

The Doctrine of Brokenness

by Greg Locke

Greg Locke's sermon emphasizes the necessity of brokenness before God as essential for true repentance and spiritual renewal.

Duration: 55:46

Scripture: Psalm 51:17, Psalm 56:8, Isaiah 66:2, Matthew 6:33, Luke 18:13, Romans 12:1, James 1:22

Topics: "Evangelism", "Spiritual Revival"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses why people are not being converted to Christianity as they used to be. He believes that God's people have lost their burden for the lost and have become too focused on their own entertainment and schedules. The preacher shares a personal story about his stepfather, whom he had talked to about the gospel numerous times without success. However, he emphasizes the importance of not giving up and continuing to share the message of God's grace. The sermon encourages believers to regain their passion for evangelism and to be persistent in sharing the gospel with others.

Transcript

Psalm chapter number 51 in your Bibles tonight, please. The book of Psalms in chapter number 51. Thank you so much for being here tonight.

Enjoyed the good spirit of the Lord this morning and the service and what a great crowd we had. And thank you for being back here this Sunday evening. And I hope that you'll be back and do your dead-level best to be back in every single service tomorrow night, all the way through Friday night, 7.30 each evening.

Give you just a little bit extra time to get ready and to be here and especially you who will be in the choir. Please come and come early and be ready to sing for the glory of God. Thank you for coming.

Good to see you. And please come back with an open and willing heart to do that which God speaks so hard about. Psalm chapter 51.

Let's stand, please, tonight out of respect for God's Word. Now it's the afternoon, just kind of seeking the Lord, praying about that which He'd have me to preach and just feel that this is the burden and this is the area and the direction that God has led me tonight. And so I hope it'll be a great blessing to you.

But more than even being a blessing, I hope it'll be something that'll conviction, that'll change your life for a time and for eternity. Psalm chapter number 51, please. Look, if you would, at verse number 17.

Psalm chapter 51, verse number 17. The Bible says, "...the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Notice it one more time, please. Psalm 51, 17.

"...the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." And tonight I want to preach the simple subject, the doctrine of brokenness. Thank you very much. You may be seated.

Let's bow our heads and hearts and pray and ask the Lord to bless our time together tonight. The doctrine of brokenness. Lord, tonight I need your help as I preach the Word of God.

I'd be a fool to stand in this pulpit and try to preach in the energy of my flesh. So, Lord, I openly admit to You and to this congregation that I am a nobody and that I need the help of the Spirit of God. So, please help me as I preach.

But, Lord, just as much as I need You as I preach, this congregation needs You as they listen. I pray that You would open our ears and open our eyes and open our hearts of understanding to the Word of God. And when we leave, may we honestly be able to say that we are James 1, 22 Christians, not just hearers, but doers also.

Father, please speak to our hearts tonight. I pray that You would move. I pray that You would convict and that You would change and that You would have Your will and Your way in our hearts tonight.

And, Father, no matter what You say, I pray that we would be obedient to Your precious convictions and to Your Spirit. And we'd be willing to do anything and everything that You ask us to do. For it's in Jesus' name that we ask it and pray.

Amen. If you take your Bibles throughout the book of Psalms and read Psalm 32, Psalm 38 and Psalm 51, you will find out that basically those three chapters are the triplets of David getting his heart right before God. If there is one thing that I see that we are missing in modern day fundamentalism, if there is one thing that I see that we are missing in most of the Baptist churches that I preach in, if I am seeing something that really grieves me and that really bothers me, and to be honest, it grieves me of my own lack, I believe in pulpits and in pews around America and around the world, we have lost the ability to weep.

We have lost the ability to be broken over certain things that God mandates, commands and tells us that we should be broken over. You know, if you read about 78 or 80 of the Psalms, you know, historians give or take a few of how many David actually wrote out of the 150. I'm telling you, here's a man who was broken all the time about the good grace of God.

Here's a man who prayed and wept about God's mercy. He prayed and wept for God's forgiveness. He prayed and wept for his enemies.

Now, there were times when he was pretty vindictive, if you will, in his prayers. We call those precatory Psalms when he was praying that God would kill and judge those other wicked nations, but most of the time when David prayed, there was a broken spirit that was in his heart and he would just pour out his heart before the Lord. I want you to take your Bibles and flip over just a chapter or so to chapter number

56.

I'm going to show you something, would you? Psalm chapter number 56, something very interesting that I read a year or so ago and it kind of spurred my imagination and I began to study it. Psalm chapter 56 and verse number 8, notice what David says. He said, Now tell us my wandering, put thou my tears into thy bottle, are they not in thy book? I began to read that and I thought, what's this business about God putting tears of David into a bottle? And so I began to study it as far as the context of the Scripture was concerned.

Historically, and I found out that whenever a person would die, it was the Jewish custom when their family, their friends and their closest associates would show up at the funeral. That those who were the closest to the deceased, those who were the closest, such as maybe a man had passed away, it would be his wife, a wife had passed away, it would be her husband, it would be the children, those who were the closest to the one that had passed away. They would have almost like a little vial, it would be like a little medicine bottle.

And what that person would do, the Jewish custom here in Psalm chapter 56, is as they were going through the ceremony and as they were going through the rituals there of the funeral and there was much to be explained, just too much to explain that item of service, many, many different things that they did by way of customs and by way of their culture. But one of the things that was interesting is they would take that little vial, they would take that little bitty medicine bottle, if you will, and as they were weeping and mourning the loss of this one whom they had loved and they had shared life with and they had shared good times and bad times, they would take that little object, that little vial, and they would take a few of the tears that trickled from their face and they would place them inside that bottle as a memorial to their broken heart and weeping heart over the decease of their loved one. And they would then take that little medicine vial and they would place it into the casket with that body, lower it down into the ground, and that was a picture that they had mourned and their heart was broken.

And David said, you know what, Lord? I want You to take my tears and I want You to put them in Your bottle. And I believe what David was getting at was, Lord, I want You to judge me and I want You to break me and I want You to do something for me to show me my own lack of love and my own lack of compassion. And he said, Lord, take all the tears that I've cried and place them in Your bottle as a memorial.

