

How can we know if our hearts are *proud* or *broken*?

Proud people focus on the failures of others; they have a critical, fault-finding spirit. They look at everyone else's faults with a microscope, but their own with a telescope. By contrast, *broken people* are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need. Therefore, they can esteem all others better than themselves.

Proud people have to prove that they are right; but *broken people* are willing to yield the right to be right.

Proud people are protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation. But *broken people* have yielded their rights.

Proud people want to be served and to be a success. But *broken people* desire to serve others and to make them a success.

Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated. They get wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked. But *broken people* have a sense of their own unworthiness and are thrilled that God would use them at all; they rejoice when others are lifted up.

Proud people are quick to blame others for their problems. And they are unapproachable or defensive when criticized. But *broken people* are quick to see where they were wrong in a situation; they receive criticism with a humble, teachable spirit.

Proud people are quick to take offense; but *broken people* are quick to forgive and overlook offenses.

Proud people wait for others to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship. *Broken people* take the initiative to be reconciled when there is a conflict; they race to the cross and see who can get there first, no matter how wrong the other may have been.

Proud people compare themselves to others and think they are doing all right. They don't think they have anything to repent of. But *broken people* compare themselves to the holiness of God; they feel a desperate need for His mercy and realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance.

Proud people don't think they need revival--but they're sure that everyone else does! *Broken people* continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God.

Why would anyone want to be broken, any more than someone would want to sign up for surgery or suffering? God's Word teaches that *brokenness brings blessedness*. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit"--i.e., the "broken ones," those who recognize that they are spiritually bankrupt and poverty-stricken.

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