



J - BROKENNESS DISCUSSION GUIDE

**“The sacrifices of God are a broken
spirit; a broken and a contrite heart,
O God, Thou wilt not despise.”
Ps. 51:17 KJV**

God's Call to Brokenness

BROKENNESS DISCUSSION GUIDE

J

Study A: Introduction to Brokenness

I. Key Passage

**“ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart,
O God, Thou wilt not despise.”**
Ps. 51:17 KJV

II. Key Objectives

- To help you see the need for greater brokenness in your life
- To help you see that God is using the circumstances and people in your life to bring about that brokenness

III. Key Principles

- Brokenness is the gateway to a fuller life in the Spirit. The breaking of your self-will leads to confession, repentance, acceptance and submission to God's authority and sovereign will.
- Opportunities to be broken may come through difficult circumstances or difficult people.
- It is a humbling and often painful experience, but the breaking is needed so that the Holy Spirit can begin to work within you to strengthen and empower you to go forward in faith!

IV. Questions for Discussion

1. What are some reasons Christians can resist being broken?
2. What are some reasons you can resist being broken?
3. What is the connection between humility and brokenness?
4. Can you produce brokenness in your own life? What part do you play?
5. What circumstances or people is God using in your life to bring greater brokenness?
6. What are some evidences in your life that you are not broken?
7. What plans, dreams, demands, lusts and affections do you need to die to?

V. Use the following checklist to evaluate if you are a proud or broken person.

Pride is deceptive and often difficult to identify in our lives. We can perform with external behavior that may be socially acceptable and even have the appearance of being spiritual, yet is motivated by pride rather than humility. How can you know if you are a proud person or a broken person? Nancy Leigh DeMoss, in her book *Brokenness, the Heart God Revives*, provides the following list of contrasts between a proud and broken person. As you read through the list, even if you do not feel the statement describing the proud person describes you, take time to reflect on the statement describing a broken person. If that statement does not describe you either, you probably still have a proud heart. Check this as an area you will need to come back to when you have completed the list.

Attitudes toward others

- ___ 1. Proud people focus on the failures of others and can readily point out those faults.
Broken people are more conscious of their own spiritual need than of anyone else's.
- ___ 2. Proud people have a critical, faultfinding spirit. They look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but view their own with a telescope.
Broken people are compassionate – they have the kind of love that overlooks a multitude of sins; they can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.
- ___ 3. Proud people are especially prone to criticize those in positions of authority—their pastor, their boss, their husband, their parents—and they talk to others about the faults they see.
Broken people reverence, encourage, and lift up those that God has placed in positions of authority, and they talk to God in intercession, rather than gossiping about the faults they see in others.
- ___ 4. Proud people are self-righteous; they think highly of themselves and look down on others.
Broken people think the best of others; they esteem others as better than themselves.
- ___ 5. Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.
Broken people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for God and for others.

Attitudes about rights

- ___ 6. Proud people have to prove that they are right—they have to get the last word.
Broken people are willing to yield the right to be right.
- ___ 7. Proud people claim rights and have a demanding spirit.
Broken people yield their rights and have a meek spirit.
- ___ 8. Proud people are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation.
Broken people are self-denying and self-sacrificing.

Attitudes about service and ministry

- ___ 9. Proud people desire to be served—they want life to revolve around them and their own needs.
Broken people are motivated to serve others and to be sure others' needs are met before their own.
- ___ 10. Proud people desire to be known as a success.
Broken people are motivated to be faithful and to make others successful.
- ___ 11. Proud people have a feeling—conscious or subconscious—that “this ministry (or this organization) is privileged to have me and my gifts.” They focus on what they can do for God.
Broken people have a heart attitude that says, “I don’t deserve to have any part in this ministry”; they know they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.

Attitudes about recognition

- ___ 12. Proud people crave self-advancement.
Broken people desire to promote others.
- ___ 13. Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated for their efforts.
Broken people have a sense of their own unworthiness; they are thrilled that God would use them at all.
- ___ 14. Proud people get wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked.
Broken people are eager for others to get the credit, and they rejoice when others are lifted up.
- ___ 15. Proud people are elated by praise and deflated by criticism.
Broken people know that any praise of their accomplishments belongs to the Lord and that criticism can help them grow into spiritual maturity.

Attitudes about themselves

- ___ 16. Proud people feel confident in how much they know.
Broken people are humbled by how very much they have to learn.
- ___ 17. Proud people are self-conscious; they worry about what others think of them.
Broken people are not preoccupied with what others think of them.
- ___ 18. Proud people are concerned about appearing respectable; they are driven to protect their image and reputation.
Broken people are concerned with being real; they care less about what others think than about what God knows—they are willing to die to their own reputation.
- ___ 19. Proud people can't bear to fail or for anyone to think they are less than perfect. This can drive them to extremes—workaholic tendencies, perfectionism, the tendency to drive others or to place unrealistic expectations on themselves or others.
Broken people can recognize and live within God-given limitations.

Attitudes about relationships

- ____ 20. Proud people keep others at arm's length.
Broken people are willing to take the risks of getting close to others and loving intimately.
- ____ 21. Proud people are quick to blame others.
Broken people accept personal responsibility and can acknowledge where they were wrong in a situation.
- ____ 22. Proud people wait for others to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or a breach in a relationship. *Broken people take the initiative to be reconciled—no matter how wrong the other party may have been.*
- ____ 23. Proud people are unapproachable or defensive when corrected.
Broken people receive correction with a humble, open spirit.
- ____ 24. Proud people find it difficult to discuss their spiritual needs with others.
Broken people are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.
- ____ 25. Proud people try to control the people and the circumstances around them—they are prone to manipulate.
Broken people trust in God – they rest in Him and are able to wait for Him to act on their behalf.
- ____ 26. Proud people become bitter and resentful when they are wronged; they have emotional temper tantrums; they hold others hostage and are easily offended; they carry grudges and keep a record of others' wrongs.
Broken people give thanks in all things; they are quick to forgive those who wrong them.

Attitudes about sin

- ____ 27. Proud people want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned – their instinct is to cover up.
Broken people aren't overly concerned with who knows or who finds out about their sin—they are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.
- ____ 28. Proud people have a hard time saying, "I was wrong, will you please forgive me?"
Broken people are quick to admit their failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.
- ____ 29. Proud people tend to deal in generalities when confessing their sin to God ("Dear Lord, please forgive me for all my sins...") or expressing spiritual need to others ("I need to be a better Christian...").
Broken people are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin; "Lord, I agree with You that I love myself more than I love my mate; I confess that I am addicted to television; I'm a glutton; I have a critical spirit; I am an angry mother..."

- _____ 30. Proud people are concerned about the consequences of their sin. They are disturbed over the problems caused by their sin—for example, the financial bondage created by their overspending, or the problems in their marriage that have resulted from selfishness and immoral choices.
Broken people are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin. They are more concerned about how their sin has grieved and dishonored God than about the problems it has created in their lives.
- _____ 31. Proud people are remorseful over their sin—sorry that they got caught or found out.
Broken people are truly repentant over their sin, and the evidence of their repentance is that they forsake the sin.

Attitudes about their walk with God

- _____ 32. Proud people are blind to the true condition of their hearts.
Broken people walk in the light and acknowledge the truth about their lives.
- _____ 33. Proud people compare themselves to others and feel worthy of respect.
Broken people compare themselves with the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.
- _____ 34. Proud people don't think they need to repent of anything.
Broken people realize that they need to maintain a continual heart attitude of repentance.
- _____ 35. Proud people don't think they need revival, but they are sure everyone else does. (In fact right about now, they are a making mental list of the people they think need to read this list!)
Broken people continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.

