

Your Brokenness

What does the Bible say about brokenness? Brokenness, in God's eyes, is being so crushed by the sin and darkness of the world that we recognize there is no place to turn but to God. David's life and brokenness is a perfect example. In this world, broken things are despised and thrown out. Anything we no longer need, we throw away and that includes people. The world is full of people with broken hearts, broken spirits and broken relationships. A contrite heart, a broken heart, a humble heart, these are just different ways of saying the same thing. How does God respond to our brokenness? "*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.* (PSA34:18) That's when God showed up right in the middle of your broken heart: I'm here. I love you. I will never leave you. The Lord will wrap His arms of love and comfort around those who trust in Him. "*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds*" (PSA147:3)

There is something about reaching a breaking point that causes us to seek the Lord more sincerely. King David after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed to cover his sin (see 2 Samuel 11) David's sin displeased the LORD but David didn't listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit or to his conscience. Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. Now God sent prophet to speak to David. God mercifully kept speaking to David. Yet no one should presume God will speak forever to the unrepentant sinner. God said in Genesis 6:3, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever." When we hear/sense conviction of the Holy Spirit, we must respond to it immediately, because it might not always be there. Nathan used a story to get message through to David. David's anger was greatly aroused: David showed we often try to rid our guilty consciences by passing judgment on someone else. Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight?"

A personal salvation requires a personal conviction of sin. It wasn't enough for David to confess that he was a sinner in a general sense; he had to confess his sin at this very point. It does cost something to say, "I have been a trouble-maker in this church" or "I have had bitterness towards certain leaders or fellow brethren, to whom I apologize right now." Through Nathan, God explained to David that his sin was really a base expression of ingratitude. When God gave all this to David: I anointed you... I delivered you... I gave you... and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And he sought out sin instead, he despised the commandment of the LORD. David acted as if God's command was wrong and to be despised when he did evil in His sight. You have killed Uriah... you have taken his wife. God didn't even use Bathsheba's own name. He wanted David to consider Bathsheba not only as an individual but also as the wife of Uriah the Hittite.

David's repentance; So David said to Nathan, "*I have sinned against the LORD.*" David's confession is a good example. He placed the blame squarely on his own shoulders. He did not minimize his offence. David realized that he especially sinned against God. The words are very few, but that is a good sign of a thoroughly broken spirit. There is no excuse, no hiding, no cover up of the sin. There is no searching for a loophole, no pretext put forward, no human weakness pleaded. He acknowledged his guilt openly, honestly and without any denial of truth. He knew God, and he knew the wrong of his action, and he confessed his sin." showed personal responsibility for his sin. He sinned. It wasn't a mistake, an error, a mess-up, an indiscretion, or a problem. This expressed the enormity of David's sin. His sin against Bathsheba, against Uriah, against his wives and children, and against the nation were great. But his sin against the LORD was greatest of all.

David knew that he had to deal with his sin. He is a model to us of what real heart repentance looks like. He wrote psalm 51 as an agonized cry to God for forgiveness. He was a broken man, and he prayed, "*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise*" (v.10,17) The meaning of this is connected with the verse just before it. "*You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*" (v.16) David is stating that there is nothing we can offer God to pacify Him when we have sinned. Animal sacrifices were not what God was looking for. God desires true repentance. External religious activity cannot replace internal, heartfelt contrition. God wants spiritual brokenness. He wants godly sorrow that leads to repentance. (2CO7:10) As we repent, the Atonement of Jesus Christ becomes fully effective in our lives, and the Lord forgives our sins. We become free from the bondage of our sins, and we find joy.

The reason brokenness is beautiful is because of how God can use it in our lives. It is something that can draw us near to Him. Brokenness can make room for a contrite heart and repentance to bring us back into fellowship with Him. True brokenness is a tool by which God brings His wandering sheep back into His loving arms. God will use your brokenness to grow you in Christ and bring you closer to him. God longs to produce humility in us. *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.* (PSA51:1)

Are you hurting and wounded in heart? Do you need healing of the heart? Allow Jesus who heal the broken hearts. He is able if you are willing to surrender to Him and allow Him to heal you. God wants to heal you from hurts and wounds. so you can move beyond hurt and pain of deliverance and victory in Him. Jesus said; *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* (MAT11:28) Lean on God and allow Him to continue the process of healing your broken heart. It is now time for the people of God to help others heal. Because of what we have gone through, we can now help others. It is our duty as God's people to help other find hope in a world that seems so hopeless. We are to ask God to help us encourage others through their pain by directing them to Him through prayer and the Word of God.

