

## Proud People vs. Broken People

What is the one indispensable ingredient for ongoing renewal in the body of Christ? Brokenness – mine, not “theirs.” The way “up” with God, is always “down.” One of the chief ministries of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of our sins. When he does, and we confess them – privately and publicly – revival comes. Are we walking in pride or brokenness?

PROUD PEOPLE		BROKEN PEOPLE
<p><i>“Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud He knows from afar.”</i>                      Psalm 138:6  <i>“Clothe yourselves with humility...because, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”</i> 1 Peter 5:5</p>		<p><i>“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 will not despise.”</i>                      Psalm 51:16,17</p>
Have a need to make themselves feel good, so they focus on the faults and failures of others	<b>1</b>	Feel like big sinners; busy themselves correcting their own faults and failures
Are self-righteous and have a critical, fault-finding spirit	<b>2</b>	Are compassionate and forgiving because they know how much they are forgiven
Look down on others	<b>3</b>	Esteem others better than themselves
Have an independent, self-sufficient spirit	<b>4</b>	Lean on God and other believers
Have to prove they are right	<b>5</b>	Realize that they are often wrong
Claim their rights; have a demanding spirit	<b>6</b>	Yield up their rights; have a meek spirit
Are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputations	<b>7</b>	Are self-denying of their time, their rights, and don't need a reputation
Want to be served; they will serve (to earn praise)	<b>8</b>	Want to serve others for the glory of God
Want success for themselves	<b>9</b>	Want to make others successful
Are self-promoting	<b>10</b>	Want to see others promoted
Want to be recognized and appreciated; are sad when others receive honors	<b>11</b>	Have a sense of their own unworthiness; are surprised when God is able to use them
Have the feeling “This ministry is really blessed to have me and my gifts.”	<b>12</b>	Know all they have to offer is God's power blessing others through their weakness
Are unteachable; confident they know everything	<b>13</b>	Are humble and teachable; have much to learn
Are self-conscious; are always wondering, “How do I look?”	<b>14</b>	Are self-forgetful; consider others better than themselves
Keep others at a distance, are unapproachable and overconfident	<b>15</b>	Risk letting others get close to them, are tender-hearted and vulnerable
Are defensive when criticized, feel they are never at fault	<b>16</b>	Can receive criticism with an open, humble spirit
Are quick to blame others when things go wrong	<b>17</b>	Can see when they are wrong & accept responsibility for it
Are concerned with looking respectable; must protect their image and reputation	<b>18</b>	Die to their hunger for reputation and live to promote Christ's reputation

PROUD PEOPLE		BROKEN PEOPLE
Find it difficult to tell others about their spiritual needs (Self-protective)	19	Are willing and able to be open about their spiritual needs (self-disclosing)
Cover up their sin; are fearful that anyone might find out	20	Are willing to be exposed. Christ is their righteousness; they have nothing to lose
Never say, "I was wrong;" evasive; are purposely vague when confessing their sins	21	Are able to acknowledge specific sins and are quick to seek forgiveness
Focus on hurts they have received from others; see themselves as victims who need sympathy	22	Focus on their need for repentance; see themselves as sinners needing a Savior
Are concerned about the painful consequences of their sin; are sorry when they "get caught" – not that they hurt God and others	23	Are concerned about their sinful hearts; are grieved that they have hurt God and others; are eager to repent of and forsake their sins
When in conflict, they always wait for the other person to come and say, "I'm sorry."	24	Take the initiative for reconciliation; are the first to say, "I am sorry, please forgive me!"
Compare themselves with others; are sure they are worthy of special honor	25	Compare themselves with Jesus; are sure they need God's mercy
Are blind to their heart's true condition	26	See their Jeremiah 17:9 hearts; walk in the Light
Can't think of anything they need to repent of – are self-satisfied	27	Realize they need a heart-attitude of repentance every day of their lives
Don't think they need revival – but are sure that everyone else does	28	Sense their need for continual revival, cleansing from sin, and the filling of the Holy Spirit

### Spiritual Pride and Brokenness in the Scriptures: A Sampler

**Isaiah 57:15** *"For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

**Luke 18:9-14** *"To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."*

**Philippians 2:1-7** *"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."*