

Seek the Lord's favor.

Isaiah 66:1-2



**Happy
Chinese
New Year!**

May this year bring
you good fortune



**HAPPY
CHINESE
NEW YEAR**

May this year bring you
prosperity and peace



**Ezekiel 36:9-11:
God's favor will bring
a blessing of
fruitfulness and
prosperity**

Isaiah 66:1-2

- “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?”
- Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the LORD.
- “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.

Isaiah

- Sins of Israel / Judah, judgement against pagan nations and God's purpose in judgement. (1-39)
- Israel's release from captivity, future Redeemer and Kingdom (40-66)

Heaven is my throne: God is Almighty



Creator of all things

**Enthroned in heaven
and on earth**



Isaiah 6:1-4

King James Version Bible

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he co...



**Vision of God
on His throne**

Where does He rest /dwell?

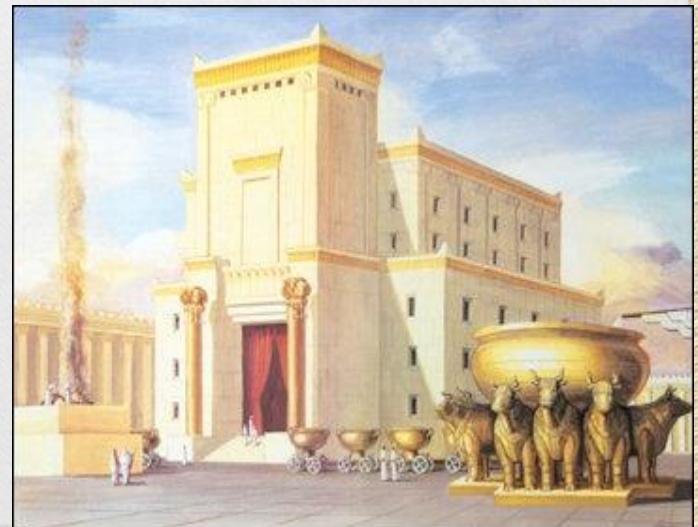
- Where is the house you will build for me?
- Where will my resting place be?

Will the Lord dwell on earth?

But is it true
that God
will live on the earth?
See,
heaven and the highest heaven
are not big enough to hold You.
How much less
this house which I have built!

1 Kings 8:27 NLT

**OT: Temple
represent God's
dwelling on earth**



**...THIS IS THE PLACE OF MY THRONE AND
THE PLACE OF THE SOLES OF MY FEET,
WHERE I WILL DWELL IN THE MIDST OF
THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FOREVER...**

EZEK. 43:7

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Where does the Lord
dwell now?



1 Corinthians 3:16



1 Corinthians 6:19

His presence is with us

Who does He look on with favor?

He favors those with:

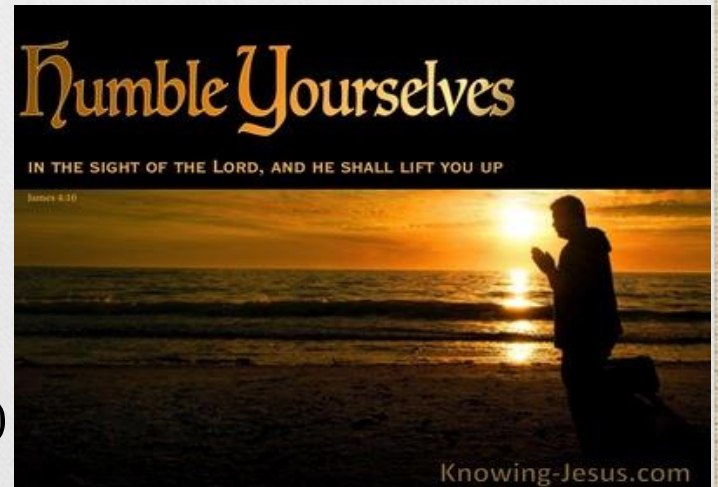
- Humble and contrite in spirit
- Tremble at His Word

**Nothing to do with our
ability or achievement**

God favors the humble

- Proverbs 3:34
- He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.

James 4:10



-
- Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted. (Matthew 23:12)
 - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time (1 Peter 5:6)

**God exalts and favor the humble.
He humbles the proud.**

Contrite heart

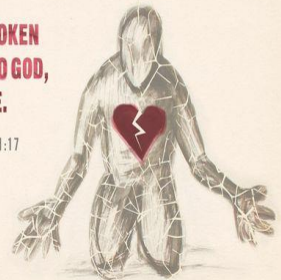
- David says, “A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 51:17).

