



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory  
Prayer And Fasting*

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## BROKENNESS BEFORE GOD

The title of this newsletter may surprise you. You may even be a little put off by this subject. You may be wondering, "What does he mean by 'brokenness'?" These are not unusual reactions. The flesh wants nothing to do with brokenness. It is our natural tendency to be self-righteous. We have a huge streak of self-sufficiency ingrained in us.

Yet, brokenness is the forgotten factor of our walk with God. Too many times it is the blessing that no one wants to claim, the gift that no one wants to receive. Brokenness is crucial in your relationship to God. In His mercy, God does bless you and use you. Yet, if you want to see the glory of God, if you desire to know the power of God, if you long for the rivers of mercy to flow into your life, you must be broken by His gracious and powerful hands.

Brokenness also plays a necessary role in your prayer life. It is essential to a maturing prayer life. It is vital to be used of God in prayer. It is preeminent for your intimacy with God. The path to blessedness and power in prayer runs right through the valley of brokenness.

This newsletter is about brokenness before God. This is not a "Brokenness In Three Easy Steps" guide. Being broken by God is a process. It is not easy and it takes time. As I write this, I am still in the process of being broken. I am not an expert about the subject. I simply want to share with you what God is showing me on this journey.

For many years, I prayed, "Lord, use me." I prayed this one night, the Holy Spirit

impressed me to change that request. Instead of praying "Lord, use me," He led me to pray, "Lord, break me." When I did this, life was never the same again for me. It has been painful, but it has taken me places with the Lord that I could never have dreamed of or imagined. The purpose of this newsletter is to lead you to pray that simple but life altering prayer, "Lord, break me."

In order to seek God for this valuable blessing, we need to begin by examining what brokenness is.

### What Is Brokenness?

The opposite of brokenness is pride. Brokenness is emptying yourself of pride so that God's glory and will are preeminent in your life. It is the ability to sacrifice yourself, your will, your desires, and your goals in order to accept and do what God wills. Walking with God means yielding your will for His, changing your attitudes, your words, and your behavior so that it conforms to what God desires. It requires surrendering your plans so that you might do what God has purposed.

The difficulty for us is that pride is ingrained in us. Yielding our wills and lives to God is not natural to us. We want to run our lives the way that we desire without anyone telling us how. We want our way. We want things to work out as we have planned them. We desire the path of convenience and comfort.

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It is true that, when a person comes to Christ, pride is broken. One must turn from self and sin to the Lord Jesus Christ in true faith. This involves surrender to and dependence on God. You do surrender your will and your life to God through Christ. However, this is just the beginning of brokenness. This is the start of dealing with your pride. Coming to Christ begins the process of breaking and destroying pride from your life. Pride still exists in our lives after coming to Christ. Its dominating power has been broken. Yet, it can still manifest itself in your life. It can still plague you and hinder you in your relationship to God.

The Bible reveals that the lost person does not regard God or His will, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (**Psalm 14:1**). The lost person does not acknowledge any authority other than his or her own, "May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaks proud things, who have said, 'With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are our own; **who is lord over us**'" (**Psalm 12:4, emphasis mine**). The lost person does not consider God's commands and refuses to obey them, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be" (**Romans 8:7**).

As a believer, you have been delivered from this lifestyle of disregarding God and His will. You have been set free from exalting yourself and your will above God and His will. Through your new nature and the work of the Spirit, you are now willing to love and obey God's Word.

Yet, pride can still manifest itself in your life. You can be self-willed. You can respond to God with a spirit of self-sufficiency. You can act self-righteous before God and toward others. Pride can rear its ugly head in your life. It can even become a stronghold in your life if you do not confront it and fight against it.

Pride basically consists of these three aspects: self-will, self-sufficiency, and self-righteousness. When you are the process of being broken by God, He deals with each of these aspects. He labors to remove these roots of pride from your life so that you can live in a spirit of surrender and dependence.

*When you are in the process of being broken, you move from self-will to surrender.* Pride leads you to say, "I want my way. I want to do things the way that I choose." God wants to remove

pride from you to walk in a spirit of surrender. He desires your willingness to obey Him in all circumstances. He wants you to cultivate the ability to say "no" to your will and "yes" to His will.

