THE VALUE OF BROKENNESS

REVIVAL OF BROKENNESS • THE BROKEN SPIRIT • NAVIGATING YOUR EMOTIONS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH OF NEW YORK, INC.
THE VALUE OF BROKENNESS

This issue of the Pilgrim News highlights the sovereign hand of God in our broken world. While sin destroys and disfigures, grace restores and renews. We trust that you’ll be encouraged and challenged by the notes of victory in this issue!

How is God working in your church? Send your dispatch to johnpeabody776@gmail.com to glorify God and encourage your fellow Pilgrims!

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

May 10, 2022
Annual ministers’ reports due

May 9-13, 2022
Work week on all campgrounds

May 31, 2022
All conference books to close

June 5, 2022
Deadline for all monies to be forwarded to the conference treasurer

June 10, 2022
Deadline for submission of church and ministerial statistical reports

EVANGELISTS SLATE

PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH OF NEW YORK, INC.

Rev. Rowan Fay: 8988 SE Pine Cone Lane, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455; rjfay62@gmail.com; 352-425-2510

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey McCallus, Sr. (Singers): weekend and driving distance meetings only; 14823 State Highway 37, Massena, NY 13662; 315-764-9048

Rev. Donald M. Myers: 1758 Avenue M, Schenectady, NY 12304; dmmyers22@verizon.net; 518-641-2542 (Cell)

Rev. Paul E. Pierpoint: Box 1065, Hobe Sound, FL 33475-1065; paulepier@yahoo.com; 772-546-0751 or 772-349-8866

OTHER CHURCHES’ EVANGELISTS AND SINGERS (LISTED UPON PROPER RECOMMENDATION)

Rev. Peter Casalino, Sr.: 1007 Dennison Street, Indianapolis, IN 46241; 765-635-4791 (Cell)

Rev. Dan Kaufman: 3095 Arbor Rd, NE Carrollton, OH 44615; 330-933-5346; emiministries@gmail.com

Rev. Edward S. Lecates: 7000 Tulane Drive, High Point, NC 27263; 336-431-5174 or 366-668-4174

Rev. Ed Overdorff: 2821 Liberty Street, Erie, PA 16508; 317-260-9396; edoverdorff@gmail.com

Rev. Marc & Melodie Sankey: (cell) (956) 566-3929; marcsankey@yahoo.com or FB message me

Dr. Noel & Betty Scott: P.O Box 297, Lowry City, MO 64763; 417-644-7521 (Home); 417-343-3141 (Cell)

Rev. Brian Spangler: 2424 Millers Bottom Rd., New Columbia, PA 17856; (419) 563-4014

Rev. & Mrs. Wallace Thornton: Evangelist and Singers with travel trailer; 128 Grundy Road, Somerset, KY 42501-4901; (606) 271-2250 or (606) 425-6860

Rev. & Mrs. William Tillis: P.O Box 189, Penns Creek, PA 17862; (614) 370-1819; bntillis@juno.com
Hi, friends. We just wanted to give a quick update and share some pictures. We are still in the rainy season and the creek out front is rising daily. Our days are very busy with home school and ministry. We continue to have *clubizinho* (kids club) and *clubizão* (teen Bible study) weekly along with mid week prayer and Sunday services. The church in Manacapuru has experienced heartbreak and ache as those who were once a part of us have decided to worship elsewhere. But God has continued to help and give grace as it seems like we are starting from zero again.

Some of the pastor’s wives came from Manaus to help with a ladies ministry in Manacapuru. We were so happy that four out of the five ladies we are trying to work with participated in that event.

The national church is actively seeking ways to raise extra funds for missions and ministry opportunities. They have entered into a contract to sell açai juice. The açai juice is purchased from an açai farm on the other side of the Manacapuru River. Weekly, the farm processes the juice and sends it packaged on ice to Manaus by boat where it is picked up and distributed between the churches to sell. The proceeds are helping the mission to become more self-sufficient and less dependent on the US church. It is exciting to watch.

Continue to pray for Pastor Edilson of the Nova Floresta church. While he continues to not be able to form words to speak, he does his best to communicate and still has his signature laugh. Praise God that the stroke did not affect his mental processing and that he is very lucid. He is passionate about what is happening in his church and was giving us a double thumbs up when his wife Rosa was talking about a sermon that God led her to preach one Sunday. He has had ten sessions of physical therapy with good results and is now receiving speech therapy.

We love all of you and thank you for praying for us.

Kezia Mills

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**A Note about Binghamton Camp**

Per action taken by the Annual Conference in July of 2021, *(refer to the annual conference minutes, page 38, under Annual Resolutions #5)* the Binghamton Camp committee along with other key advisors met with the inspectors on August 26, 2021. After the inspectors left, the committee discussed, prayed and voted. It was determined that it was not feasible for the Camp to continue. Since then the property has been in the hands of the Council.

The Council is asking all Cabin Owners to actively remove all your personal items/belongings from your Cabin as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Some Cabin owners have expressed interest in removing their cabin from the property. If you are interested in doing that please contact the Conference President (call or text 609-425-8336) stating your intentions to do so, and the effort can be coordinated. The deadline to have all personal belongings/Cabins removed from the property is August 31, 2022. Whatever is left after that date will go with any potential sale of the property if God leads that way.

I want to thank all who have supported and participated in the camp meeting that went on for over 115 years. As a Conference, we must not let these challenges that we face dim our vision as to God’s will for us today and in the future. Remember, methods (vehicles) may change (wear out or rust out) but the message never does! Holiness Unto The Lord! Let come what may, we must keep focused on Kingdom Building as we pass the torch of Holiness from this generation to the next. “Let all those who come behind us find us faithful!”
“It is not until we are broken, that Jesus, the light of the world, can shine in us and through us to a lost and dying world.”

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

Late, I have been thinking about revival. I have found myself praying in the Spirit for revival in recent days. Our Country needs God. Our Conference needs revival. Our churches need to be revived. All across Christendom, as members of Christ Church, we need to experience a revival. “It’s not my brother, nor my sister, but it’s me O Lord standing in the need of prayer!” I need a revival in my own heart.

Joy is a result of Revival. “Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee” (Psalm 85:6). One of the evidences that we need revival is the lack of Joy in the Church. Jeremiah wrote, “The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning” (Lamentations 5:15). Where are the bubbling testimonies? What happened to the spontaneous shouts of praise, and the glow on the faces of the saints that has so characterized God’s people through the centuries? Where is the excitement of “...assembling ourselves together...and so much the more as ye see the day approaching”? (Hebrews 10:25) Instead of meeting more often in this day, we have decided once a week is enough. What happened to “Oh the thrill that I feel when I get together with God’s wonderful people! What a sight just to see all the happy faces, praising God in heavenly places...”? (Heritage Singers) The thrill is gone. We need a revival!

Specifically, we need a revival of brokenness. There is a great need for brokenness in our day. Have you ever really been broken? “And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder” (Matthew 21:44). If we cast ourselves upon Jesus the cornerstone, we shall be broken, but there is also the possibility and opportunity for us to be healed. If we wait for the Lord to fall upon us in Judgment then we have crossed the line of no return. Let us seek God now while it is yet day!

GOD BLESSES WHAT IS ABOUT TO BE BROKEN. The five loaves were blessed by Jesus, and then broken, multiplied, and shared in that order (John 6:11). God always blesses what is about to be broken.
GOD BLESSES WHAT IS BROKEN. Jesus was in Bethany sitting at the supper table in the house of one who was a leper. A Woman came in with a box of very expensive “…ointment of spikenard, very precious…” (Mark 13:3). She broke the alabaster box and poured it out, anointing the body of Jesus. The disciples were angry that such a waste was made. Jesus defended the woman, praised her, and blessed her, so much so that he made sure that every generation since, knew of the incident that took place that day, in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper (Mark 13:9). God always blesses that which is broken. “…break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you” (Hosea 10:12). For Hosea, brokenness brought the presence of the Lord and righteousness! Brokenness always brings the blessing of God.