**Remorse and
sorrow caused by
conviction of sin**

The sacrifices of God are

**A BROKEN SPIRIT; A BROKEN
AND CONTRITE HEART, O GOD,
YOU WILL NOT DESPISE.**

Psalm 51:17



David's experience

- Greatest king of Israel who fell at his peak.
- Sins of adultery and murder.
- Confronted by prophet Nathan.
- He repented (wrote Ps 51)

Godly sorrow

- Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation.(Message)

**Contrite heart lead to true
repentance and salvation**

Contrite heart

- are willing to do anything and everything that God asks of them, without resistance or resentment.

Obedience



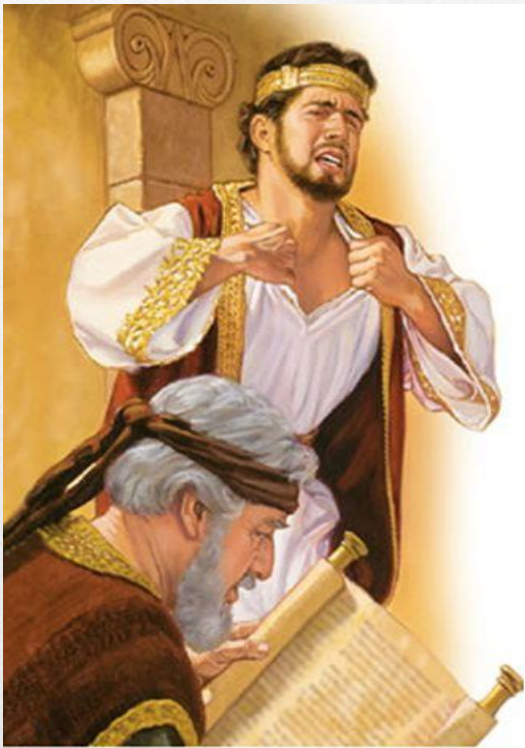
Why is a humble and contrite heart important?

- Acknowledge God as enthroned.
- Acknowledge Christ as our Savior.
- Acknowledge / Tremble at His word.

Tremble at His word

- a holy reverence of God and His word in which resides so much of the power and majesty of the Most High.
- acknowledge the authority of His word.

King Josiah's remorse



2 Kings 22: 3-11

During a repair mission at the Temple in Jerusalem, the High Priest recovers the lost Book of the Law. He reads it to King Josiah, who responds to learning God's commands about ***idolatry*** by **tearing his robes in repentance.**

-
- Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people....and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.

Daniel 9:1-3

- In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9:1-3

- Responded to Jeremiah's prophecy
- Remorse – sackcloth and ashes
- Prayer of confession and pleading for mercy/deliverance

Holy reverence lead to powerful prayer

Tremble

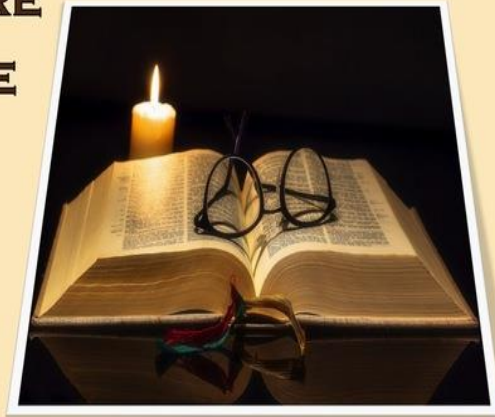
- tremble at the searching power of God's Word.

**Power to discern
and convict**

Hebrews
4:12



ALL SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE



- for doctrine,
- For reproof,
- for correction,
- For instruction in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Knowing-Jesus.com

receptive heart to profit from
the word

- “Lord, grant that Your word may search me and try me, that I may not be deceived”

Inspiring but...

- Many who profess and call themselves Christians, and yet do not believe that this sacred Book is the Word of God. (Spurgeon)
- They believe it is inspired, like Koran and Vedas, and respected but not the infallible word of the Almighty.
- Careless and neglect the word – no holy reverence.

Isaiah 66:4 Accusation against Israel

- For when I called, no one answered,
when I spoke, no one listened.
They did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me.”