*When you are in the process of being broken, you move from self-sufficiency to dependence on God.* Pride moves you to say, "I can handle my life. I am sufficient to guide my life and deal with whatever comes my way." God longs for you to forsake any sense of self-sufficiency. He desires that you cultivate the ability to walk in dependence on Him. He does not want you to strive to live your life according to your wisdom and your power. He wants you to yield your life, your choices, and your circumstances to Him.

*When you are in the process of being broken, you move from self-righteousness to repentance.* Pride moves you to look at the sins and failures of others. It motivates you to exalt yourself and your righteousness above others. You do not consider your condition before God. Yet, God desires that your life be characterized by repentance. He wants you to focus on your sins and your failures. He longs for you to be quick to acknowledge and deal with your own sin.

Brokenness is the process of destroying pride in your life. It is the work of God to move you from self-will to surrender, from self-sufficiency to dependence, and from self-righteousness to repentance. God longs to remove your pride and replace it with a broken and contrite spirit. Brokenness is God's work. Yet, you must yield yourself to Him. You must seek Him for the destruction of your pride. You must cry out to Him for this work in your life.

## Why Should I Seek Brokenness?

Brokenness is a painful and costly process. It requires that you die to yourself and your will and live in dependence on God and His grace. It means surrendering the pride that is common and ingrained in your life. Why then should you want to seek God for this blessing?

*First, brokenness is God's will for your life.* The Word of God declares, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart; these, O God, You will not despise" (**Psalm 51:17**). The Word of God also says, "For all those things

My hand has made, and all those things exist, says the LORD. But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (**Isaiah 66:2**).

God longs for you to have a broken and contrite heart. That is the sacrifice He desires from You. God delights in your brokenness before Him. He honors, blesses, and uses the man or woman that is dependent and repentant. He desires that you have a willingness to accept and do His will without any reservation or hesitation in any circumstance of your life.

It is not God's will for you to live life your way, striving in your own sufficiency and righteousness. Most believers are amazed and shocked by atheists. They feel that it is utterly foolish not to believe in God. However, most believers are plagued by a "practical atheism". They believe in God and profess faith in Him. Yet, they live their lives as if there is no God. They do not depend on Him in their daily decisions and circumstances. They live life according to their own wisdom and power. They fail to see the radical nature of their personal sin before a holy God. They make plans without ever thinking of God and His will. This is not God's will for the believer. He desires that you have a broken and contrite spirit, a spirit of dependence and repentance before Him, the holy and wise God.

*Second, God hates your pride.* He despises your self-sufficiency. He abhors your self-righteousness. He detests your self-willed attitude. Pride is an insult to God. It is exalting yourself—your power, your will, your wisdom, and your righteousness—above that of the eternal and holy God. In effect, it is saying that I am as powerful, as wise, and as righteous as God is. You might never say this. But when pride manifests itself in your life, this is exactly what you are saying. Your attitudes and actions speak louder than your words.

God has made it plain how He feels about your pride. God says, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate" (**Proverbs 8:13**). The Word of God also declares, "Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished" (**Proverbs 16:5**). God's attitude toward your pride is summed up in these words, "These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him . . . a proud look" (**Proverbs 6:16-17**).

How can you be content with something in your life that God despises? How can you be complacent about the pride that God says is an abomination to Him? God's hatred of your pride should lead you to seek brokenness. It should motivate you to cry out to Him for the destruction of the pride in your life. It should challenge you to confront your pride.

*Next, God resists your pride.* Not only does God have a hatred of your pride, He also resists it. The Word of God declares, "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (**James 4:6**). This is an astonishing verse. The Bible states that God resists the proud. He will not pour out His blessing on the proud person. The proud person will not move into greater intimacy or power with God. All that the proud believer can expect is God's chastisement. Yet, the one who seeks for brokenness has the promise of abounding grace. The broken person will receive the blessings and power of God. The broken person can experience God's presence and joy in unique and powerful ways.

Think about it. What has caused you the greatest pain in your life? When have you faced your most difficult circumstances? If we were honest, we would have to admit that it was in times when pride manifested itself in our lives. Maybe we went our own way rather than surrendering to God. Maybe we trusted in our wisdom above that of God's. Maybe we rested in our righteousness and thought ourselves better than others. Maybe we have to have our way in a relationship.

Do not misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying that all the suffering and pain in our lives is due to pride. There are a variety of reasons for suffering and pain in our lives. This is bound up in God's own providence. But, our pride does lead us into many hurtful and burdensome situations. This is because our loving Father is resisting our pride. He is laboring to teach us the necessity to forsake pride and seek Him for brokenness.