Identifying the areas of pride in your life is the first step in dealing with it. It is this pride that God is addressing in your life through this “breaking” process. God may be in the process of exposing your pride. He may be using your current circumstances and difficult relationships to break you of your hold on these areas to produce greater humility in your life. Don't get discouraged – God is at work to remove those things in your life so you can experience greater intimacy with Him and put Him on display in the midst of the difficult realities of life. Don't justify, rationalize or excuse these attitudes in your life. Confess to God each area you have checked. Thank Him for the work of His Spirit in your life to expose these areas and praise Him for His grace that covers your sin. **“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:10 NKJV)** As Nancy Leigh DeMoss concludes, “The infinite riches and blessings of the kingdom of God belong to those who recognize their spiritual poverty.”¹

Nancy Leigh DeMoss has produced numerous booklets, audiotapes and videotapes to promote personal and corporate revival. Her primary focus is helping women experience freedom, fullness, and fruitfulness through Christ. For more information go to www.ReviveOurHearts.com

Study B: Walking in the Holy Spirit With His Power

I. Key Passage

“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”

EPH. 3:20-21 NASB

II. Key Objectives

- To help you understand and appropriate the power available in your life through the filling of the Holy Spirit
- To identify ways you either hinder or encourage being filled with the Holy Spirit

III. Key Principles

- The Holy Spirit is the agent of change and the enabling power to live an obedient life.
- Do not confuse your ability to “perform” in the flesh with being empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey.
- The more you are filled with self, the less you will be filled with the Spirit. The more you crucify self, the greater will be the Spirit’s control and dominion over you.

IV. Questions for Discussion

1. Why do Christians experience so little power to live obedient lives?
2. What is the connection between *brokenness* and *walking with the Holy Spirit*?
3. What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit”?
4. What part do you play and what part does the Holy Spirit play in being filled with the Spirit?
5. What things in your life could be “quenching the Holy Spirit”?
6. What areas are you hesitant or unwilling in which to get involved because it will force you out of your comfort zone?
7. What areas in your life do you tend to trust in your own resources rather than the power of the Holy Spirit?
8. What situations/opportunities in your life could you pursue that would require the Holy Spirit “show up” or else you would fail?

V. Use the following checklists to evaluate your walk with the Holy Spirit.

Evidences of quenching the Holy Spirit

- I don't feel close to God or sense His presence in my life
- I question the assurance of my salvation
- Reading scripture is boring and feels like a duty
- I lack power in overcoming sin in my life
- I am easily discouraged
- I struggle having peace in the midst of hard times
- My life seldom displays the fruit of the Spirit
- I have difficulty discerning between right and wrong

Ways I quench the Holy Spirit

- Being bitter and angry about the people or circumstances in my life
- Questioning God's goodness and faithfulness in my life
- Spending little time in prayer
- Spending little time in God's Word
- Not worshipping as an overflow of communion with God
- Not being willing to cast my cares upon Him
- Not willing to take hard steps of obedience or placing stipulations on obedience
- Trusting my own resources and not turning to God, believing I can handle things myself
- Focusing on my own inadequacies
- Not trusting His provision, believing "He doesn't have what I need"
- Questioning God's plan and purpose for me
- Not rejoicing in what God has done for me
- Complaining instead of giving thanks in all things
- Unwilling to confess sins to God and to repent

- ___ Unwilling to surrender myself to the Lord's direction...it seems too difficult
- ___ Believing God does not love me because He doesn't give me what I want
- ___ Unwilling to suffer for Christ's sake
- ___ Being complacent, apathetic, and/or giving up on my relationship with God
- ___ Hardening my heart against God and/or being angry at Him
- ___ Not trusting God to be my major source of security, fulfillment and purpose

Study C: Fearing the Lord

I. Key Passage

“*But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.*”

Ps. 33:18

II. Key Objectives

- To help you understand the need to fear the Lord
- To help you develop a healthy fear of the Lord

III. Key Principles

- A spirit of brokenness and humility will produce a fear of the Lord.
- Fear of the Lord is the beginning of developing a life of wisdom.
- A healthy fear of the Lord will motivate you to deal with sin.

IV. Questions for Discussion

1. Why is there so little fear of the Lord today?
2. Describe the differences between a healthy and an unhealthy fear of the Lord.
3. What are things man may fear other than the Lord?
4. What are things you may fear other than the Lord?
5. What is the relationship between fearing the Lord and dealing with sin in your life?
6. What are some things that have hindered you from having a more healthy fear of the Lord?
7. What would change in your life if you had a more healthy fear of the Lord?

