

Brokenness

"Brokenness is the condition which exists when a person has given up all confidence in their ability to manage life."

Steve McVey

1. Pride is the belief that I can produce righteousness.

- 2 Chronicles 26:15-21 Uzziah's [who became the king of Jerusalem at age sixteen] fame spread afar, for he was marvelously helped [by the Lord] until he was strong. (16) But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. ... (20) made leprous on his forehead ... (21) until the day of his death.
- What can we learn from Uzziah? Does God want us to be strong? Why or why not? (2 Cor 12:9-10)

2. Humility is the fruit of the knowledge that apart from God, I can do nothing.

"True humility can bear to see its own utter weakness and foolishness revealed, because it never expected anything from itself, and knows that its only hope and expectation must be in God."

~Hannah Withall Smith

- Isa 57:15 "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.
- Matt 18:4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- Jam 4:6-8, God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- 2 Chron 7:14-15 My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

3. Brokenness humbled David.

- Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- Psa 51:16-17 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you do not despise.

4. Brokenness humbled the Apostle Paul.

- Phil 3:4-7 Although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee, as to zeal, a persecutor of the church, as to righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

5. Jesus humbled Himself.

- Phil 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

6. Humble or proud?

In China, most salt bearers can carry a load of salt weighing 100 pounds, a few even as much as 250 pounds. Now along comes a man who can carry only 100 pounds, and here is a load of 250 pounds. He knows perfectly well he cannot carry it. The temptation to try is ingrained in human nature, so although he cannot possibly carry it, nevertheless, he tries. He works it from every angle and every direction and with every application of science that he can think of, but it is impossible. Standing by, watching, and patiently waiting is a man who can easily carry 250 pounds. In the end, the former man must give up and make way for the man who can carry the load.

The sooner we too give up trying to carry our load, the better. If we monopolize the task, there is left no room for the Holy Spirit to do the work for us. But if we say: "I'll not do it; I'll trust God to do it for me," then we shall find that a Power stronger than ourselves is carrying us through---is carrying our fears, our pains, and has the ability and desire to work out our future too.¹

Quickly check the statements that most reflects you under pressure or on a bad day.

Evidence of Brokenness (Humility)

- I am willing to be rejected or hurt again.
- I am transparent—willing to share weaknesses.
- I am vulnerable—willing to share failures.
- I am real—willing to share current struggles.
- I have a sense of total inadequacy in self-effort.
- I recognize that my adequacy and sufficiency are in Christ.
- I trust God with the outcome of my circumstances.
- I am obeying God.
- I recognize the power of weakness.
- I am willing to fail.
- I am willing to let others receive the credit.
- I am affirming of others.
- I am teachable.
- I am willing to be out of control.
- I am willing to be misunderstood.
- I am willing for God to live through me.
- I am overwhelmed by my own spiritual needs.
- I think the best of others.
- I esteem others as better than myself.
- I am willing to yield the right to be right.
- I desire to see others promoted and successful.
- I am humbled by how very much I have to learn.
- I am not preoccupied with what others think of me.
- I am a failure in and of myself (flesh).
- I am willing to be a servant.
- I am dependent on God's guidance.
- I am willing to risk being hurt in relationships.
- I admit my faults and take responsibility.
- I am willing to be involved.
- I am willing to overlook an offense.
- I am willing to confess the specifics.
- I am humbled in light of God's holiness.

Evidence of Pride (Self-Reliance)

- Retaliate or avoid those who hurt you
- Hide, deny, or excuse weaknesses
- Hide, deny, or blame shift your failures
- Concerned with my reputation
- Self-assured
- Trust in your abilities, gifts, and talents
- Self-promoting or self-protective
- Obey as it suits you
- Trust your determination and will power
- Not willing to fail or look weak
- Demand recognition and appreciation
- Praising and talking up yourself
- Already know everything
- Must be in control
- Must explain until others see your side
- Serving and working for God
- Focus on failures/weaknesses of others
- Critical and contemptuous of others
- Look down on others.
- Argumentative and arrogant
- Striving to promote yourself
- Not teachable; defensive
- Promoting or protecting your reputation
- Strive in your strength to achieve success
- Not willing to do the behind the scene jobs
- Self-reliant; confident in your knowledge
- Unforgiving, vengeful, avoid relationships
- Hard to say I'm wrong; forgive me
- Unapproachable or aloof
- Demand others repent; ask forgiveness
- Confess your sin in generalities
- Compare yourself to others

¹ Taken from The Normal Christian Life by Watchman Nee

7. Prayer of Repentance

Dear Father,

Thank You for delivering me from life in Adam and placing me in Christ Jesus.

I confess that I have been self-reliant and a total failure in and of myself. I have been struggling to live the Christian life out of my resources.

I admit that I have been trying to get my needs met through people, achievements, and possessions.

I now give up on my self-sufficiency and yield my life unconditionally into Your hands. I give up all my rights and expectations.

I believe Your Word that I have been crucified with Christ, and have been buried and raised with Him into newness of life. I receive resurrection life as my life. I have been raised into the heavenly places, and I believe that I now am seated at the right hand of the Father.

I choose as an act of my will to claim Christ is my life, my power, and my identity. I thank You that my identification with Christ made me acceptable, and Christ meets all of my needs.

I choose to believe these truths regardless of my circumstances, and I trust You to make this my reality.

I yield myself totally to the indwelling Christ for obedience. Glorify and manifest Your Son in my life.

In His Identity,