

HOLY SPIRIT – A BROKEN SPIRIT

“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 prerequisite for spiritual renewal is a broken spirit. David cried out to God from a broken spirit: “Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a generous spirit” (Psalm 51:10-12). A broken spirit is contrite and repentant over sin. A broken spirit is bereft of joy. It is acutely aware that it deserves no love and it fears the loss of everything good. A broken spirit fears punishment, because he knows it is deserved. God “will not despise” a broken spirit. The very thing we fear when we face our sin is that God will despise us, because that’s what we deserve. “Despise” comes from a word meaning “disesteem.” A broken spirit fears God’s displeasure and disdain. The broken spirit throws himself on God’s mercy with hope of regaining God’s approval. It is fearful. It is painful. It is sorrowful. It is willing to repent and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. A broken spirit wants cleansing and cries out for forgiveness. A broken spirit accepts God’s breaking, whatever it takes. A broken spirit is not fun, but it can be fixed. That is what God does. That is the kind of God He is. Hosea said, “Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal use; He has stricken, but He will bind us up” (6:1). A broken spirit is our greatest sacrifice. The Holy Spirit waits for the sacrifice of a broken spirit so he can heal the broken heart.