**The Origin of a Broken and Contrite Spirit**

**Isaiah 57:15**

For thus saith the high and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and high place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. It would appear that God must break our stubborn and unyielding spirit before he can break our heart. Is God up to the task? Where does he start? What tools does he draw from his chest of divine resources to skillfully and effectively weaken the power of sins’ strongholds in our hearts and minds, and burst asunder the wily and deceptive stranglehold of pride. The key to finding the answers to these essential queries lies hidden in the elementary elements underlying the word,“contrite”.Contrition is the

culmination of a process of a work in progress, initiated and orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, whereby he uses the hammer of the word of God, as coined by Jeremiah, to pulverize man’s stony heart into a powder, thus preparing the heart and spirit for a nonnegotiable surrender unto humbled obedience. Somewhere between surrender and humbled obedience repentance and faith make their debut on the stage of life for public display, featuring a dramatic and sometimes sensational transformed lifestyle performance. Psalm 10:17 says, “LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:” It should be quite evident that we must allow God through his Spirit and through his word to properly prepare our heart, as well as our spirit, that he might have justifiable grounds for choosing to cause his ear to hear the cry of the humble. Psalm 9:12b says that God does not forget the cry of the humble. The idea here is that nothing will distract God’s attention from our cry once he has prepared the heart unto contrition and humility. It is as good as done. The concept behind the words, “thou wilt cause thine ear to hear” is that of God as a judge observing the Holy Spirit as he seeks to condition and convince unto conviction the impenitent heart unto brokenness, grief, and godly sorrow. The moment the evidence of true penitence weighs in, God rules in his mind and heart that judicial grounds are sufficient to respond to the cry of a divinely humbled and prepared

heart. Perhaps we should focus on the passion of our God’s judicial response as we see ourselves somewhere in this story standing in our God’s courts of gold paver stones viewing in all directions the horizons of divine provisions laid up for the heart, the mind, and the soul that has been prepared by the work of the blessed Holy Ghost. 1 Peter 5:5 reveals to us that God gives GRACE unto the humble. James 4:6 not only says that God gives GRACE to the humble, but it also says that he gives more grace. As we stand viewing in all directions the horizons of God’s provision for and to the contrite and humble, all we can see is GRACE and more GRACE!!! GRACE is said to be, ‘God giving us that which we do not deserve’, and all the brethren said, Amen! Following the spirit of that concept, let us draw from it an idea closely akin that GRACE is an enabling by God

that allows the contrite and humble to access ALL the resources of our Father, to include the very nature of God himself, according to II Peter 1:4. Isaiah 57:15b says, “I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit,...” Not only can we be partakers of the very nature of God, but partakers of his very dwelling place! It is my plea at this critical juncture that we examine ourselves in all honesty and ask ourselves if we have found this place of GRACE. Our

Lord makes it clear that it is only given to the contrite and humble spirit. Have you allowed God’s Spirit to use the word to pulverize and break your spirit and your heart, so that he will have the judicial and biblical grounds to pour out his GRACE upon you, to include access to all his divine riches and resources and nature? We absolutely must come to perhaps God’s highest mountaintop, where when we look behind us, all we see is mercy, and when we look forward to our horizons, all we see is Grace.Convinced of Divine Unction and Direction, we have assuredly arrived precisely where God would have us in our treasure chest of Holy Scripture, that expressly being Isaiah 57:15 in the words, “to REVIVE the spirit of the humble, and to revive the HEART of the contrite ones.  In closing, may it be passionately declared that until we learn to walk under the control of the Spirit of God and of Christ that indwells us, we will never find God’s PLACE of GRACE which is deeded to us as part of

our Positional and Practical inheritance. Until we choose to value a contrite and humble spirit as a priceless treasure, God will be unable to say, “I dwell with him in the high and holy place”, God’s PLACE OF GRACE. Perhaps worst of all, not just for our sake, but for the sake of the church, and for the sake of all that we could influence, saved and lost, we might never know what it is to live a consistent lifestyle transforming REVIVAL. Until we find God’s PLACE of GRACE and learn how to live there consistently, REVIVAL will remain an evasive dream. II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall

humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. What really is expected of the saints that hear this spoken to them. Note that I did not say taught to them, because rarely is this verse broken down into its’ basic elements for the purpose of intense training on the ‘how to’. It is important to understand that flesh does not have the desire or capability to humble itself, so how do God’s people set out to humble themselves? The answer of course is to choose to be willing to yield our stubborn spirit to the wooing and working of our indwelling Holy Spirit, allowing him to make the necessary preparations in our heart and spirit that will produce a contrite and humble spirit. Next, we rest in the teaching of the scriptures that upon the Spirits’ humbling, grace will be poured out upon us, enabling us to walk in the Spirit in the throne room before the face of God. It is here, confidently before the face of God, that fellowshipping and communing become simple and appropriate responses to being in the presence of our Father and our

Lord Jesus Christ. As the saying goes, this is not rocket science! This is simply the way our God desired and designed it to work.

As we move forward in II Chronicles 7:14, we find the words, “and turn from their wicked ways”. Assuming that we really would like to heed these words rather than just hearing them, how do we set about to do this? What do we say or do? Is there some formula or pattern to follow to deliver us from what seems like a maze at times? Here again, we must turn our focus onto Scripture 101. Gal. 5:16 says, “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”

James 1:14-15 says, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” So can we deduct from these truths that if we can stop the bringing forth of sin, that this would enabled God’s people to turn from their wicked ways? And all the brethren said, AMEN! Great! We have unanimously agreed that we are going to stop the bringing forth of sin. Where do we start? How do we start? Could it be that the answer is right under our nose in Gal. 5:16 in these words, “Walk in the Spirit, and

ye SHALL NOT fulfill the lusts of the flesh.” Praise God, there it is! As long as we consistently walk in the Spirit, we SHALL NOT fulfill the wicked lusts of our flesh! It is here that we have a Spirit produced contrite and humble spirit. It is here also that God will revive the spirit of the humble, and revive the heart of the contrite ones. It is also here, to God be the glory, that God’s people, which are called Christians, have the divine enabling to humble themselves, and pray, and truly seek their Abba Fathers’ face, and be empowered to turn from their wicked ways. Finally, it is here in this PLACE of GRACE that our God will

not only hear from heaven, but will embrace us in Abba Father fellowship. It is here that we will become zealous students of the word of God in the throneroom classroom, becoming skillful in the use of the word of righteousness, and regularly exercising our senses to discern both good and evil. It is here that we will learn to be workman in our Lord’s fields, rightly dividing the word of truth among the saved and the lost. May our Lord always be able to say, “I dwell with him in the high and

holy place”