And I'll be real honest, if God tonight were to take a bottle and bottle up all the tears that you have shed for the power of God, if He were to take a bottle and bottle up all the tears that you have shed for your lost family members, if He were to take a bottle and fill up with all the tears that you shed over this or past revival meetings, if He were to take a bottle tonight and fill it up with your tears, here's the question, how big would your bottle be? I'll be real honest with you, I believe that God could take the average Baptist church and He could take a tiny, little, insignificant, minuscule bottle and He could fill it with the tears of every person in that church and in that congregation, and it still probably wouldn't even be half as bad. Because if there's one thing we have learned in modern day Christianity, we have learned to have a hard shell and nothing stirs us and nothing moves us, and brokenness is the farthest thing from our minds. But in Psalm chapter 51, we meet a man who was broken over two things.

I want you to look in your Bibles, if you would please, at Psalm 51 and verse number 1. Turn back to Psalm chapter 51 and notice what verse number 1 says. David is writing, he says, Have mercy upon me,

O God, according to Thy lovingkindness, according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me against Thee. Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight. Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part. Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with discipline, I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Verse 8, Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.

Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. You can see how ashamed David was for what he had done. Notice verse 10, Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Simple outline tonight.

Two little things that we talk about, and we're done and go home. Number one, I believe David was broken over sin. And if there's one thing tonight, ladies and gentlemen, that we need a good old-fashioned revival of, we need a good old-fashioned heaven-sent, heart-felt, Holy Ghost revival of you and I being broken over our sinfulness tonight.

We are living in a day when sin just does not bother people anymore. And you know, it used to be a day when sin just didn't bother the ungodly. But nowadays, sin doesn't bother those who are in the church house.

And our sin, and our lack of faith, and our lack of fervency, and our lack of prayer, and our lack of devotion to the local church, and our lack of dedication to the Word of God, it just doesn't bother us anymore. And it's almost like we've become a callous on our hands. We've worked, and worked, and worked, and we eventually got to the place where we feel no pain anymore.

We feel no suffering anymore. We feel no heartache anymore. And we're hard, and we're stanced, and we're cold, and there's no tears of joy in our heart anymore.

And that's exactly what happened to David. You know the story well. We'll not turn there with our fingers, but in our minds and hearts, just kind of pull back the curtain of memory and go to 2 Samuel 11, and you remember that David was the king of Israel.

Here is a man whom the Bible says was a man after God's own heart. He was a man of God, a man full of compassion, a man whom had godly characteristics, but the point is, he was just a man. And in 2 Samuel 11, in verse number 1, we see how much of a man he really was.

For the Bible says it was a time in those days when kings go forth to battle. I've never been able to figure that out. I've read a hundred commentaries on that, and nobody ever really actually understands that.

It was just a time when all the kings would get together, and they would get their captains and get their armies, and they would go out and just kind of fight one another to see who the big shot was. And I don't know all the understanding of that, but I do know one thing. David should have been there, and he wasn't.

David stayed home, and he laid around until the sun warmed his feet, if you will. He was laying around the house, and one night he couldn't sleep. Maybe he ate some pepperoni pizza or something that didn't agree with him a little bit.

And he needed some Pepsi, or he needed some Tums, or some Roloids. So he got up, and he went over to the cabinet, and he got him some Roloids and said, you know what, I think I'll take myself a little stroll. And so he goes out on the roof of the house.

Now please understand, it's not a roof like the building that we're in tonight, but it was more almost like a balcony, a type of a porch. And so he went out there, and the Bible says he began to walk around, and as he looked down there in his kingdom, there was a home that was not too far from his view. And the Bible says that he saw a woman by the name of Bathsheba watching herself, and the Word of God says she was very beautiful to look upon.

Now I want you to understand something tonight. If David would have saw that and immediately turned around and said, God forgive me, I did not mean to see that lady. I did not realize she was going to be out in the open like that.

I apologize. Wipe that from my memory. Wipe that out from my heart.

Then you wouldn't have the tragic story that you have in 2 Samuel chapter 11. But when the Bible says that he looked upon her, the word look literally means that it was one look, then two looks, then three looks. It was a long glare, and he stared at her.

And the Bible says in James chapter number one, when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin, and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death. And so he calls one of his little servants, and he says, I want you to go, and I want you to fetch that beautiful young lady and bring her unto me. And he said, wait just a minute.

He said, that is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. And he said, I'm the king, and I don't care about you, her, or Uriah the Hittite. He said, I want you to go and get her because I'm the king, and I said so.

And if you don't want to have a loss of a job by Monday morning, you better do what I say. So that servant went out, brought Bathsheba in. The Bible says that there was fornication, there was adultery, you know the story, wicked and godless, and just not too many weeks later, all of a sudden, David gets a little knock on the palace door, and it's Mrs. Bathsheba.

She's standing there, and she says, David, I've got some bad news for you. I'm pregnant, and it's your baby. And David says, well, hey, Bathsheba, just keep your mouth closed.

Don't tell anybody, and I'll be able to fix the whole problem. I don't remember, don't forget, I'm the king. Remember, I've got everything taken care of, and I've got all the money that there is to have, and I've got all the help, and I've got all the servants, and I can live my life any way that I want to.

Listen, you just keep your mouth shut, and I'll fix the whole thing. So he goes to Joab, and he says, I want you to call Uriah the Hittite back from the hot battle, and bring him down here. I'd like to talk to him for a bit.

And so David thought honestly within his heart that he could hide his sins from everybody, and he could, but he couldn't hide it from God, and that's what happened. And so he brought Uriah the Hittite back, and

he said, sir, what can I do for you? He said, listen, I just thought that since you're such a good soldier, since you was a good captain there in the army, I thought I'd just bring you back and reward you, you know, give you a little food, give you a little wine, just to get a fellowship with you a little bit, get to know you just a little bit, and then let you go down to the house, and enjoy the pleasures of marriage, and see your family, and then in the next couple of days, you can run back out on the battlefield. And Uriah said, sir, I appreciate that, and so he ate there, and he drank there with him, and they talked together, and David was probably even so hypocritical that he probably prayed and had a little bit of family devotions with him.

And then he sent him on his way, but guess what David found out early the next morning? He found out that Uriah the Hittite had not gone into the house, but he slept on the welcome mat of his own home. David found out about that, and he said, what in the wide world do you think you're doing, son? He said, I'll tell you what, King. He said, I mean, you don't disrespect me.

But he said, I've got friends and brothers and cousins and people out there on that battlefield who are shedding their blood and giving their lives for the glory of God and for the army of the Israelites. And how dare I go in and enjoy the pleasures of marriage and go and see my family? I'll not do that. He was more honorable than that.

And so David said, well, I'll excuse you. So David got in good and he drunk that night. He gave him a bunch of wine and a bunch of liquor and a bunch of booze and a bunch of beer.