Study D: Walking With God On His Terms

I. Key Passage

“The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”
Ps. 145:17,18

II. Key Objectives

- To expose your wrong view of the character of God
- To help you develop submission to God and to delight in His ways

III. Key Principles

- You will not experience knowing God intimately and His blessings if you are not walking with God on His terms.
- You are primarily seeking a meaningful relationship with God through people and circumstances meeting your self-life goals. When they fail to meet your expectations, then you conclude that God has failed you, doesn't love you and doesn't know what you need to be fulfilled. You are ultimately saying, "I will give You permission to closely relate to me when You meet my terms; otherwise, I will not trust you." (p. 7)

(Suggested study to review: "Man's Mind vs. God's Mind," Study 7 of *Who's In Charge*.)

IV. Questions for Discussion

1. Why is your life not more characterized by worshiping God with immense gratitude for who He is and all He has done for you through His death and resurrection?
2. Review the things God has already supplied for you with a rich inheritance (p. 2). Which are most special to you? Why? Which do you tend to take for granted?
3. What are some lies about God that you are believing? (See III, pp. 3-5)
4. Are there any evidences that you have erected a barrier between you and God? (See VII, pp. 7-8)
5. What are some things you may be demanding from God?
6. Are there any wrong beliefs about God you need to confess?

V. Use the following checklist to evaluate if you are "Walking With God On His Terms" or your terms:

Lies you may believe to validate your experience, feelings and logic to convince yourself you are right and God is wrong:

- Believing God is distant and doesn't want to be involved in your daily life
- Believing God doesn't love you just as much when you are sinning as when you are obedient
- Believing God doesn't love you at all
- Believing God has rejected, failed, abandoned, forsaken you
- Believing you deserve a better life
- Believing you must sanctify yourself
- Believing God is *not* working all things for your good, rejecting the concept of God's goodness (Rom. 8:28; Ps. 52:1)
- Equating God's goodness with making life easy for you and eliminating your suffering
- Not accepting God's expressions of goodness in the midst of your suffering and His desire to encourage you toward His goals
- Believing you are a "victim" of God-ordained suffering in your life
- Believing He is not sufficient or effective in His ability to minister to your neediness

Sinful attitudes and actions that are a result of a wrong view of God

- Being performance-oriented
- Striving to please Him through your own efforts and your own resources
- Presenting your own righteousness to Christ; taking credit for your obedience (Is. 64:6)
- Believing you should not suffer because you have tried to please God
- Establishing the goal of and striving for perfection
- Seeking "formulas" for successful living
- Being "driven" to succeed
- Living a rebellious, sinful life without repentance
- Being angry at God, His plan for your life and/or others who are difficult people
- Claiming the "rights" to suppress, escape, manipulate or control to receive what you believe you must have
- Having a prevailing ungrateful attitude toward God, life, others and circumstances
- Hardening your heart and numbing your spirit toward God and others

- ___ Believing your whining, self-pity, anger or unwillingness to accept your form(s) of suffering will change God's terms of relating to you
- ___ Comparing your life to others and feeling either superior or inferior, jealous, angry, discontentment
- ___ Establishing and pursuing self-life goals, demanding that your personal rights and perceived needs be met by God and others
- ___ Seeking security, power, purpose, sufficiency, affirmation and satisfaction through your idols and false identities
- ___ Refusing to believe that because God is your creator and you are His creation, He knows what is best for you and how best to relate to you

Evidences you have erected a barrier between you and God

- ___ A lack of experiencing God's intimacy, fellowship, power, blessings, fruit
- ___ Not knowing how to "connect" with Him
- ___ An anger toward God
- ___ A self-trust, relying upon your own feelings, experience, logic, common sense to determine your relationship with God
- ___ A self-sufficiency, relying upon your goals, idols, false identities, controlling strategies to replace your provision in and through Christ
- ___ An excuse, which you believe is valid, to rebel against submission to God and His Word
- ___ An inability to "rest" in Christ and His sovereign will for your life
- ___ A determination that you know better than God what is best for your life