As I look back on my own life, I see that pride has brought suffering and pain in my life. When God called me to preach, I ran. I wouldn't surrender. I simply did not want to do what God was calling me to do. I had no intention of surrendering. It was nothing more than sinful and stubborn pride. Because I proudly refused God, I

suffered. I wince as I remember the misery, the confusion, and the pain of that time in my life. My heart aches as I think about how I offended God through my pride.

God will resist your pride. He hates prides and is determined to break it. How will God resist your pride? He will not answer your prayers. He will frustrate your plans. He will let you experience your insufficiency. Your loving Father will withhold His blessings and allow you to suffer the consequences of rebellion. His purpose is to teach you that He gives grace to the humble, but resists the proud. He longs for you to see the barrenness of pride and blessedness of brokenness. He wants you to realize how evil pride is and how good humility is. He works to burn this truth into your heart and mind.

God is going to do this in your life. It may vary in degrees. But, be assured, God will resist your pride. He will not let your pride go unchecked. Brokenness is costly and painful; but it is never as painful or costly as your pride and its consequences. Brokenness opens the way for God's power and wisdom to flow into your life. Pride brings God's resistance and chastisement. God's determination to resist your pride ought to move you to seek Him for brokenness.

*Brokenness encourages and strengthens your relationships.* What causes more problems in relationships than anything else? It is pride. It is the self-will that demands its way. It is the self-righteousness that moves one to think that you are always right. It is the conviction that you must be catered to and exalted by others.

Pride destroys relationships. It can sever the strongest ties between people. When people do not deal with pride, it will bring problems to a relationship. It does not matter what type of relationship—marriage, parent to child, family members, church members. You name the relationship and pride can damage it. The Bible says, "By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom" (**Proverbs 13:10**).

Pride generates strife among people. When a person cannot honestly say, "I am wrong," "I need help," or "I'm ready and willing to listen and change," it is going to create strife, strife that can damage and destroy. When a person has to be right or feels the need to be catered to, conflict will be the inevitable outcome in the relationship. The Bible

reveals that pride hinders a person from having healthy relationships, "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there" (**James 3:16**).

On the other hand, brokenness empowers you to build healthy relationships. When you are in the process of being broken, you don't always have to be right. You don't always have to have the spotlight or the pat on the back. You can honestly admit your mistakes and deal with them. You are willing to listen to others. You know that you can depend on God to help you and guide you. When brokenness characterize a relationship, love, unity, and growth will flourish. Since it is crucial for building healthy relationships, you should seek God for brokenness.

*Brokenness is essential to pursuing God's will and glory.* The Christian is to glorify God, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). At the same time, the Christian is to pursue the will of God. Our prayer must be the same as Jesus', "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (**Matthew 26:39**). God's glory and God's will must be the priority of your life. Of course, these two things are connected. When you do God's will you glorify Him. And you glorify God by doing His will. They are inexplicably bound together.

Yet, pride stands in the way of these things as the priority of your life. How can you glorify God when you desire to exalt yourself? How can you do God's will when you want your own way? Pride stands in complete opposition to seeking God's glory and God's will. It hinders you from pursuing these things. Your glory and your way must be sacrificed for God's glory and God's will. Brokenness paves the way for this sacrifice. As God breaks and destroys the self-will, self-sufficiency, and self-righteousness in your life, you are more ready and willing to glorify God and do His will. This prepares you to make this sacrifice in the everyday circumstances of your life. This is why it is so crucial to seek God for brokenness.

## How Can You Seek God For Brokenness?

Brokenness is God's work in your life. Only God can deal with your pride and lead you to dependence and repentance. Yet, you must yield

yourself to the Holy Spirit for this work to be done in your life. The Word of God declares, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (**Philippians 2:12-13**). God's responsibility is to work in your life. Your responsibility is to yield yourself to God and work out what He does in your life. This is true for the process of dealing with pride and growing in humility.

The following are some suggestions on how you can seek God for brokenness. These are offered to help you deal with pride and move toward greater humility. The variety of suggestions are offered because believers are different and their pride level varies. You might consider using many of these over a period of time. Pride is stubborn and will require much work to confront and defeat. This is a battle that you will have to fight over and over again. These suggestions are presented to help you fight in this long, hard struggle.

◆ *Pray "Lord, break me."* It is a simple prayer but it is packed with power. God will honor and bless it. Express to God your desire to be humble and broken before Him.