Psalm 51:17 points out the one thing God desires more than any other: brokenness over our own sin. When we agree with God about how bad our sin is, we take the first step toward reconciliation with Him. As long as we try to justify evil of our own hearts, or excuse, we never find our way back into God's presence. Repentance is the doorway to freedom. Satan knows this and does everything he can to detract us from it. He suggests: "Your sin wasn't that bad." "Compared to others, you're okay." "God has forgotten it already. No need to confess it." When we listen to devil's words, we turn away from doorway to freedom and remain in bondage. We may feel regret, but neither is a sufficient substitute for true repentance.

David reminds us that the only path to forgiveness is a broken heart and a humble spirit. When we throw ourselves on the mercy of God, He delights to lift us up. When we openly acknowledge our sin against God, turn from it, and cry out for cleansing, God promises that He will hear us and forgive. David's awareness of sin, desire for cleansing, recognition of God's righteous judgment, understanding of what God wants. After meditation, David expressed his repentance, and the restoration of a broken heart and a contrite king. Repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning toward God—a process that doesn't merely alleviate guilt but cultivates deep joy. So how do we grow in a joy-giving habit of repentance?

1. Define the sin: The first step to meaningful confession is understanding what sin is. David uses three different words for it "Iniquity," "sin," "transgressions". Transgressions" implies a rebellion against God's authority and law, "Iniquity" means deviation from what is right; alteration of what should be, gross injustice, wickedness. and "Sin" is a missing of the mark. : an often serious shortcoming : fault. Wilful violation of law: neglect of duty: neglect of the laws of or an offense against morality and religion. David is making it clear that his sin is deep—there is no minimizing or excusing it.

2. Appeal to God's mercy: Mercy appears in the Bible as it relates to forgiveness or withholding punishment. God shows his mercy for those who are suffering through healing, comfort, the alleviation of suffering and caring about those in distress. "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love". David appeals for forgiveness based on what he knows about God's character: that God is merciful. David knows that God is committed to him in a relationship of "unfailing love"—and when we come before God in repentance, we do so on the basis covenant with us through Christ.

3. Avoid defensiveness and see God rightly: David's sin hurt multiple people. He committed adultery, arranged a murder, and tried to cover it all up. And yet he says to God that "against you, you only, have I sinned", "Whose mark are we missing?" it's God's mark. So although our sin does hurt others, and repenting to those people is important, sin is ultimately against God, since it's his ways that we have failed to live up to, and his image-bearers whom we hurt.

4. Look to Jesus: David's reference to hyssop, symbolically in cleansing the soul. "*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean*". He knows hyssop signifies purification (see Exodus 24) with blood, he knows that blood alone can make him whiter than snow. Instead of relying on animal sacrifice, we look to Jesus, who "has appeared once for all at culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself"(HEB9:26) His blood is enough to make us "whiter than snow"

5. Ask God to break you and heal you: David prays, "Let the bones you have crushed rejoice" When God reveals our sin to us, it's painful. *The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*" David was already a sin-broken man; he just didn't fully realize his sin and break him all the way. God who sets, and God who heals.

6. Be comforted by the Spirit: David prays, "Do not take your Holy Spirit from me". This indicates that the presence of God's Spirit was a continuous reality in the life of David. He is grieved over his sin is a sign that God's Spirit is at work in him. Take comfort in knowing very grief you're experiencing is a sign that you have the Spirit of God working in you.

7. Rejoice and proclaim truth: David is asking God to make him so joyful about his salvation that he can't help but teach other sinners the forgiving ways of God—"Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise". David says the joy of forgiveness for sin should compel us to speak of that good news with friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors.

We see a man broken by his transgression who cries out to the Lord for mercy. God disciplined him and restored him.(1KI15:5 David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD—all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.

There are some things in our lives that need to be broken: pride, self-will, stubbornness, and sinful habits. When we feel our brokenness, God rewards it. Is God here among the lowly and those crushed by life? "*I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite (crushed) ones.*(ISA57:15) In spite of inhabiting eternity and dwelling in high, heavenly and holy places, Almighty God has chosen also to live with those who are meek, lowly, and humble of heart. He has chosen to redeem the repentant, revive the contrite in spirit, and dwell in the hearts of all who believe on His name. The Lord is as gracious as He is holy, and He is the One that renews the inner man and refreshes the fainting soul. He gives His courage and sufficient strength to those that are hurting and crushed. He is kind to those that are oppressed and lowly of spirit. He revives the spirit of the humble and refreshes the heart of the oppressed. Only those placing faith in His grace and mercy, through trusting in God's salvation will be revived, redeemed, and restored. Only the contrite in heart who trust His Word will be comforted.

We need to be poor in spirit and pure in heart, we need to have a steadfast spirit, a willing spirit, a repenting spirit. We need to have a meek/quiet spirit, broken spirit and we need to have a contrite and humble spirit. We need to have such a spirit so that God would dwell with us. God loves to dwell with those who have a broken and contrite spirit. Hallelu-Yah!