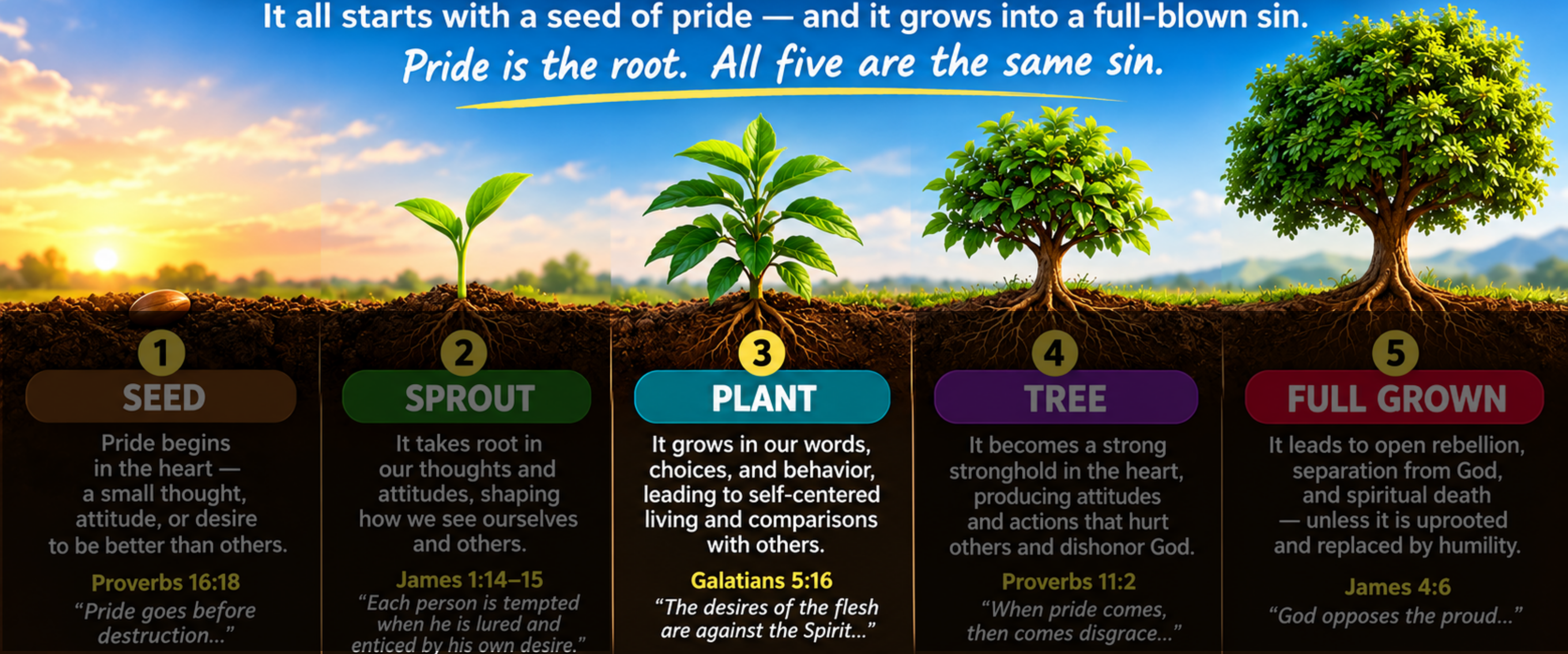
James 1:14-15 cw

Temptations come from the inside, from our own evil desires, and when we give in to them, we're lured away from God. ¹⁵ **When evil desires grow and mature, they give birth to sin, and sin brings death.**

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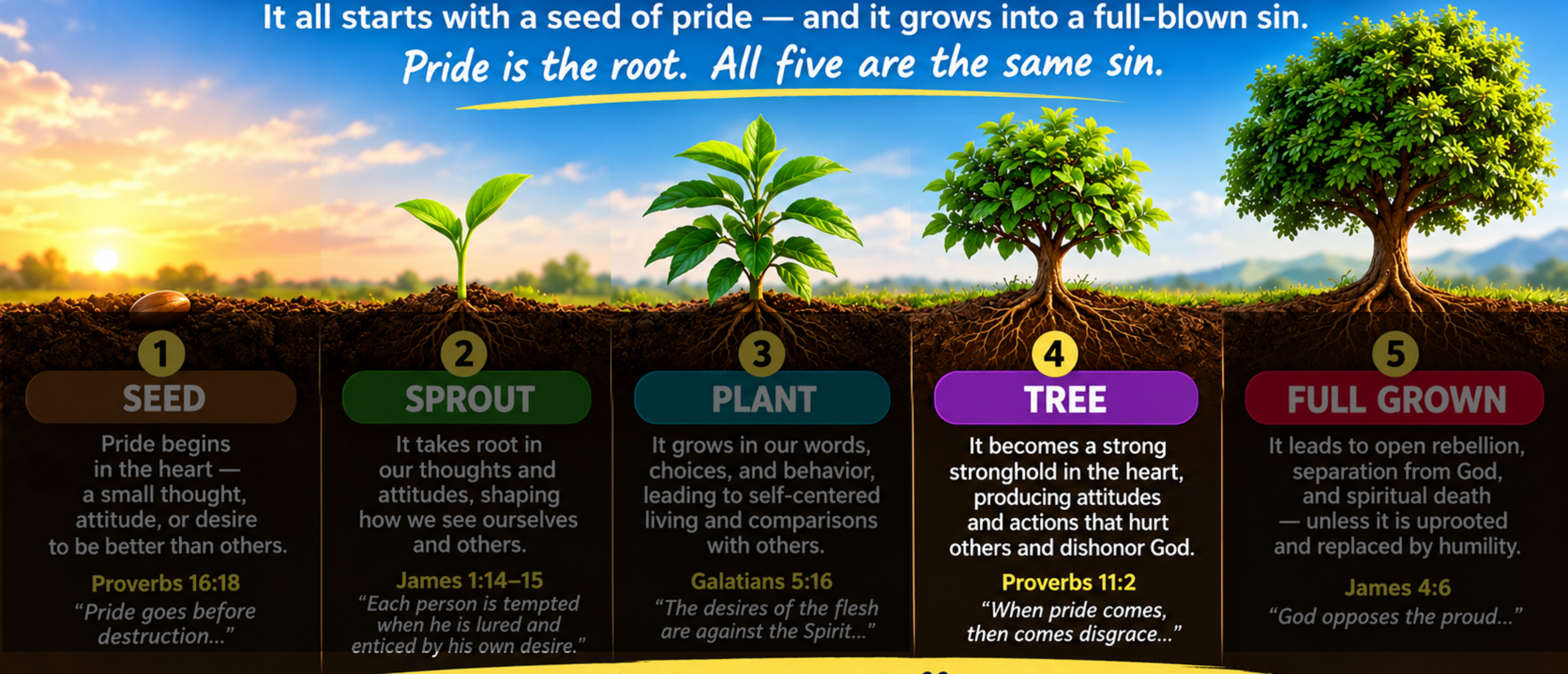
Galatians 5:16-17 CW

Let the Holy Spirit direct your lives, and you won't care about satisfying the desires of your sinful nature. ¹⁷ The desires of our human nature and the desires of the Holy Spirit are in conflict with each other. They're like two powerful forces pulling in opposite directions, so you can't always depend on what you feel as being the right thing to do.

