

# Journey Through the Bible

## A New Heart and a New Spirit

### Message 4: A NEW SPIRIT (2): Having a Proper Spirit

#### Outline:

#### **I. We need to have a right spirit—Psa. 51:10b, KJV:**

- A. A right spirit is an upright spirit—a steadfast, constant, or firm spirit, a spirit that is immovable, unshakable, standing constantly as something firm and steady.
- B. We always need a right spirit, which is always steadfast, firm, constant, immovable, and unshakable so that we can never be tempted, seduced, or misled.

#### **II. We need to have a willing spirit—v. 12b:**

- A. In Psalm 51 in David's repentance and confession, he prayed that God would give him a willing spirit (v. 12); David connected the willing spirit with the gladness of salvation.
- B. A willing spirit depends upon the gladness of salvation; when we have the gladness of salvation, we spontaneously will have a willing spirit to go along with the Lord.
- C. A willing spirit is an issue of being happy and joyful in the Lord; when we have joy in God's Spirit (Rom. 14:17), our spirit will be willing; we will have a willing spirit to fellowship with the Lord, to worship Him, and to pray.

#### **III. We need to have a broken spirit—Psa. 51:17a:**

- A. In Psalm 51:17a David says that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.
- B. A broken spirit is a spirit that repents, that feels very sorrowful for any sinfulness; in other words, a broken spirit is a repenting spirit.
- C. To be broken means to not be whole; it means that you do not consider yourself perfect or complete.

#### **IV. We need to have a contrite and lowly spirit—Isa. 57:15; 66:2:**

- A. God desires to dwell with people who have a contrite and lowly spirit—57:15.
- B. If we are contrite and lowly in our spirit, we are broken in our spirit, and we can enjoy God's presence; God is then with us and even dwells with us.

#### **V. We need to have a meek and quiet spirit—1 Pet. 3:4; Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 4:21:**

- A. First Peter 3:4 says that the hidden man of our heart is a meek and quiet spirit.
- B. Meekness means not fighting for oneself; to be meek means not to resist the world's opposition but to suffer it willingly; regardless of the situation we should be meek, not fighting against others.

#### **VI. We need to know of what spirit we are—Luke 9:55:**

- A. We always have to learn to know what kind of spirit we have; in other words, with God and with man we always need a proper spirit; if our spirit is improper, we are through with God.
- B. We need to know what condition our spirit is in; the Bible tells us to consider our ways (Hag. 1:7), and we also have to consider our spirit.

**Focus: We need to have a proper spirit—a spirit that is steadfast, willing, broken, contrite, lowly, meek, and quiet. For this reason, we also need to know the condition of our spirit and deal with our spirit by means of prayer.**

### **READING EXCERPT**

#### A Right spirit

We need to have a right spirit (Psa. 51:10b, KJV). This does not refer to our spirit being right versus being wrong. A right spirit is an upright spirit. This means that it can stand as something constant. Some versions say that this is a steadfast, constant, or firm spirit. A right spirit is a spirit that is immovable, unshakable, standing constantly as something firm and steady.

Psalm 51 is the psalm of David for his repentance. He repented that his spirit was not right. His spirit was not steady, not firm, so he was able to be seduced, or tempted, and he fell. In his repentance he prayed that the Lord would renew a right spirit within him, a constant, firm, steady spirit. We always need a right spirit, which is always steadfast, firm, constant, immovable, and unshakable so that we can never be tempted, seduced, or misled.

#### A Willing spirit

Also in Psalm 51 in David's repentance and confession, he prayed that God would give him a willing spirit (v. 12). David connected the willing spirit with the gladness of salvation. He asked the Lord to restore to him the gladness of salvation and sustain him with a willing spirit. A willing spirit depends upon the gladness of salvation. When we have the gladness of salvation, we spontaneously will have a willing spirit to go along with the Lord. We will have a willing spirit to answer, to obey, what the Lord wants, what the Lord desires, and what the Lord asks of us. This willing spirit always comes from our rejoicing in our salvation. We need the gladness of salvation.

No doubt, in David's fall he lost the gladness of his salvation. Now he was repenting, so he asked that God would restore to him the gladness of salvation. Then from this enjoyment and this joy, he could have a willing spirit. Romans 14:17 says, "The kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." When we have joy in God's Spirit, our spirit will be willing. We will have a willing spirit to fellowship with the Lord, to worship Him, and to pray. Whatever can please the Lord, we will be happy to do. This means that we have a willing spirit.

#### A Broken spirit

In Psalm 51:17a David says that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. In other words, in God's eyes a broken spirit is more precious than sacrifices. In the second part of verse 17 David says that God will not despise a broken and a contrite heart. A broken spirit is a spirit that repents, that feels very sorrowful for any sinfulness. In other words, a broken spirit is a repenting spirit. To be broken means to not be whole. It means that you do not consider yourself so perfect or complete. If you consider that you are perfect and complete, you would not repent or confess your weaknesses and your failures. When your spirit is repenting, your spirit is broken, contrite, and feeling sorrowful. After sinning, many would not have a broken spirit. Instead, they would have a spirit that is stubbornly whole. Because they feel that they are perfect and complete, they would not repent. They would not confess. We should not be like this. We should have a spirit that is always broken.

Even if we do not feel that we have sinned, we still need a broken spirit. Even if we have not sinned in a great way, we still could be wrong in a small way. In our words, our attitude, our

thoughts, our feelings, and our talk with others, many times we are wrong, even unconsciously. So we always need to keep a broken spirit.

#### A Contrite and Lowly spirit

A contrite and lowly spirit is very close to a broken spirit. Isaiah 57:15 and 66:2 both indicate the same thing. They indicate that even heaven is not a joyful place to God for His dwelling. God desires to dwell with people who have a contrite and lowly spirit. This is not a small thing. If we are contrite and lowly in our spirit, we are broken in our spirit, and we can enjoy God's presence. God is then with us and even dwells with us.

#### A Meek and Quiet spirit

We also need a meek and quiet spirit. First Peter 3:4 says that the hidden man of our heart is a meek and quiet spirit. Galatians 6:1 says that we need to restore a fallen brother in a spirit of meekness. In 1 Corinthians 4:21 Paul asked the Corinthians if they wanted him to come to them with a rod or in love and in a spirit of meekness.

The world's way is to fight, to strive, and to defeat others to gain some possession, some inheritance. But the Bible says that if we are going to inherit anything, we have to be meek. To be meek means not to resist the world's opposition but to suffer it willingly. Regardless of the situation we should be meek, not fighting against others. Meekness means not fighting for oneself. If we fight for anything, we cannot be quiet. The only way that we can be quiet is to not fight for oneself or seek anything for oneself.

#### Knowing of What spirit We Are

Luke 9 tells us that a certain village of the Samaritans would not receive the Lord and His disciples. So James and John said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" (v. 54). The Lord turned and rebuked them, saying, "You do not know of what kind of spirit you are" (v. 55). We always have to learn to know what kind of spirit we have. In other words, with God and with man we always need a proper spirit. If our spirit is improper, we are through with God. We need to know what condition our spirit is in. The Bible tells us to consider our ways (Hag. 1:7), and we also have to consider our spirit. We should consider not only our outward ways, our outward behavior, and our outward attitude but also our inward spirit. We need a proper spirit.

#### Questions:

1. What does it mean to have a right or steadfast spirit?
2. Why must our spirit be proper in relation to the Lord? What about in relation to others?

## Scripture Reading:

Psa. 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me. (KJV)

Psa. 51:12 Restore to me the gladness of Your salvation, / And sustain me with a willing spirit.

Psa. 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; / A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Isa. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One, / Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: / I will dwell in the high and holy place, / And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, / To revive the spirit of the lowly / And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 66:2 For all these things My hand has made, / And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

1 Pet. 3:4 But the hidden man of the heart in the incorruptible adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, which is very costly in the sight of God.

Gal. 6:1 Brothers, even if a man is overtaken in some offense, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, looking to yourself lest you also be tempted.

1 Cor. 4:21 What do you want? Should I come to you with a rod or in love and a spirit of meekness?

Luke 9:55 But turning, He rebuked them and said, You do not know of what kind of spirit you are.