And the Bible says, oh no, he was even intoxicated. That night he went down and he slept on the porch of his home. And Uriah was more spirit-filled when he was drunk than David was when he was sober.

He got up the next morning and he went back to the king. And finally the king said, this is to no avail. This guy's a little bit too more honorable.

And so he called Joab and he said, Joab, I want you to take him back and put him out on the forefront. But he said, I've got a little letter that I'd like to give you. So he gives it to his little servant.

His little servant takes it over there. And no doubt that the servant doesn't open it up. He gives it to Mr. Uriah.

And Uriah says, what's this? And he says, well, this is from the king. It's a little letter that you're supposed to take to the captain of the Lord's army. And he said, just take it out.

There being the honorable soldier that he was, he wasn't going to open it up and he wasn't going to look at it. But you know what Uriah had in his hand? He had his own death notice right there in his hand. He had his own death notice because King David told Joab, the captain of the Lord, put him on the forefront of the hottest battle, put him right up against the wall and retire away from him.

So they took him out there. The archers were up there on top of that wall. And buddy, they were shooting the arrows 90 miles to nothing.

And there he was wide open. And the army backed away from him. And before you know it, an arrow shoots through his heart and word gets back to David.

And then word gets back to Bathsheba. And she weeps and she scrawls. And the Bible says that David took her and he married her.

Bathsheba became King David's wife, who eventually was the mother of Solomon. But yet the Bible says that he comforted her from the mourning death of her husband Uriah. And she bore the child and everything in the kingdom seemed to be just fine.

Until you get to verse number 27. But the thing that David did displeased the Lord. You see, he may have fooled Joab and he may have fooled the servants, and he may have thought he fooled everybody in the kingdom, but he didn't fool God and neither will you.

And here is a man who got out of trouble with everybody but God. And you can get into trouble with anybody you want to, but when you get in trouble with God, you're in more trouble than you've ever been in your life. I don't care who you are.

I don't care how long you've been in this church. I don't care how much you pray, how much you give, how much you read your Bible. When you get in trouble with God, you're in big trouble for Him.

And you can try all you want to to hide your sin. And for one year, David was not right with God. He kept that sin in his heart.

He harbored it in his heart because of his pride and because of his arrogant, cocky attitude. He would not get right with God. And you read sometimes Psalm 32 and Psalm 38 and see what happened to him.

Because sin does not just affect you spiritually, it'll affect you psychologically. I mean, it'll mess your emotions up for him. It'll mess you up physically and spiritually in every way you can imagine.

And he said at night, he would water his couch with tears. And he said his bones were literally getting older. And I mean, his hair was even getting gray and he was getting wrinkles, not because he was necessarily growing old that quick, but because that sin and that burden was depressing him.

And it was laying heavy upon him and he knew he needed to get right with God, but he would not. So one day he had his royal attire on with his nice gold and silver and diamond, pearl studded cap upon his head and he's sitting there upon the great throne and people come in and people go out and people come in and he's counseling people all day and he's telling Joab where to go. He's just going about his normal old duty.

One day there was a little prophet by the name of Nathan that came to town and he had some business with King David. And you know, whenever God needs to get something done, He always sends a man with a message. A little Nathan came walking in there and he told him some little old ditty of a story He said, I'll tell you one thing, we ought to kill the man that did this.

This man that did this is going to restore this fourfold. Told him about the little sheep that was stolen out of the fold and this man had a whole lot of sheep, had a whole lot of money, had a whole lot of goats and cows and oxen and all of this. And he said, but he went across town and sold some little old man's sheep that didn't have a whole lot and that just got to David.

I mean, that got under his skin. He rose up and said, this man will pay fourfold. And he stuck that long bony evangelistic finger right in his face and said, guess what? That wasn't him.

He said, it's you. It is your fault. You're the reason the judgment of God is on the land.

And David at any moment could have killed that prophet for speaking the way that he did to the king, but he didn't. You know why? Because he knew the man of God was right. And from that day, David went out and penned Psalm chapter number 51.

Notice what he said in verse one, Have mercy upon me, O God. Verse three, For I acknowledge my transgression and my sin as ever before me. Notice the most intriguing verse here.

Verse four, Against thee. Thee only have I sinned, done this evil in thy sight. Thou mightest be justified when thou speakest and be clear when thou judgest.

Now notice something, ladies and gentlemen. He did not say, I have sinned against Uriah the Hittite. Although he did.

Here's a man that committed adultery. Here's a man that lied. He committed treason.

Here's a man that lied over and over again. He committed murder. And one sin got bigger and bigger and bigger.

And before you know it, he's enveloped himself into a whole pile of sins and transgressions and iniquities. But not one time did he mention any of those people who he harmed. He did not say, I sinned against the armies of Israel.

He did not say, O God, forgive me because I could have got a disease in my body. O God, forgive me for what I did to the life of dear Bathsheba. He didn't do any of that.

He simply fell on his face and said, Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight. Because all sin, no matter who it's committed against, or no matter who it harms, it always breaks the heart of God, dear neighbor. And David lifted up his voice and he said, O God, it's against You and You only.

When I look in the mirror, all I can see is a man who has displeased his God. All I can see is a man who has been arrogant and cocky and proud and ungodly and rebellious and backslidden for a whole year. And he says, O God, would You blot out my iniquities? He said, Hide Your face from my sin.

David said, Lord, I'm so ashamed at what I've done. It's grieved me and bothered me so much, I'm ashamed to even ask that You would look upon me. I want You to hide Your face because of my sin.

And David was ashamed. I'm going to tell you there's a big problem in Baptist churches nowadays. People are not ashamed of their sin anymore.

There's no shame in America at all. People walk around and, buddy, they put their hands on their lapels and they talk about what they do and who they're with and where they've been going and what they've been listening to and what they've been watching. You watch some teenagers sometimes.

I mean, they're brazen and bold. And, buddy, they'll be the first to tell you that they're going to live their lives any way they jolly well please. And there's no ashaming anymore when it comes to sin.

David's heart was overwhelmed and David's heart was heavy and God broke David's heart slap into and he fell on his face. And he said, oh God, it's against You that I've sinned, not against anybody else. And I want You to take Your loving face and turn it away from my iniquity, turn it away from my backsliding, turn it away from my rebellion.

And when David got right with God, he was bothered about his sin. You know when real revival comes, ladies and gentlemen, it comes when God's people begin to get honest with God about their sin. It comes when we get broken.

You know, a lot of people have the idea, well, you know, an evangelist comes to town, he preaches a bunch of little stirring sermons, preaches on hell, tells a bunch of scary stories, and, you know, 15, 20 people get saved, and glory to God, we had revival. Did you know 15 or 20 people getting saved is not revival? Did you know that people getting saved is an evident outflow and working of revival, but revival doesn't have one thing to do with lost people getting saved? We could have 1,500 people saved in Martinsville this week and still not have revival, do you know that? But if we did have 1,500 people saved in Martinsville this week, it is more than likely because before the 1,500 people were saved, we did have revival, because God works in our hearts and works through us to reach the lost. For example, how many ladies in this room, just help me, all right, how many ladies in this room have ever had a baby before? Would you put your hand high in the air if you've ever had a baby? Okay, God bless you, you may put your hands down.

Now, do you know what you did when you had a baby when you went to the hospital? Of course you know what you did, but when you went to the hospital, and you know what you looked for? You looked for a clean place. You know, you didn't go to some little old hut somewhere with dirt all over the floor, and some doctor that never wore a glove in his life, and you know, Dr. Smell Fungus, and he stunk, you know, and he had bad breath, you know, a big old beard sticking out to about like this. You went to a place that was respectable.

You go to a place that is nice. You know why you go in these little nursery buildings and you see these moms and dads and these older brothers and sisters, they're all googly-eyed and goo-goo-ga-ga and the rest of that stuff, you know, and they're looking at that little baby, and they got that little baby-neck bassinet, it's all covered up with that big plastic thing, and I mean the room is white as snow, and I mean they got all kind of medicine in that place, and I mean they're squirting the thing, and they covered up with these masks on their face, and got these booties on their shoes, and got gloves on. I mean they're all scrubbed up.

I mean it's that way through the whole delivery process. It's that way for the next several hours after the baby's born. You know why they clean that place up like that? Because they want an atmosphere that is clean and conducive for the birth and growth of babies.

It's just that simple. They don't want them born and growing in a dirty environment. You know the same thing is true with God in Revival.

God wants to scrub the walls clean of the local church, and He wants to work in us and through us, and He wants to scrub us and get us holy and get us pure and get us clean, so that in here we may have a clean and conducive atmosphere for the spiritual birth and growth of babies into the Kingdom of God. But it begins with an old-fashioned burden and brokenness for our... When's the last time you've fallen on your face and you knew good and well that you were not right with God, and you fell down and you wept before

the Lord and asked God to forgive you? You know what most of us do? We pull the little... I lay me down to sleep. I praise the Lord, my soul to keep.

If I should die before I wake, I praise the Lord, my soul to take. Tommy Ross. And please understand, I say this reverently, but I think sometimes we're so generic in our prayers.

God, let me know what we're talking about. Oh Lord, forgive me for all of my sin. Forgive me of everything that I've done over the past few days.

No, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to have to get specific about our sin if we're ever going to get specific about the area of Revival. David said, Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in my sight. He poured it out before the Lord.

Now, God knew what he was talking about, but David made it evident. He said, God, I've sinned. I've been wicked.

I've been ungodly. Forgive me for what I've done. And I'm telling you the joy bells of God flooded his soul when he got broken for his sin.

Notice what happened, if you would please, at verse 8. He said, Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. So is this, creating me a clean heart.

Why did he say that? Because he had a dirty heart. Creating me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit. That word for spirit can be translated out of your King James Bible, attitude.

He said, I've had a sorry attitude for one year over what I've done. He said, I want you to create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Now let me please explain to you what he is not saying there. I've heard some of the Charismatics and some of the Pentecostals say, you see right there, David's praying that he doesn't lose his salvation. That's not what David's praying.

I'd like to remind you, in the Old Testament, the Spirit of God came upon people. In the New Testament dispensation, the day that we're living out now, the Spirit of God indwells people. And I've got the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God right this very moment.

And I don't need more of the Holy Spirit, He just needs more of me. And so David is not praying that he will not lose his salvation. In the Old Testament, the power and the fullness and the Spirit of God would not indwell people, rather it would come upon people.

You remember Samson? Not that it indwelled him, but rather it came upon him. The idea is literally of placing a sack or a burden or a pack upon somebody's back. And that's what the Holy Spirit of God did.

He gave them what they needed to serve the Lord. And so David says, Lord, I want the power of God back. I want you to give me your Spirit.

I want you to give me your fullness and that joy that I used to have. Why is David praying that? I'll tell you why. Because a Christian who is in sin knows nothing about the power of God.

A Christian who lives in sin knows nothing about the power of God. And that goes from the choir of oil. That goes from the pulpit.

That goes to the Spirit. I don't care if a man can preach some of the most fanciful sermons on the face of God's earth. Any man can hold his own for 30 or 40 minutes in a pulpit.

I don't care if that man can quote all the Bible and he can preach slower, he can preach faster, he can jump around and dance around like a ballroom and daily circus clown, and he can hold people's attention. Any preacher that has sin in their life doesn't have the power of God on them. Any church member that has sin in their life does not have the power of God upon them.

And I'll be honest with you, because of our lack of brokenness, because of our lack of compassion, and because of our lack of concern, and because of our lack of wanting to deal with our sin, no wonder our churches are in the mess that they're in, because we know very little about the power of God, because we know very little about being broken over our sin. Now, it's one thing to be broken over somebody's sin. It grieves me when I hear that somebody's fallen to sin.

The Bible says, if a man be overtaken in a fault, he which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness. I'm not supposed to beat them down. I'm not supposed to pull their Bible out of their arms and kick them in the face and laugh at them and put them in the publication and tell everybody about them.

I'm not supposed to do that to a brother in Christ. I'm supposed to help them, realizing that at any moment I could be tempted the same way and I could fall into that sin. So I understand the fact and the understanding tonight that we should be broken about other people's sin, that that should bother us.

But I'll tell you what we lack, being broken for our own sins. David said, Lord, for one year I've not had any joy and I need my joy back. Nehemiah chapter 8 and verse number 10, Neither be you sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

And he said, Lord, I've not had any power. He said, I've not had any strength. He said, I've not had any joy.

I've had a bad attitude. I've not had the power of God. You know why? Because for one year he was not broken for his sin and he said, Oh God, create in me a clean heart.

Give me a new heart after the things of God. Give me a new level of dedication. Help me to go on in my faithfulness.

Help me to go on in my fervency. And David got broken for his own sins. God's Spirit got on him in old-fashioned Holy Ghost conviction.

It got to the place where David couldn't handle it anymore. And if you will, he ran to the altar and fell on his face and said, God, please cleanse me. And it was then and only then that God began to flood the revival blessings in the heart and in the life of David once again for one year.

He did not know what it was to have the power of God. For nearly a year, he did not know what it meant to walk in the joy of the Lord. But in the back of his mind and in the inner recess of his heart, he knew he was not right with God.

He got up every day and went through the religiosity and went through the routine and went through what he normally would do. And he worked in the energy of the flesh. He spoke in the energy of the flesh.

He prayed in the energy of the flesh. He did all of these things in the energy of the flesh knowing in his heart that he was not right with God. But finally, God's Spirit spoke to him and he could handle it no longer.

He wrote Psalm 32, Psalm 38 and Psalm 51. It's not that it took him three psalms to get God's attention. It's that it took him three psalms to open up his heart and say, Oh God, I'm so sorry for what I've done.

Would you forgive me for what I've been looking at? Will you forgive me for what I've done, for the lies that I've told? Will you forgive me for my dishonesty? Will you forgive me for my lack of commitment? And for three psalms he poured out his heart before the God of the Bible. But I want you to look, if you would please, a thought here in verse number 12. Verse 12 of Psalm 51, David said, Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Notice please, then, T-A-T-N, Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Why is it that David said that? You know why he said it the first sceptor? I'll tell you why. Because David said, Lord, when I get broken for my sin, when I get right with God, when you give me the power back, when you give me the joy back, when you give me my fervency back, when you give me my excitement back, then and only then will I be able to be the effective witness that you called me to be.

And David, number one, was broken over sin, but number two, David was broken over soul. And for one year, he had a sorry testimony. For one year, his character was crooked as a barrel of ginger.

For one year, he had no burden for those in the kingdom who were without God. For one year, he had no compassion and no concern towards the heathen. But yet, when he got right with God, one of the evident tokens to prove to us that he did get right with God was the fact that he had an overwhelming burden to see sinners converted by the grace of God.

And he said, Lord, for one year, I've had no verbal witness. For one year, I've had no spiritual testimony whatsoever. And he said, Oh God, would You forgive me? He got broken for his sin.

He wept and he scrawled and he cried and he prayed, Oh God, forgive me. And then when he got right with God, as God was changing him and revolutionizing his heart, he said, Then, then, then, will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. And David got an old-fashioned brokenness over the souls of humans.

You know, I'll be honest with you. David asked a real good question in the Psalms at one time. He was discouraged.

He was to the place where he felt like no one cared for him. He was running from his son Absalom and he was hiding in the cave of Adullah. David was just overwhelmed with discouragement and depression.

He said, I looked on my left hand and I looked on my right hand and nobody was there to help me. Nobody was there to save me. Nobody was there to deliver me.

And he said, No man cared for my soul. You believe what you want to tonight, but I believe that sinners far and wide could honestly say that tonight. No man cared for my soul, because very few Christians care for sinners anymore.

We see somebody that walks into our services and their clothes are a little bit less to be desired. Maybe they look in a way that we're not used to. And I want to remind you, the reason sinners do the things that they do is because they're sinners and they don't know the grace that you know.

Sometimes we take our little fair circle noses and we hold them up in the air and if it were to rain, we'd all drown for sure in five minutes. And we act like they're supposed to look like us and smell like us and dress like us and walk like us and talk like us. But I'd like to remind you, we've experienced something that they've not experienced yet.

And we're expecting them to be just like us when they cannot be like us. Well, as I said this morning, they are dead in their trespasses and sins, but no longer does that bother us. No longer does that grieve us.

There are people under the sound of my voice. Did you know in this room right now, in this room right now, this whole congregation represents hundreds of family members that are going to hell. Just in this congregation tonight, we make up and represent hundreds of family members that are going straight to hell.

And we can sleep night after night after night and work day after day after day and it never bother us and we never pray for them and we never call them and we never write them and it doesn't bother us at all. Why? Because we're not broken for souls. We're not broken for those who are without the fold, those who are without the walls of the church.

The Bible says in Psalm 126, verses 5 and 6, they that sow in tears, get that, shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious things shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his seeds with him. God said, if we go out with a tear in our eye and a compassion in our heart, God said He'd give us fruitful harvest.

Why is it that we're living in a day when it seems like sinners are not converted? Why is it that we're living in a day when it's like pulling hen's teeth to get people to walk an aisle to be saved by the grace of God? Why is it that we go to homes and doors are slammed in our faces? Why is it that we can pass out gospel tracts and it just seems like nobody cares to take them and you can find them all over the streets after you've passed them out? I'll tell you why I believe with all of my heart tonight. Why people are not being converted by the thousands as they used to be because God's people have lost their voice. We're so messed up in the T-ball and HBO and our programs and our schedules, it doesn't matter that people are going to hell tonight.

And it no longer bothers us whatsoever. Why? We're not broken over souls. I remember I was preaching my very first year in evangelism.

We were still in Bible college. I was 20 years old. I went to Houghton Lake, Michigan.

And I was preaching this little church, Houghton Lake Baptist Church, and it was one of these domed churches. It was made out of a kit. It was the biggest monstrosity, the priest I've ever seen in my life.

You could sit on one side and whisper and the people on this side could hear you, but you could sit in the middle and shout and couldn't hardly anybody hear you. I mean, it was the weirdest auditorium I'd ever been in my life. They didn't even use a lapel mic or any type of microphone for that matter because it just kind of, you know, went from this wall to this wall and bounced all over the place.

You just couldn't hear. And so, you know, you could just stand in one particular little place. You couldn't run around much.

You could stand in one little place and just about everybody in the building could hear you. Well, I preached there, if I can remember right, on a Wednesday night. And no, we're just getting started evangelism.

I didn't have any meetings. And the pastor said, hey brother, how would you like to stay over till Friday? We'll keep you in a hotel room. And you stay over till Friday and I'd like you to preach to a men's breakfast down at the little breakfast place.

I said, I'd be fine. So I got up and preached to about 25 or 30 men on that Friday. And he said, well, how about you stay over on Saturday? He said, then we got a little thing you can preach to some junior kids.

You know, we got some junior kids coming in, kind of like a little one day vacation Bible school. You can preach to the junior kids. I said, I'd be fine, so I'll stick around.

So he said, well, you got much on your schedule? So I looked and said, well, I don't have anything on my schedule. He said, well, how about stick around for Sunday? You can preach all day Sunday. And then he said, if you stay Monday and Tuesday, you can preach the youth rally.

He said, we've got a youth rally scheduled. And so he kept me around for several days, but I'll never forget the Monday came around. And Sunday night, just before Monday rolled around, he said, preacher, he said, I'm not gonna be able to go with you, but I was wondering if you'd go visit a man by the name of Homer Smith.

And I said, I'd be glad to go visit him, you know? And he said, I'm not gonna be able to go. He said, I gotta go to a hospital visit. He said, there's some folks in my church that's gonna be having surgery tonight.

I need to go see them. And he said, you'll have to go by yourself. He said, and my wife and your wife can go out and do a little bit of shopping over at the mall.

He said, but if you don't mind going, it's about 45 minutes away. Said, his wife comes every single week. Said, she's just faithful.

She's honest. She loves God. And said, she comes to the altar just about every week to pray for Homer Smith, her husband, to be saved.

And I said, sir, I'd be honored. I'd be glad to go visit. And I said, you give me the direction.

And I said, I'll go. I got up the next morning, went out and gassed the car up, got me a cup of coffee and drove for a while. And you know, it was supposed to be 45 minutes.

I got a little turn around. Took me about 55 minutes to an hour or so. But finally, I remember I pulled into the driveway.

And I don't really know exactly in my mind what time it was. It was a little bit before lunch. I'd say it's probably about 11 o'clock or so.

I remember I pulled into his driveway and all the way there, I was praying, Lord, give me an opportunity. I don't know this man from Adam's house, Cat. He doesn't know me.

He's never heard me preach. I don't know what to say to this fella. I want you to just open up his heart, open up a way whereby I can share the gospel with him.

And I remember I pulled in the driveway and there he was sitting in a folding chair with a wheat in his lap and a Pepsi in his hand. And he was taking a break from weeding the yard. And I said, thank you, Lord.

I remember I pulled up and I got out, you know, and had my suit and had my Bible. I walked over there and he knew who I was because his wife told him I was on the way. Buddy, she'd been praying for years that Homer Smith would be saved by the grace of God.

And I remember I walked over there and Miss Smith came out. Hey, Bullock, how you doing? She shook my hand. Thank you for coming.

God bless you. And she walked to the house and I didn't see her again. I sat down in one of the little chairs and he reached over, just a real cordial man.

I mean, just a nice, honest man. He reached over and shook my hand and said, preacher, how you doing? He told me to be coming by. And so we just commenced the talking.

I didn't jump in with both feet and just start beating him with a gospel gun. I started talking to him about his family just for a moment. And so he told me about his family.

He said that when he was younger, he was raised in a Roman Catholic home, but he never really cared much for religion, never really did much for it, never did his stuff on the inside, you know. Didn't get the heebie-jeebies and all that kind of stuff. He said, you know, I just didn't figure, you know, religion was for everybody, but for some people.

And so I started giving my testimony. I didn't give my testimony, you know, four, three, four, five minutes, something like that. Tell him about what the grace of God did in my life.

And he said, son, let me ask you a question. He said, you thirsty? I said, well, I am, something to think of. He said, would you like to have a Pepsi? I said, yes, sir, I'll take one.

He got up, went in the house, came out with a can of Pepsi, I opened the thing up, I drunk her down. I was talking to him. I was talking for about 15 minutes.

And every time I'd get around the gospel, he'd change the subject. You've been around people like that before. You knew that the conviction of the Spirit of God was working on them, but they were not going to yield it.

He'd talk about wheelies, he'd talk about home, he'd talk about skiing, he'd talk about fishing, he'd talk about mountain climbing, I don't care what it was. He'd talk about something to get off the gospel. After about 15 minutes, he said, you like something to drink? And I said, sure.

And so he goes in the house and he comes out with a can of Pepsi and I'm sitting there. And this is the honest truth. I sat there and talked to that man for two hours.

And when I was done talking to that man, I must have had six Pepsi cans laying beside my chair. I mean, that man kept getting up and going in and getting a Pepsi. And each time he got one, he'd take a little bit longer and he'd go to the inside of the house, you know.

He'd come out there and give me a Pepsi. I'd drink it out, my eyes would swim a little bit, I'd crush the can and throw it down. And after two hours, I got about six Pepsi cans laying over beside me.

And I've been talking to God, but I didn't get my testimony. I've shared the Roman throne. I've done my best to tell this man about Jesus, but it's obvious he's not interested.

And so after two hours, you know, I'm not going to be crude, but I'm going to tell you what I told him. I said, Mr. Smith, I've been here for two hours. I've drunk six Pepsis.

I said, I've got to go in the house. I'm about to die. He said, all right.

He said, just come on in. And so I went to the house and I followed him. Now in my mind, I've been there two hours and I ain't seen his wife, Mr. Smith, one time, not once.

I ain't seen her hide in her hair ever. Know where she was? Thought maybe she left, I didn't know. So I went in and went to the restroom, put all my recycled cans in the recycle bin, you know, my old trash cans full of them.

And I got to walking out through the kitchen. And as I was walking out, they had one of those kitchens that kind of spilled over in the living room, but there was kind of a partition that went between the two that had these little bars, almost looked like a little prison. You've seen them before.

You can see through into the living room. I remember I was walking down the hall and coming out of the bathroom and I came down through the kitchen and I looked over to my left and I saw where Ms. Smith had been. It was almost like a picture.

You know, you see these Thomas Kincade pictures, you know, these pictures you think, man, I wonder if something like that could ever happen. It was almost like I wanted somebody right there just to paint what I saw. They had one of these big bay windows and I mean, the sun was coming through that thing and the rays of that sunlight was coming down on that woman and there was a big solid white, I mean, solid white leather Lazy Boy recliner.

And that woman had a handkerchief in one hand and she was down on both knees and she had her arms sprawled out over that big white leather Lazy Boy recliner and the sun rays was coming down on her and I'm telling you, I walked through that kitchen and my bumps got all over my arm. Her husband was standing right there and that woman had been over there for two hours weeping and squalling like a baby and I'm telling you that her husband would be saved by the grace of God. I mean, her face was red as a bead.

I mean, tear tracks all over. Her hair was in disarray. I'm telling you, the veins were popping out the backs of her hands where she was squeezing her fists and trying to get a hold of God and she'd been down there praying and praying and praying and you could tell he was a little bit embarrassed.

Kind of startled him a little bit. Kind of took him back. He said, well, you wanna come in the living room and sit down? I said, sure.

So I walked in the living room and I sat down and Miss Smith got up off her knees and she wiped her nose and wiped her face and cleaned her makeup up and straightened her bangs up best she could. She shut down that big lazy boy recliner. And old Homer Smith came over and plopped down right beside me and kicked his legs up.

