

## Brokenness! Pride vs. Humility!

Psalm 51:17 / Psalm 34:18 / Isaiah 57:15 / Isaiah 66:2 / Psalm 147:3 /  
Isaiah 61:1 / Hosea 10:12b / Matthew 5:3

**I. Brokenness begins at conversion** (Luke 15:14-19)

**II. Brokenness in a believer manifests itself in a variety of ways**

(Psalm 32 and Psalm 51) (Rom. 12:17-21) (Acts 2:23-47)

**"BROKENNESS"** (Author Unknown) SOMETIMES it is asked what we mean by BROKENNESS. BROKENNESS is not easy to define but can be clearly seen in the reactions of Jesus, especially as He approached the Cross and in His crucifixion. **I think it can be applied personally in this way:**

**1.** WHEN to do the will of God means that even my Christian Brethren will not understand, and I remember that , "Neither did His brethren believe in Him" (John 7:5) and I bow my head to obey and accept the misunderstanding,

**THIS IS BROKENNESS.**

**2.** WHEN I am misrepresented or deliberately misinterpreted, and I remember that Jesus was falsely accused but He "held His peace," and I bow my head to accept the accusation without trying to justify myself, **THIS IS BROKENNESS.**

**3.** WHEN another is preferred before me and I am deliberately passed over, and I remember that they cried, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas," (Luke 23:18) and I bow my head and accept rejections,

**THIS IS BROKENNESS.**

**4.** WHEN my plans are brushed aside and I see the work of years brought to ruins by the ambitions of others and I remember that Jesus allowed them to lead Him away to crucify Him (Matt. 27:31), and He accepted that place of failure and bow my head and accept the injustice without bitterness,

**THIS IS BROKENNESS.**

**5.** WHEN others take unfair advantage of my being a Christian and treat my belongs as public property, and I remember "they stripped Him, " and "parted His garments, casting lots" (Matt. 27:28,35), and I bow my head and accept "joyfully the spoiling of my goods" for His sake, **THIS IS BROKENNESS.**

6. WHEN people expect the impossible of me and more than time or human strength can give, I remember that Jesus said, "This is my body which is given for you..." (Luke 22:19), and I repent of my self-indulgence and lack of self-giving for others, **THIS IS BROKENNESS.**

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A TESTIMONY OF THE POWER OF BROKENNESS... FROM REVIVAL WHICH TOOK PLACE IN EAST AFRICA, EARLY 1960s:

Later, they explained to me, "What we hear is not your sin, but God's work in your life. We hear you giving witness to God's power to break the chains of sin. Because we know that, left to ourselves, we can never go to a brother and confess to him, 'I have done foolishly, please forgive me.' **This only happens when grace takes over and pushes pride into a tight corner!**"

James 5:16 instructs us, "...confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." It is not the person who simply has the correct exegesis of this verse who knows its truth. It is the Christian who confesses his sin to his neighbor! Every time I met I MET ONE OF THESE BROTHERS, THEY would greet me with the same threefold challenge:

**"Are you repenting? Are you walking in the light? Are you being broken?"**

We must also remember that before we are a light to our neighbors and the world, we are first to be a light to our family in the home. Unless we are a light to One Another – To our families and to the Body of Believers to which God has joined us – WE WILL NOT SHINE AT ALL. The light that is in us will turn to darkness. We must first be BROKEN. **"Until God breaks your will, He will never use you. You will only remain a nice loaf of bread!"**

**III. HUMILITY- Our Greatest Friend! PRIDE- Our Greatest Enemy!** "...saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor (he who is humble) and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." (Isaiah 66:2b) Humility in our heart and expressed in our life brings the approving gaze of God!

"Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!" (Psalm 113:5-6) Almighty God sent His Son JESUS to this earth;

and JESUS became the best friend a sinner ever had! Jesus HUMBLED HIMSELF all the way to the cross! (Philippians 2: 1-8)

God Himself is the source and the Chief Example of humility! And so HE REMINDS US: Isa. 66:2b "This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My Word."

**"At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship— PRIDE IS OUR GREATEST ENEMY AND HUMILITY / BROKENNESS IS OUR GREATEST FRIEND!"**

GOD NOT ONLY HATES PRIDE— HE OPPOSES THE PROUD:  
James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5

#### **IV. A proud man vs. A humble/BROKEN man: Luke 18:9-14**

1. Proud People have their focus on the real or imagined failures of others.
2. Humble / BROKEN People are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.

#### **V. BROKENNESS / Humility is not an option**

It's the life to which every believer has been called— A life of living like Jesus who is the greatest example of true humility... 'THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU!' INDEED, WE ALL HAVE A TWO-FOLD GREAT NEED:

(1) MORTIFY OUR PRIDE! (2) CULTIVATE HUMILITY / BROKENNESS!

#### **How? Here is the CHIEF WAY:**

1. JOHN OWEN SAID: "Fill your affections with the cross of Christ that there may be no room for sin!"
2. Martyn Lloyd-Jones SAID:  
"There is only one thing I know of that crushes me to the ground and humiliates me to the dust, and that is to look at the Son of God, and especially contemplate the cross."

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.*

Nothing else can do it. When I see that I am a sinner...that nothing but the Son of God on the cross can save me,

I'm humbled to the dust...Nothing but the cross can give us this spirit of humility!"

3. JOHN STOTT SAID: "All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there at the foot of the Cross that we shrink to our true size."

**"Until God breaks your will, He will never use you. You will only remain a nice loaf of bread!"**

1. Proud People have their focus on the real or imagined failures of others.

2. Humble / BROKEN People are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.

Brokenness is the condition of being completely subdued and humbled before the Lord, and as a result, completely yielded to and dependent upon Him also. Psalm 34:18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite. Isaiah 66:2 "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word. Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.

Hosea 10:12b [God compares our hearts to a garden, and for a garden to bear fruit the ground has to be broken up so that it is able to receive water.] Break up your fallow [uncultivated, unseeded] ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.