GOD HEALS THE BROKEN IN HEART. “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds (Psalm 147:3).” “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit (Psalm 34:18).” Brokenness breeds the presence of God and is always a precursor to healing.

GOD ALWAYS BEAUTIFIES WHAT IS BROKEN. This is illustrated in the brokenness that our Lord experienced on the way to Golgotha. “…the Lord Jesus the same night he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body which is broken for you…” (1 Corinthians 11:23-24). The Apostle Paul referred specifically to Jesus' own words. His bruised, bleeding, broken body turned into something beautiful on resurrection morning. “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said…” (Matthew 28:6). God always beautifies that which is broken. He will give unto you, “…beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness…that he (The Lord) might be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3). The songwriter said it so well, “Something beautiful, something good, All my confusion He understood. All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife, But he made something beautiful of my life.”

(William and Gloria Gaither)

BROKENNESS BRINGS VICTORY. An example of this is Gideon and his army pursuing the Midianites. Now left with three companies, each having a hundred men, with trumpets in one hand and in the other empty pitchers with lamps within the pitchers; Gideon pursues the enemy. At the command of Gideon the trumpets were blown and the pitchers were broken and the lamps shined, “…and all the host ran, and cried, and fled (Judges 7:21).” It was not until the pitchers were broken that the light could truly shine. Fellow Christians, it is not until we are broken, that Jesus, the light of the world, can shine in us and through us to a lost and dying world. Brokenness brought victory for Gideon and Brokenness will still bring victory for us today!

REV. JOHN PEABODY is the Conference President of the Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York, Inc., and the editor of the Pilgrim News.
Thank You!

In 2 Corinthians 9:15 we read this short but meaningful verse. “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” In this chapter, the Apostle Paul had earlier encouraged the church to give, but then ultimately expressed the reason. Their giving was but a reflection of God’s ultimate gift to us!

As Church Extension Director, my report will not be lengthy this month, but I do want to express my thankfulness for your generosity for this year’s Easter offering. As a conference, we want to do our part to continue to support the work at Wilkes-Barre as well as cry out to God for a new vision for future works! Brother Samborski gives us an excellent summary of his work these past few months, so I will not rehash those highlights here. I do want to, though, publicly express my thankfulness for the privilege of working together with him for the Kingdom of God and for God’s glory! Let’s continue to pray and support the work at Wilkes-Barre. Let us also pray for Pastor Charles Colton and his labors in Russell!

I conclude with this thought from Isaiah 43:19. “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” In this context, God promised the Israelites that just as He had made a way through the Red Sea, He was also able to make a way in the wilderness and bring them home from Babylon. Friends, our God is able to do new things in 2022! Thank you again for your giving, and let’s anticipate God’s help for our day!

JOEL BYER is pastor of the Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, Pilgrim Holiness Church. He also serves our conference as Vice President and Church Extension Coordinator.

AT HOME AND AT CHURCH IN WILKES-BARRE

It has been a little while since I last updated you. One Sunday in December was our last outdoor meeting for the winter. Our cue came when my microphone battery got too cold and turned off in the middle of preaching. We decided together as a local home congregation that we would put a pause to the street meetings for the winter. We have since been meeting in our home Sunday mornings for worship, and Wednesday evenings for prayer.

After Sunday morning worship, we share a meal together and then have something similar to a class meeting. We have discussions on things that God has been talking to us about, asking each other questions and giving our biblical reasons for things. This has been an instrumental time for us to build a very tight-knit bond as a home congregation!

As we started our home fellowship, we have had different visitors throughout. Doctrinal discussions can make clear dividing lines. As a result of some disagreements, some have not stayed with us. In spite of the disagreements, I’m glad we can still love one another in Christ. We have had our next-door neighbors join us once on a Sunday morning. Another street evangelist joined us for about a month. In addition, we have had friends come and stay with us, adding to our number and spirit for Sunday morning worship. A new lady has joined us and has been a part of our gathering for a while now!

Meeting in a home may seem somewhat foreign to our church culture. There are pros and cons to meeting in a home. One of the biggest negatives is a lack of exposure because of not being in a public building. On the other hand, meeting in a home has a sense of separating the chaff from the wheat. Only the searching and serious are the ones that want to come. As a result of the small, intimate nature of gathering in our home, there is occasion and opportunity for questions and open accountability! This is where God has led us thus far, and we will continue to follow his lead.

A typical Sunday gathering starts with greeting one another and asking a little bit about each other’s week. Sometimes we start off with some brief testimony or discussion of something God has helped us with throughout the week before. After this greeting time, we usually sing about three or so hymns. Testimonies and exhortations are often interspersed. It is an enriching time as each one feels like they’re part of a family. We then talk about the things or people we’re concerned about followed by us all praying together over those concerns. I then preach a message for about 45 minutes. When the sermon is concluded we ask God’s blessing on His preached word. It is often that we discuss practical implications of what was just preached. I find this to be extremely beneficial! Our conversations often continue right into the
dining room over a meal. It is our experience that much spiritual good is done around the supper table!

There has been some door-knocking and evangelism interspersed throughout these winter months. Most of which were “cold” introductions (no pun intended) and few were with people I’ve already met. Pastor Trevor Mills has been a tremendous help once a month helping me knock on doors and evangelize the masses.

January and February were filled with the routine plodding of ministry. Not everything that’s done is full of exuberant excitement. In faithful plodding there is much spiritual work accomplished. The patient faithful plod is what makes up most of our lives! Although January and February were part of the routine plodding, March was a different story!

At the beginning of March my whole family and I went to the Outreach and Bus Convention! We were glad to network with people and to be challenged and instructed with an evangelistic thrust! The following Friday, I preached a youth rally in Pittsfield. We then had about a week off from travel. Then we were greatly blessed at our Ministerial Convention with the ministry of Dr. Daniel Stetler. We were so glad to introduce a couple from our home gathering to those that were present! It was a blessing to us and to our friends!

The week after the Ministerial Convention, my family and I went on vacation for a week just over the Kentucky border into Indiana with my extended family. We went to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter! I would recommend this visit to any Christian, especially to those with families of school age children. I believe it was a time to strengthen our children in the faith, solidifying in an apologetic sense those things we so often talk about at home!

We left from our vacation in Indiana to go to the IHC in Gatlinburg, TN. We hope, Lord willing, to go annually as a family. We find this incredibly helpful to us in our pioneering efforts. I want my children to know that there are far more people that believe like we do! It is a joy for me to see my children raise their hands and worship during those main IHC services!

We have now decided to move our street meetings from Sunday mornings to Wednesday nights. We did not want our Sunday Gatherings to be disrupted, but on the flip side, our people have a desire to be evangelizing out on the streets! Our first Wednesday out was April 13th. It was good to see familiar faces that we have grown to know and love. It is a tremendous joy and encouragement to have our church people participate in our street meetings! They are well able at evangelizing! On the second Wednesday out, three other friends joined us. We are looking forward to being out regularly through the spring, summer, and fall. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

CASTING THE NET AGAIN IN RUSSELL

By Pastor Charles Colton

A little over a year ago my life changed. My wife and I purchased and moved into our own home. It had been a process of a couple of years and diligent prayer, but finally we felt we were fulfilling the Lord’s will. Some people questioned the sanity of moving forty-five minutes away from our church and ministry field, and believe me, there have been times of doubt and questions.

Shortly after the move, I prayed for the Lord’s will for us and the Russell Church. The only answer we were to receive for the past year was to be patient and wait. And so we waited and prayed, waited and prayed, and waited and prayed. God answered just a couple of days after Easter. I was going over John 21:1-14 when God opened mine eyes to verse 6: “And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.” God’s word came alive and I felt just like the disciples on the ship. Dawn had come and the long night had passed. Hungry and discouraged over a lack of success, I am sitting in my doubt when I hear God’s voice, “Cast your net again.” So I dug deeper into my Bible. What brought the disciples there? How did they end up fishing again after all that they had seen and done at the feet of Jesus?