◆ *Ask God to make you unimpressed by your successes, accomplishments, and position.* Pray that your focus will be on God and His power. Plead that you will not believe that you have any of these things simply because of who you are or what you have done.

◆ *Plead with God to show you yourself.* Ask Him to reveal to you what you are apart from His grace and power. Pray that you will see vividly what your life would be like without Him. Pray and meditate on these verses: **Isaiah 64:6**, **Romans 3:10-23**, and **Ephesians 2:1-3**.

◆ *Pray that God will show you His greatness and His sufficiency.* Pride wilts in the light of God's greatness and sufficiency. It cannot stand when you focus on these two aspects of God. Ask God to give you a fresh view and appreciation of His greatness and sufficiency. You can start

this by reading and meditating on **Psalm 104** and **Job 38-42**.

◆ *Meditate on God's creation.* This is similar to and connected with the last suggestion. Get out into God's creation. Spend some time at the beach or in the mountains. Look at and meditate on this vast and beautiful world that God has created. Focus on its vastness and greatness. This should help you gain some perspective on your pride and your need to be broken and humble before God.

◆ *Pray through the Beatitudes.* The Beatitudes teach us of our need for the grace and the power of God. As you read through these words of Jesus, it becomes apparent that only God can produce these characteristics in you. You might consider praying one beatitude a day over a period of time. Or you could pray the entire section each day over a period of time. However you choose to do it, cry out to God, asking Him to show you your need of His grace and power.

◆ *Memorize and remind yourself daily of John 15:5.* The Word of God says there, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." You might consider memorizing this verse and daily bring it to mind. This is especially true when you feel pride beginning to surface in your life. I have made small posters with this verse on them. I have placed them at my desk, at my bed, in my bathroom. Everywhere I go, there is **John 15:5**. It is a simple way to remind myself of where my sufficiency is.

◆ *Ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to the pride in your life.* Pride is deceitful; you can manifest it without even knowing it. It can be a living reality in your life and you be unaware of it. Pray that the Holy Spirit will show you the areas where pride exists in your life. Plead with Him to give you a sensitivity to any manifestation of pride in your life.

◆ *Worship God daily.* True worship is a powerful antidote to pride. Worship causes you to focus

on God and God alone. It leads you to recognize the greatness and the sufficiency of His character. Daily worship can give you the power and help you need to confront and deal with pride.

- ◆ *Keep mindful of your unworthiness before God.* God does not bless you because of your worthiness. He blesses you and works in your life because of His goodness and grace. This is a truth that you need to remind yourself of constantly. You can do this by memorizing and meditating on Scriptures concerning God's goodness and grace. One of the Scriptures that I use to do this is **James 1:17**, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." As you recall and meditate on verses like this, it exposes your unworthiness and exalts God's goodness.
- ◆ *Confess your willingness to be invisible.* Tell God of your desire to serve Him no matter what. Tell Him that you will serve Him if you never get any recognition or encouragement for what you do. Express to Him your willingness to remain in humble, invisible positions of service.
- ◆ *Confess your pride to a trustworthy friend.* Ask him or her to pray for you concerning this matter. Let this friend be an accountability partner. Allow him or her to tell you when pride manifests itself in your life. Have this friend agree with you in prayer concerning the destruction of pride in your life.
- ◆ *Persist in seeking God.* Ask Him daily for His strength, wisdom, provision, direction, peace, and rest. Continually tell Him of your need for Him and of your dependence on Him.
- ◆ *Pray John Wesley's prayer.* Every morning John Wesley prayed, "Let me be nothing and Christ all in all." You might consider praying this prayer every day. It is a powerful way to attack pride and seek God for brokenness.
- ◆ *Give away a lot of money.* Pride and comfort go hand in hand. When you are comfortable, you

are more likely to exercise pride. Yet, when you are having to depend on God, you are more likely to be broken and humble before Him. Pray and then give sacrificially to your church, ministry, or a person. Cast yourself on the mercy and the sufficiency of God.

## Scripture Prayers For Brokenness

The following are Scripture prayers that can help you seek God for brokenness. These prayers are based on the Word of God and you can plead them with confidence and expectancy. You can adapt and use these prayers for yourself, others, or even for your church.