I kicked mine up and he said, you want a Pepsi? I said, no, I'll be fine. Amen. So I looked over at Miss Smith and I just kind of cordially talked to her for a minute and right in front of her husband.

Right in front of her husband. She wiped them big old tears out of her eyes and she said, preacher, one day he'll understand what this is all about. Right in front of him.

One day he'll understand what this is all about and he'll be saved. And I remember I walked out of that place that day as a 20 year old evangelist. I remember I got in my car and I drove down the road and I thought to myself, God, give me tears.

Give me a weeping in my heart that'll keep me awake at night for praying for people that need to be saved. I've been there five times. I can be honest with you about something.

We'll tell you something about my life. You know, that was a time I got a stepfather named Joe Sumner who's lost in the ball and high weeds. I've talked to him a thousand times.

I've given him every answer, every gospel thing I can imagine. I've talked, talked, talked, talked, talked, talked, talked and talked to him, I was blue in the face. And I'll be honest with you, I got sick of talking to him after a while.

But you know, there was a time in my ministry, I'm talking about right now. Right now. I believe if a preacher's gonna jump on everybody else, he ought to jump on his stepfather down there.

Right now, in my ministry. You know, there was a time in my life when I prayed for Joe more than I pray for him now. I'll tell you what, I got talent.

I get sick of praying for him. I got tired of it every time I prayed, it seemed like I was far away from God, he got it. I remember I used to have a friend by the name of Chris Bonnell.

I remember Chris and I, we got in more trouble together before I got saved. Me and two kids on the face of God's earth. I mean, we were Siamese twins, we were inseparable, you couldn't keep us away from one another.

And the only one time we were away from each other for two weeks during about a two or three year period is because the court said we could not see each other for two weeks, we got in so much trouble together. I remember I got saved and I went over and I talked to him, I picked him up in my vehicle, I had a new car, my stepfather was in the car, had bought me and so I was driving that thing around. I was about, I don't know, I'd been saved about a year or so, maybe not quite that long, I was maybe almost 17 or something.

Brother Mike finally let me get a vehicle to the children's home. I remember I went and picked him up one day and took him back to the children's home. I talked to him about God and talked to him and talked to him and talked to him, took him to camp with us that summer.

And then we got back from camp on a Saturday, early morning Saturday, something like that, from Fort Bluff Camp in Dayton, Tennessee, just outside of Chattanooga. And I remember the next Sunday, I was supposed to, the next day, I was supposed to be preaching in teen church. And that day I got up and I preached, as a matter of fact, from Psalm chapter 51 on purge me with chastisement.

And I should be clean, wash me and I should be white as snow. And I preached on the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I remember Chris got up and he walked down the aisle and made a profession.

Little did I know, the only reason he made that profession is because I'd been on his case and I'd been on his back and I'd been praying for him to get saved and I'd been weeping for him and I'd been telling God, I want you to save him. I'd been telling him he needs to get right. And so he came forward, made some little old profession and it just seemed like from there it was downhill.

I mean, for the next two years, I mean, he was wicked as a devil. I brought him to the children's home. Brother Mike let him live there for six months.

He was kicked out of Barrowwood Christian Academy. He was kicked out of Flankin' Lowell Christian School. He was kicked out of a children's home.

I mean, he was kicked out of everything. I mean, this kid couldn't keep straight. And I'm telling you, he was the best friend that I ever had in my life.

And I'm gonna tell you, I remember nights. I remember nights. Week before the Lord, I'd go to these different churches and these different camps and go to these places and hear these men preach and hear them preach about sinners being converted.

And I'm telling you, I wanted to see people saved so bad I couldn't keep straight. I remember I'd go home and I'd swallow like a baby. I mean, I wouldn't eat.

I mean, I couldn't drink anything. I didn't care about talking to anybody. I didn't care about anything.

I'd just pray and pray and pray and pray. And I mean, I'd weep and I'd be broken. And there's several people that I prayed for like that.

I've seen several of them, thank God. I've seen the privilege of, I had the privilege of seeing several of them saved. But there's always those few.

So just kind of get to the place where you thank yourself. Well, you know what? There's just no hope for that crowd. Kind of like we talked about this.

And did you know that was times in my ministry when I prayed more for Chris Bonnell than I do right now. As a matter of fact, if I can be real honest with you, I bet I hadn't prayed for him. I bet I hadn't mentioned his name to God in six months.

I will tell you why. Because I get justice counted. You know why it's quiet in here tonight? Because you know this place is right.

Because we are dead at four o'clock in the morning. We have no compassion and love in our hearts towards those who are lost and going to hell. We go down to the restaurant, we get our food, we give them our money, they give us our receipt, we walk away and never even think to give them a gospel prayer.

There's rebuttals. We can go to a family reunion. People say, well, how you been doing? We tell them everything in the world.

But we do our best to deviate the conversation away from God, because we're scared to death when our families don't thank us. You know how many people I've had tell me, oh, Brother Rock, I love my family so much, I just can't share the gospel with them. It's hard, it is hard.

But if you do love them that much, you will share the gospel with them. And I tell you, we're going to have to have a brokenness, friend. We're going to have to get to the place where it grieves us that people are lost, and it grieves us that people are going to hell.

And David said, Lord, when I got broken over my sin, I got broken over souls, I will keep transgressors your way, and sinners will be converted unto you. I give this illustration, it will be done tonight. I've held a number of revival meetings at the Parkview Baptist Church in Ardmore, Alabama.

There's an Ardmore, Alabama, there's an Ardmore, Tennessee, and they're not too far apart from each other, just right down the line. I preached on both sides, and this past year I was there, we were there for an eight-day revival meeting. My wife and I, the Robertsons had some responsibilities and some things that they already had scheduled, and so they weren't able to be with us, and so I went in for an eight-day meeting, and we had 27 services in eight days, 27.

They kept me as busy as a one-armed paper hanger, and I was preaching on Sunday, and preaching on Monday, and preaching on Tuesday, preaching during the day, preaching during the night, preaching on the radio live from four to 4.30 every single day. And I'm telling you, we were busy, busy, busy, busy as little bumblebees. I was going to Christian schools, going to jails, going to nursing homes, all kinds of places.

But I loved it. I enjoyed every bit of it. I'd have done it 127 times if I'd had time, and I'd have had time.

And so I remember on Friday, we went to this little nursing center, and I preached that day. And the pastor came to me, Brother Dale Mitchell, and he said, Greg, he said, let's go visit Mr. So-and-so. And I had visited Mr. So-and-so the year before, and so I knew what his situation was.

