

The Heart God Revives

Nancy Leigh DeMoss contrasts characteristics of proud, unbroken people who are resistant to the call of God on their lives with the qualities of broken, humble people who have experienced God's revival. Read each item on the list as you ask God to reveal which characteristics of a proud spirit He finds in your life. Confess these to Him, then ask Him to restore the corresponding quality of a broken, humble spirit in you.

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Ps. 51:17

Proud Proud People

Broken Broken People

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| Focus on the failures of others | ▼ | Overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need |
| A critical, fault-finding spirit; look at everyone else's faults with a microscope, but their own with a telescope | ▼ | Compassionate; can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven |
| Self-righteous; look down on others | ▼ | Esteem all others better than themselves |
| Independent, self-sufficient spirit | ▼ | Have a dependent spirit; recognize their need for others |
| Have to prove that they are right | ▼ | Willing to yield the right to be right |
| Claim rights; have a demanding spirit | ▼ | Yield their rights; have a meek spirit |
| Self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation | ▼ | Self-denying |
| Desire to be served | ▼ | Motivated to serve others |
| Desire to be a success | ▼ | Motivated to be faithful and to make others a success |
| Desire self-advancement | ▼ | Desire to promote others |
| Have a drive to be recognized and appreciated | ▼ | Have a sense of their own unworthiness; thrilled that God would use them at all |
| Wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked | ▼ | Eager for others to get the credit; rejoice when others are lifted up |
| Have a subconscious feeling, "This ministry/church is privileged to have me and my gifts"; think of what they can do for God | ▼ | Heart attitude is, "I don't deserve to have a part in any ministry"; know that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives |
| Feel confident in how much they know | ▼ | Humbled by how very much they have to learn |
| Self-conscious | ▼ | Not concerned with self at all |
| Keep others at arms' length | ▼ | Willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately |

Proud People

Broken People

- Quick to blame others ▼ Accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation
- Unapproachable or defensive when criticized ▼ Receive criticism with a humble, open spirit
- Concerned with being respectable, with what others think; work to protect their own image and reputation ▼ Concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; are willing to die to their own reputation
- Find it difficult to share their spiritual need with others ▼ Willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs
- Want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover up ▼ Once broken, don't care who knows or who finds out; are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose
- Have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?" ▼ Quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary
- Tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin ▼ Able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin
- Concerned about the consequences of their sin ▼ Grieved over the cause, the root of their sin
- Remorseful over their sin, sorry that they got found out or caught ▼ Truly, genuinely repentant over their sin, evidenced in the fact that they forsake that sin
- Wait for the other to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship ▼ Take the initiative to be reconciled when there is misunderstanding or conflict in relationships; they race to the cross; they see if they can get there first, no matter how wrong the other may have been
- Compare themselves with others and feel worthy of honor ▼ Compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy
- Blind to their true heart condition ▼ Walk in the light
- Don't think they have anything to repent of ▼ Realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance
- Don't think they need revival, but are sure that everyone else does ▼ Continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit