

# On This One Will I Look

Joe Hester

Psalm 34:18 is a very familiar verse. It says,

*The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

This is a saying often quoted in Christian circles. Even non-Christians know and quote it. It is, of course, the truth of God's Word. He is near to those who have a broken and humbled heart. The Lord resists the proud, but He does draw near to the broken-hearted.

It is also true that this verse paints a picture of the true Christian. A true child of God has a heart broken over their own sin; they have been humbled. They are of a contrite spirit. True Christians are sorry unto repentance and grieve greatly over remaining sin. As we look around the "Christian scene" and even our own congregation, or better yet into our own hearts, we can see reason to pray for more contrition before God and more broken-heartedness. We long to see more of this in our own and others' lives.

But this brokenness, this contrition, is not the whole picture of a Christian. Isaiah 66:1-2 forms a parallel passage and as such adds a very important element to the picture of a Christian.

*Thus says the LORD: 'Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist,' says the LORD. 'But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.'*

Yes, the believer is broken, poor and contrite in spirit, but he is also one who trembles at God's Word. Does that describe you? As you gather for corporate worship, do you realize the great importance of what will take place? What happens in worship, especially in the preaching of God's Word, is more important than what takes place in Congress or the Supreme Court. It is more important than what the president does in the Oval Office. Does that make you tremble at God's Word?

For on this one will God look:

*...On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.*