A godly man, loved the Lord. He was only in his fifties. So I mean, we're talking about a young man, you know, we're not talking about somebody that needed to go to a nursing home, but we're talking about somebody who had a car accident.

Actually, it was a tractor-trailer accident in 1989. He hit another tractor-trailer head on. It threw him out of the driver's seat, and he landed through both windows in the passenger seat of the other 18-wheel truck, and came just about that close to dying and going to hell.

And the Lord used that to save him. He was a quadriplegic. He couldn't move from the neck down.

I mean, he could barely wiggle his ears. He could talk just a little bit. He could cut his eyes back and forth, but he could not move.

He was cold, dead, and lifeless in that day in the first year I met him. And so this past May, I went back, and I saw him again, and I said, hey mister, I called his name. And I said, how you been doing? He said, I've been doing pretty good, brother-in-law.

He has one of these little things cut out of his throat, little voice box, little voice activator stuff there. He's got one of these little tubes that sticks about that far from the edge of his lips. And when his mouth begins to fill up, the fluids begin to fill up his lungs, he'll close his lips around that little thing, and it automatically comes on a little suction deal, and it pumps that stuff out of his mouth so he doesn't choke to death as he's laying there because he can't turn over.

I remember we walked in this time, and he's watching a football game, had his little color TV, little 13 inch TV set up beside him, had his eyes cut over like that, and he's watching them. And so we walked in, and he said, hey Francis, how you doing? He said, turn that TV off. We walked over there, and we turned the TV off, and boy, I talked to him asking, how you doing? I said, you ever been to encourage somebody and you walk out feeling about that big because they encourage you more than you encourage them? Boy, I love it when that happens.

And I walked in there to be an encouragement to him, and what they do, they'd take him in a bed, and they'd roll him down to the services when I'd preach. But this particular time, he'd been real sick, and he'd had some type of flu-like symptoms, and so he wasn't able to come down, and so they didn't bring him in there, they didn't want to contaminate everybody, and so I went back, and I said, hey brother, how you been doing? I said, I've been praying for you. I said, I've been looking forward to coming and seeing you this week.

I said, you been listening to the radio broadcast? Every day, every day, four to four-thirty. I said, God bless you, keep preaching this grace. And, I said, well brother, I appreciate the encouragement.

I said, I appreciate your praise for the meeting tonight. I said, I sure do wish you could come out. Let me tell you what this man's testimony was.

The preacher went in there in 1990, one year after this terrible wreck. The preacher went in there, Brother Mitchell went in there and led that man in that bed to Jesus Christ, and the man immediately, after he got saved, the man said, I want to be baptized and join your church. He said, you're a quadriplegic.

He said, well there's a will, there's a way, preacher. He said, I believe that's the way it ought to be done. So he looked at it, they put him in an ambulance.

And they took him down to one of the members' houses, and they had a swimming pool. They took him in the little shallow end, over at the three foot, the four foot, and they put him on one of them little spleen boards. Had two men on this side, and two men on this side.

And the preacher got behind him, held his head, and boom, ducked him under the water in an ambulance board. Amen. Pulled him up.

They said, when he pulled him up, he said, glory to God. And I tell you what, I said, give me a church full of quadriplegics, they'll be that faithful, they'll lay him down. They put him back over at that little convalescent center, that little nursing home, and he'd been there all that time.

Hardly anybody comes and visits him. He's got pain in his, you know, in his body. He can't move, can't do anything, can't get nowhere, can't talk, can't only carry on a conversation with nobody for a long time, just wears him out.

Now he's got these little flu-like symptoms. You know, the preacher says he tries to visit him about once a week. Try to encourage him.

And I remember I was in there, I said, Mr. Smith, I said, that's not his name by the way, I said, Mr. Smith, I said, yeah, can I pray for you? Anything in particular I can pray for? And he gave me a couple names and family. So I reached over, you know, I pulled the little covers down a little bit, and there's his hands, and I put my hands on top of his. He couldn't feel it, but I just put my hands on top of his, and started praying for him, asked God to help him, God to bless him.

So we got ready to leave. He said, preacher. And so the pastor turned around, and he said, yes sir.

And he said, no other preacher. So I turned around, I said, yes sir, what can I do for you? He said, don't say something. I remember these big old tears well up in his eyes.

I seen that little lip just started quivering, and mine started quivering just as quick as his did. Them old tears just started coming down this way, you know, it's the only way the hat lay on that pillow there. Come across his ears, come down his face a little bit.

He said, brother Locke, I've been in here since 1989. He said, I've been in a lot of pain. I've had a lot of heartache.

Nobody comes to visit me much, and I don't have a lot of family that cares much for me, because of the condition I'm in, they just don't want what happens. He said, but you know what? He said, I've been in here a long, long time, and it's been a lonely road. He said, but if I could leave one person to Jesus Christ, laying in this bed of affliction, I'd gladly go back to 1989, and go through all the pain again, if God would use me to leave one person to Christ.

I'm gonna tell you what this preacher did. If you think I skipped some of my darling, and jumped in the car, and started shouting glory, amen, you're crazy, pal. I jumped in the car, and I about couldn't put the seatbelt on.

I'm telling you, the snot was rolling, and the tears were coming out, and I looked over at preacher Dale, and he was crying like a baby. I mean, the man couldn't start the van. I mean, he put his hands on that steering wheel, and sobbed like a baby, and he's already an emotional guy anyhow.

And I'm telling you, when he did that, I just about hit the floor. I'm telling you, God's Holy Spirit moved in that car, and I thought I was gonna have an old-fashioned fit, right there in the front seat of a minivan, amen, it's a Chevrolet too, amen. And I thought I was gonna have a fail right there on the floorboard.

And I'm telling you, I commenced to cry, and it was about six miles home, and I cried all the way home. And I'm telling you, my eyes were red, and I mean, you ever cried so much your stomach hurts? I mean, you get that heaving and hoovering feeling, you can't hardly breathe. I'm telling you, that man worked me up.

I mean, that tore my heart out to see that. And I went in there to be a help and encouragement to him, and I came out feeling that big because he's more of a man of God than I'll ever be in my life. And I'm gonna tell you what that man as a quadriplegic had that most of us don't have.

He had a brokenness for souls. He witnessed every individual that walked in that room. And the only desire he had was just to lead one of us to Jesus Christ.

Put down my tears. Your heads are bowed, your eyes are closed, please. The doctrine of brokenness.

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