Father, You declare that a broken and contrite spirit is the sacrifice that you desire. I plead that You would produce in \_\_\_\_\_ a broken and contrite spirit. Do whatever You must to bring \_\_\_\_\_ into a broken and humble submission to You (**Psalm 51:17**).

Father, Your Word declares that You hate pride and arrogance. I plead in the name of Jesus that You will deliver \_\_\_\_\_ from the pride and arrogance that You hate (**Proverbs 8:13**).

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would decrease and that Christ would increase in \_\_\_\_\_'s life. Let Jesus and obedience to His Word have the preeminence in my/his/her life (**John 3:30**).

Father, Your Word states that You resist the proud and give grace to the humble. I ask that You will deliver \_\_\_\_\_ from the pride that You resist. Create in me/him/her the brokenness that will move You to pour out Your grace on my life and service (**James 4:6**).

Father, set \_\_\_\_\_ free from a spirit of self-exaltation. Cultivate in my/his/her life a spirit of humility that leads me/him/her to live in dependence on You (**Matthew 23:12**).

Father, I pray that You would create \_\_\_\_\_ a poverty of spirit. Grant me/him/her a contrite spirit. Let me/him/her see

my/his/her need of You and Your grace. Cause \_\_\_\_\_ to tremble at Your Word (**Isaiah 66:2**).

Father, I ask You to enable \_\_\_\_\_ to humble myself/himself/herself in Your sight. I pray that You will answer and bless \_\_\_\_\_ in Your time and Your way (**James 4:10**).

Father, I plead that You would enable \_\_\_\_\_ to humble myself/himself/herself under Your mighty hand. Empower me/him/her to cast all my/him/her cares upon You. I worship You because You care for me/him/her (**1 Peter 5:6-7**).

Father, Your Word declares that by pride comes nothing but strife. Pride hinders and destroys relationships. I ask in the name of Jesus that You would deliver \_\_\_\_\_ from the pride that would destroy my/his/her relationships. Enable \_\_\_\_\_ to live in humility toward others (**Proverbs 13:10**).

Father, Your Word says that You hate the proud look. It is an abomination to You. An attitude of pride is a stench in Your nostrils. Deliver \_\_\_\_\_ from an attitude of pride, which You hate and is an abomination to You (**Proverbs 6:16-17**).

Father, I ask that You would grant \_\_\_\_\_ greater humility so that I/he/she can know that man does not live by bread alone but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God (**Deuteronomy 8:3**).

Father, deliver \_\_\_\_\_ from a proud heart that stirs up strife. Grant me/him/her a broken and contrite heart that will develop and pursue strong, godly relationships (**Proverbs 28:25**).

## New Web Site

The Prayer Closet Ministries is launching a new web site: [www.kingdompraying.com](http://www.kingdompraying.com). This web site focuses on prayer evangelism. It is designed to challenge and train believers to pray for the lost and the spread of the gospel around the

world. This site will also have material to help you pray for the nations of the world. We invite you to visit and bookmark the site. Please share with others about this site. We will be updating it and adding new material on a regular basis. Please continue to check out our other web site: [www.prayerclosetministries.org](http://www.prayerclosetministries.org).

## New Prayer Products

The following are new prayer products that we have developed and are now available.

### Kingdom Praying

In Matthew 6:10, Jesus teaches that believers should pray for the kingdom to come. The "Kingdom Praying" manual is designed to help you carry out this command of Jesus. This prayer manual will aid you in praying for missionaries and the spread of the gospel around the world. This manual contains prayer strategies and Scripture prayers concerning missionaries, nations, and people groups.

### Kingdom Praying Calendar

Do you want to touch the world? This calendar can empower you to make a significant difference in this world through prayer. The calendar is designed to help you pray for every nation of the world in a year. Each day you are provided with a nation to cover through intercession. You are also supplied with Scripture prayers to assist you in praying. Each month has a Scripture promise that you can plead over the nations.

### God's Call To Prayer Evangelism

This prayer manual is designed to encourage and train believers in praying for the lost. The manual includes the following:

- Biblical teaching concerning prayer evangelism;
- A daily prayer plan for praying for the lost;
- A devotional study presenting the basics of prayer evangelism;
- Scripture prayers and strategies to aid you in praying for the lost.

### God's Call to Prayer Evangelism Leader's Guide

This leader's guide will help you teach the basics of prayer evangelism. It includes lesson plans for ten sessions.

# KINGDOM PRAYING



**PLEADING FOR THE HARVESTING OF THE NATIONS**

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