My mind immediately turned back two days, to Easter Sunday. Jesus had risen from the grave! He is ALIVE! Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James had come to anoint Jesus, but he was not there for he had risen. An angel was there to explain everything and told them to tell the disciples, and Peter, that Jesus would go before them into Galilee, and they were to wait for him there (Mark 16:7). After seeing Jesus in the upper room twice, they would leave on an approximate ninety mile journey which took many days… all that time thinking of the wonder of it all! Imagine their disappointment when upon getting to their destination Jesus was not to be found. Hunger and the need to be doing something finds them fishing all day into the next, quite unsuccessfully. The next morning, as dawn came, a stranger called to them from the shore “Children, have ye any meat?” (John 20:5)

Now, I myself enjoy fishing, and know that among fishermen, when getting to a fishing spot, and someone is already there, I always ask, “Have you caught anything?” or “Are they biting today?” “Any new converts?” They’re all wondering the same thing: has anything changed since the last time we saw or talked to you?

The disciples have been forced to answer like I have the last few years, “No.” I feel like Peter must have felt, he was a professional fisherman; he made his livelihood from catching fish, and here he has caught nothing. I’m a Pastor and I haven’t had a new convert in quite a while. Did God abandon me? I began to think that I am a total failure, then I remembered just as God told the disciples to go to Galilee and wait for him, so did he tell me to go to Russell, and for the last year to wait on him.

The disciples and I are doing exactly what God told us to do. We can hardly do anything else. Don’t let anyone distract you from where God has called you to be. Stand firm. God is...
Emotions: A Gift or a Curse?

God created the world and He said it was very good. That included the emotional makeup of Adam and Eve! By now I am sure you realize that world is not still in its original and perfect state so we must admit and acknowledge that sin plunged the world into the Curse. Every aspect of our current world has been affected by sin and therefore is distorted. This is easily seen even in small children who may experience joy when another child (with whom they are fighting) is hurt. (This is an example of distorted emotion.) The same child may experience great distress and anger over simply being kept safe by his parents (“No, you may not play in the street.”) The child should be expressing joy for the care and concern of his parents. Even as we grow and mature we should keep in mind that our perception of life, relationships, and even God may be distorted by living in a fallen world. In the midst of strong emotion, it can be hard to remember that we may be the ones who are mistaken, but in learning to handle emotions in a way that pleases God — humility is a must! It is easy to assume things and make judgment calls with only part of the story. It is always helpful to remember that God sees the whole picture and we do not.

The world we live in today seems to tell us all the time that we are victims of whatever emotion we are feeling. We have to “follow our heart” — even if the consequences of that follow you right to jail! God’s children know that as “image bearers” (being made in God’s image), we have the power to exercise our will over our emotion. This is a wonderful truth! I can choose to not kick a door when I am frustrated. I can choose not to run someone down, just because they hurt me. When we were slaves to sin (before Jesus set us free), then we seemed powerless to choose what was right (at least with any consistency), but Romans 6 reminds us that we can “yield our bodies to be members of righteousness,” so even if a strong emotions tempts me to react in an unloving way, through Jesus I have the power to choose what is right! If you are getting carried away by a strong emotion and you feel the check in your spirit that what you are doing or saying is not pleasing to God, don’t despair or give up! Choose at that very moment to yield yourself back to God. Confess if wrong has been done, apologize if needed, and grow to be more like Jesus now that you know one more thing that does or does not please Him.