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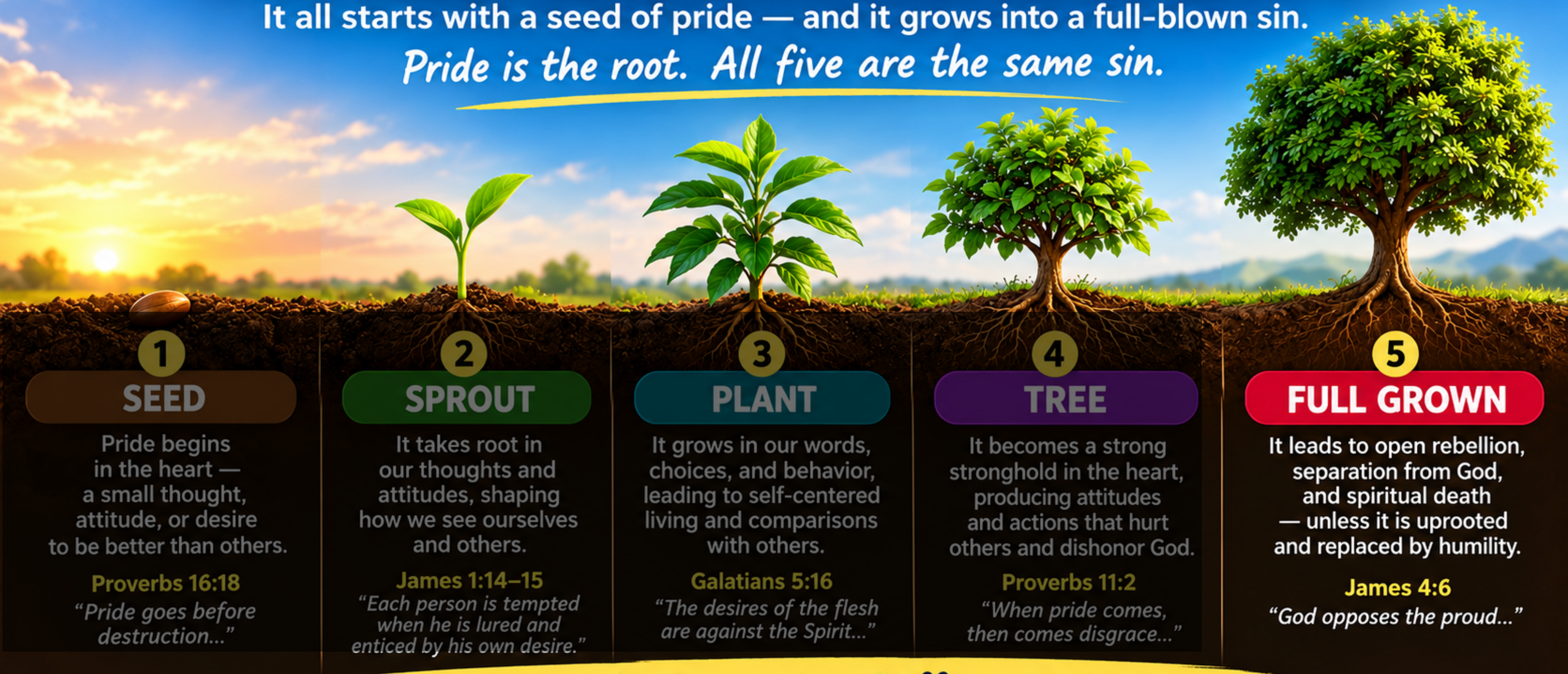
Proverbs 11:2 *cw*

Those who are proud will surely fall, but wisdom comes to those who are humble.