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**No reverence
to His word**

Unacceptable worship, v3

- But whoever sacrifices a bull
is like one who kills a person,
and whoever offers a lamb
is like one who breaks a dog's neck;
whoever makes a grain offering
is like one who presents pig's blood,
and whoever burns memorial incense
is like one who worships an idol.
They have chosen their own ways,
and they delight in their abominations;

Isaiah 66:4 Failure to heed His word

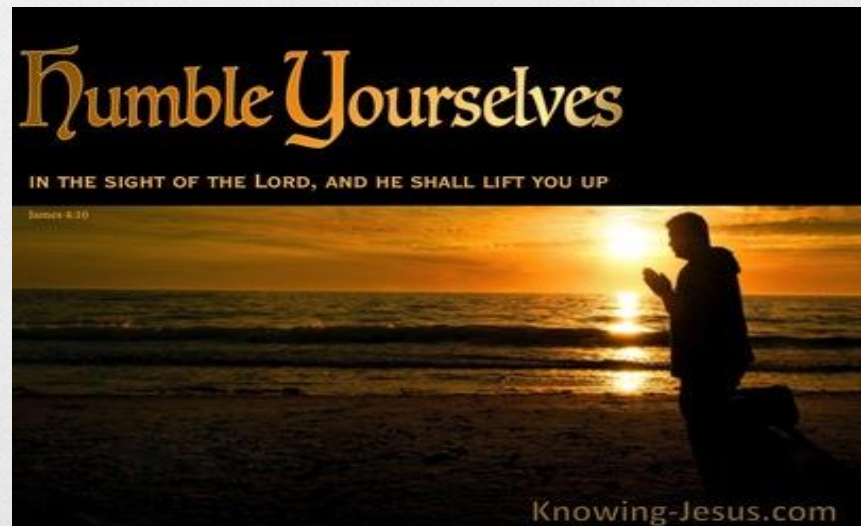
- For when I called, no one answered,
when I spoke, no one listened.
They did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me.”

**Worship is offensive
and rejected (v3)**

Seek the Lord's favor

Humility

- Let the word search and convict us
 - of pride and confidence in self.



Contrite heart

- If you and I have a broken spirit, all idea of our own importance is gone. What is the use of a broken heart? Why, much the same as the use of a broken pot, or a broken jug, or a broken bottle! Men throw it on a dunghill. (Spurgeon)

We are His footstool.

Tremble at His word: Transformed by His word



Romans 12:1-2

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

— DO NOT —
CONFORM
— TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD —
— BUT BE —
TRANSFORMED
— BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND —

Transformed lives

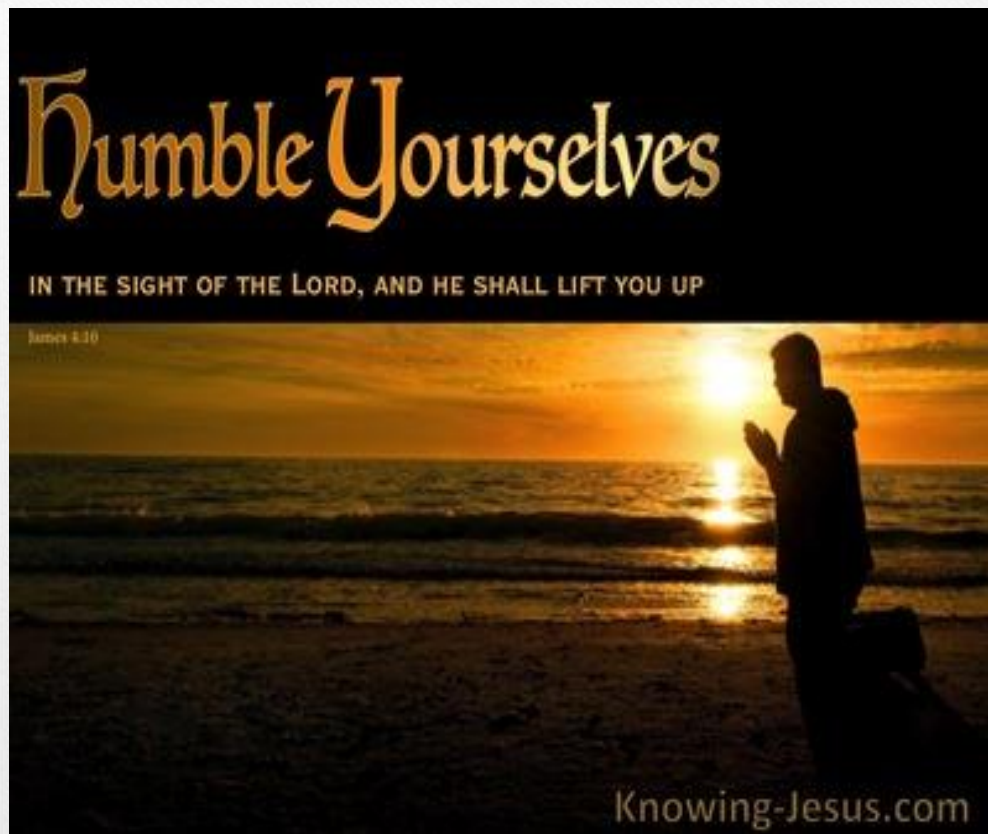
He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity, He who rejects unjust gain And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; He who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil;