The more you get to know God, the more you choose to yield your will over to His, the more you will find your emotions being “trained” to love what God loves, and hate what He hates. It certainly helps when you yield your will over to Him in total surrender (entire sanctification), however you will still be living in a sin cursed world with temptations. Some temptations will especially show up through the presence of strong emotion — but you have the power of the Holy Spirit to help you withstand the temptation! 2 Corinthians 10:5 reminds us that we need to bring every thought into the captivity of Jesus Christ. Emotions usually start with thoughts, so guard your thoughts carefully! Philippians 4:8 tells us what measure we should use to decide if a thought is worth keeping or needs to be rejected.

Would life be better without emotion and all the headache they can bring? In our hearts, even if we are in a season of deep pain we know the answer is a firm NO. Yes, pain hurts, yes, we long for the day when God wipes all tears from our eyes, but even now we delight that we can know the depth of God’s love. Jesus said he came that we might have joy! God has a good plan — even for emotions. Let’s learn to not allow our emotions to be tools of the Enemy, but gifts from our good Father to teach us, refine us, and delight us!

From Page 7

walking nearby and watching. Jesus calls, “Cast your net on the right side and ye shall find.” The disciples could have made many excuses not to cast. They could have just given up right then and headed to shore. After all, they had done their part, they had waited and fished and well the fish are not there, so let’s head in. I could just say, “Hey Charles, you’ve been doing this since 2010, you’ve put in your time, carried many of your parishioners to their final reward, maybe it’s just time to give up, no one new is coming?”

After all their hunger, disappointment, and tiredness, the disciples could have also thought, “We can just remain sitting in the boat doing nothing, anchored in our surety that we cannot be moved.” I could do the same, and just continue to go, and occupy the space behind the pulpit every Sunday. After all there are faithful few to be fed and it’s too disappointing to reach out again.

They also could have sat there wondering, “Who has the courage, the faith, to cast again?” Each Sunday I walk up front and face the congregation. I realize how many faces are not there anymore. I sing the hymns and miss the way different ones would pronounce their words and how their voices, though few, would fill the sanctuary. I ask myself, “Can you really invest yourself again, knowing that you will soon be standing over their graves, if not their loved ones?” Is there time to invest again while I look forward to the day I will see them again, but yet missing them terribly? Do I dare cast again?

Thankfully, the disciples cast again! With empty stomachs, they cast again.
A Spring Challenge

As we head into the warmer months of late spring and early summer the school year is starting to wind down for most of us. With a little more time on your hands, I was thinking a reading challenge might be of interest to our young readers. Now is a great time for you to practice your reading skills and learn the daily habit of spending time in God’s Word. Everyone does this differently, and that is OK! If you want to work at the challenge as a family that’s great! If you want to do it alone, that’s great too. The goal is not to stress you or overwhelm you, but to encourage you to get to know God through His Word. If you do it for a whole month you will be well on your way to establishing a habit!

SCRIPTURE READING CHALLENGE

Read the verses then check off the passages you have read as you go. See if you can complete all four weeks (reading is only assigned for five days, Monday – Friday)!

BONUS: If you really like a challenge and you are an older student or advanced reader you could read the whole chapter from the Gospel of Luke. However, remember the goal is not just to see how much you can read, but to help you develop a habit of getting into God’s Word each day and letting it speak to you!

Week 1
- Tuesday – Luke 2:1-20
- Friday – Luke 5:16-26

Week 2
- Tuesday – Luke 7:36-50
- Wednesday – Luke 8:4-15
- Thursday – Luke 9:10-26
- Friday – Luke 10:25-37

Week 3
- Tuesday – Luke 12:22-32
- Wednesday – Luke 13:11-17
- Friday – Luke 15:11-24

Week 4
- Tuesday – Luke 17:1-6
- Thursday – Luke 19:1-10
- Friday – Luke 20:9-16

With tiredness and against all reason, they cast again! Maybe they thought, “I have learned that there is much more talent “in our circles” than I was previously aware of. I enjoyed seeing, speaking, and sitting with so many friends in the faith. I truly missed all the ministers who did not attend. Dr. Daniel Stetler was a well-qualified speaker, and his historical knowledge and wisdom sounded a clear, clarion call to not retreat in this day, but to do “what we must do” in our cultural setting. I wished it was in some written format as I tried to take notes, but could not carry it all home!