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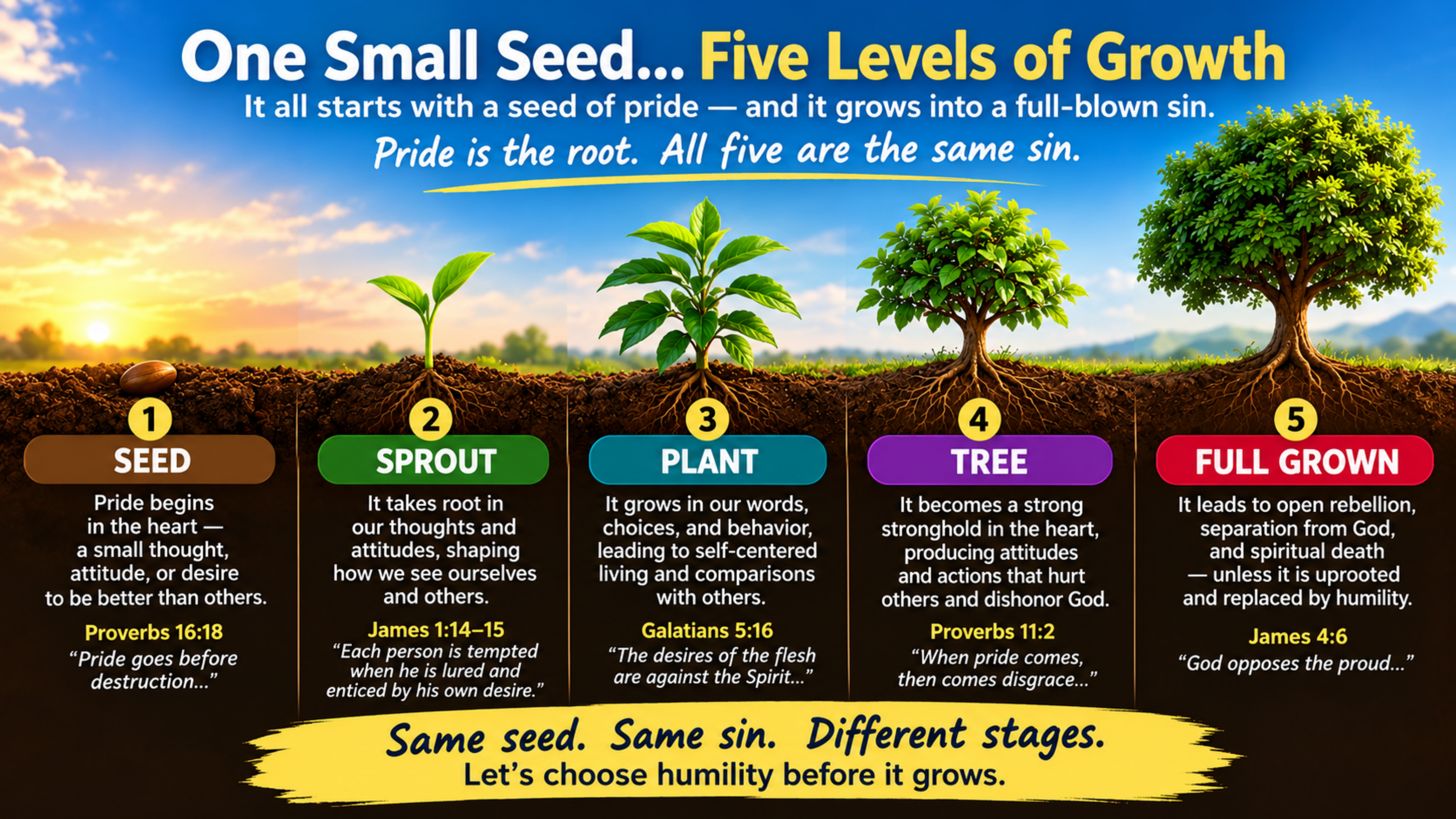
James 4:6 cw

This is **the reason the gospel was preached to you** and to those from among you who have now died. Men may set themselves up as judges, condemn you and even put you to death, but **God will reverse their judgment. God is our judge, and as surely as He lives, He will give us eternal life.**

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What Does “Self” Mean in Christian Discipleship?

Self becomes a problem when it insists on ruling instead of surrendering to Christ.

SELF ON THE THRONE

- I decide
- I control
- I protect myself
- I must have my way



CHRIST ON THE THRONE

- God decides
- I obey
- I trust the outcome
- “Your will be done”

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself...” – Matthew 16:24

How “Self” Shows Up

Different forms — but the same basic issue: Who is governing my life?

MY WILL

“I know what I want.”

CONTROL

“I must manage the outcome.”

PRIDE

“I need to be right or noticed.”

SELF-PROTECTION

“They don’t deserve forgiveness.”

COMFORT

“I’ll obey only if it is easy.”

INDEPENDENCE

“I can handle this myself.”

Self says: “My way.” • Discipleship says: “Christ’s way.”

What Does Yielding Look Like?

Yielding does not erase desire; it places desire under God's authority.

MY DESIRE

“Lord, this is what I want...”

I can tell God what I hope for, what I fear, and what I prefer.



GOD'S WILL

“...but I give You the right to say NO.”

“Not my will, but Yours, be done.”
— Luke 22:42

Surrender = desire + obedience + trust

The Heart Test

A simple question can expose where self is still demanding the throne.

**“If God says NO to what I want here,
am I willing to obey Him anyway?”**

NO — I must have my way

Self is still demanding the throne.

YES — I will obey

Christ is being allowed to govern.

**The issue is not whether I have a preference — but whether my
preference is LORD.**

From Self-Rule to Christ-Rule

The Holy Spirit progressively brings our desires, attitudes, and actions under Christ.



"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." – Galatians 2:20

Galatians 5:16–25: the Spirit does more than make us feel spiritual – He changes how we live.

Philippians 2:14 *NIRV*

Do everything without complaining or arguing.