— Isaiah 33:15 (NASB®)

2021: Seek God's favor

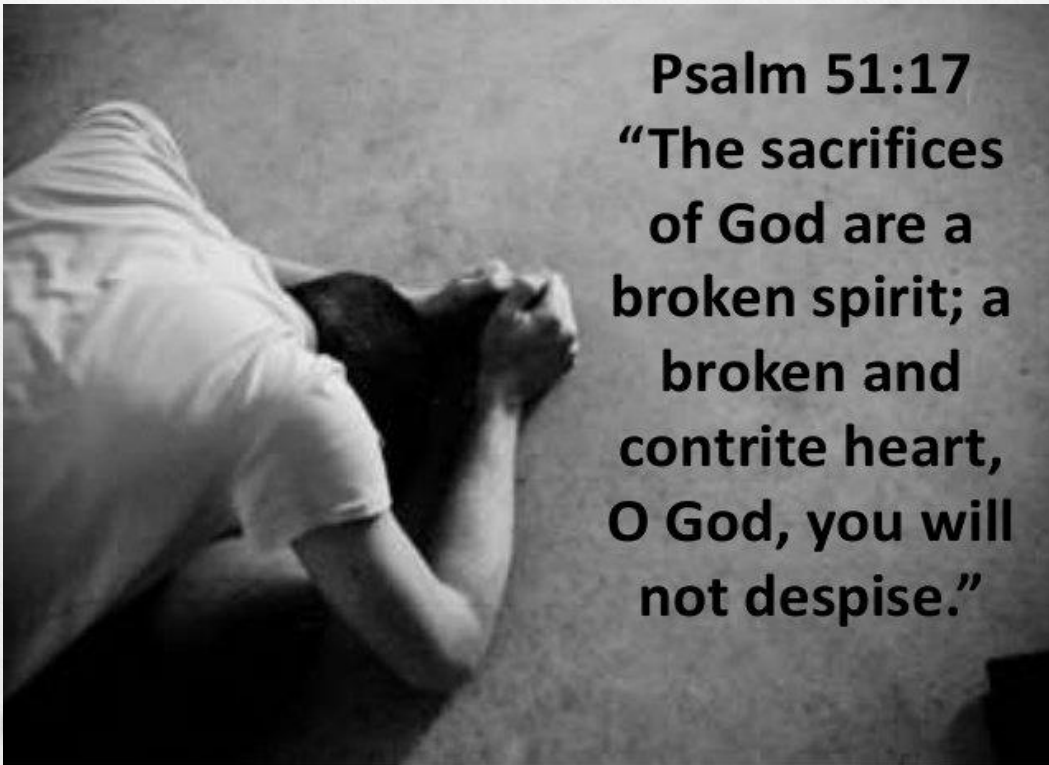
- Is the Lord enthroned in our hearts, as He is in heaven?
- Are we His footstool on earth? Are we humble and contrite?
- Do we tremble at (under) His word?

Seek God's favor



**Let us humble
ourselves before
God.**

Seek God's favor



Psalm 51:17
“The sacrifices
of God are a
broken spirit; a
broken and
contrite heart,
O God, you will
not despise.”

**Let us offer to
Him a broken
/contrite heart**

Seek God's favor

"For My hand made all these things,
Thus all these things came into being,"
declares the LORD.

"But to this one I will look,
To him who is humble and contrite of spirit,
and **who trembles at My word.**

Isaiah 66:2



Let us tremble
at His word:
holy reverence

Blessed CNY Eve 2021

除夕平安



Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us

Psalm 90:17a