Rev. James Brewer

I so appreciated the many who helped with the special songs and Congregational singing as was my delegated responsibility to oversee. I have learned that there is much more talent “in our circles” than I was previously aware of. I enjoyed seeing, speaking, and sitting with so many friends in the faith. I truly missed all the ministers who did not attend. Dr. Daniel Stetler was a well-qualified speaker, and his historical knowledge and wisdom sounded a clear, clarion call to not retreat in this day, but to do “what we must do” in our cultural setting. I wished it was in some written format as I tried to take notes, but could not carry it all home!

Stephen and Rebecca Lambeth.
PILGRIM HOLINESS CHURCH OF NEW YORK, INC.

MINISTERIAL CONVENTION
March 22-24, 2022 • Montrose, Pennsylvania
C RASH! The noise startles all who are within the range of hearing. It is the sound of something breaking. As a mom, that sound can bring me running. The emotions we experience when something breaks can vary. At times it bothers us very little, if the item was inexpensive and carried no emotional significance. Other things that break can cause us great distress. When we view something as valuable, the awareness that it is broken creates a strong emotional response within us. However, there are also times that something must be broken in order for it to reach its full potential. You cannot eat the nut unless you break the shell. In this case we would consider it foolish to resist the shell’s being broken, because we know that what’s inside is much better with the shell removed.

In Psalm 51:17, David states, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” In notes on this passage, Adam Clarke states that the picture is of something broken to pieces. I don’t know about you, but a broken spirit or heart does not sound enjoyable. Just like hearing glass breaking — these words can make me cringe. Does God want us to be beaten to pieces, sad, and miserable? Hopefully you know enough about the wonderful character of our loving God to automatically reject that notion! God delights to bless His children and takes joy in working out things for their good. So how do we reconcile the God Who in Jeremiah 29:11 tells us He has good plans for us, and here in Psalm 51 we learn He wants us to offer the sacrifice of a broken spirit?

Remember this prayer in Psalm 51 is a prayer of repentance. David had sinned. Big time. On purpose. The Law made no provision for such arrogant rebellion against a Holy God. David knows this, and in verse 16 acknowledges that there is no sacrifice that would atone for his wrong doing. Rather than trying to “fix” the problem by turning to religious ceremony or motions, David is deeply repenting and broken. He recognizes he deserves justice. He is guilty. Instead of arguing with God or trying to plea bargain, David openly admits and confesses his sin. This is the kind of brokenness that delights the heart of God!

Jesus started the Beatitudes out by stating that the poor in spirit and they that mourn are blessed (i.e. happy). I believe this is exactly what He meant. When your spirit is encased in sin and pride, it is like the hard shell of a nut. You cannot experience life as God intends it to be in that condition. Some people want to ignore the problem (just decorate the shell and pretend it’s all okay). Others want to blame others for their sin problem (it’s not my fault)! We will only find freedom and the abundant life, when we look at our sin the way David did. Confess it (admit along with God that what we did was wrong), forsake it (if we are really grieved by it with a broken spirit — we will want no part in continuing in it), and recognize and accept that Jesus paid the price for our sin, so He could forgive us and make us brand new.

Do you like the sound of a broken spirit? All around we see lives being ruined by sin, yet so many keep their spirit hard and lifeless — you might even say “unbreakable.” The moment you feel conviction for a sin, the best thing to do is repent! Keep your heart and conscience tender to the voice of the Holy Spirit! God longs to hear the cry from a broken spirit. He wants to heal the brokenness that sin has caused. Hard hearts are not alive. He wants to set you free from the shell of sin that keeps you dead spiritually. The path to life is through a broken spirit. The choice is entirely up to you.

Just like as a mom, I come running the very second I hear a crash — our Heavenly Father immediately responds to the sound of spirits breaking. Nothing delights Him more than to enforce the victory Jesus won on the cross and break another chain of sin. Won’t you trust Him with your broken spirit?

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