

Isaiah 57:15b "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

God is not so high that He cannot bend down to those who are perishing and know it. To know your plight, one must be contrite and lowly in spirit. Contrite means penitent and humbled by our own sins and failures; who as a result seek God. Lowly in spirit in the Old Testament is contrasted with pride and arrogance. Proverbs 16:19 states "Better to be lowly in spirit (humbleness) than to divide the spoil with the proud. Remember, blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Psalm 25:9 tells us He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.

God wishes to revive our lowly spirit. A pastor under John Piper desires us to note that the only spirit that God revives are lowly spirits, the only hearts he restores are contrite hearts; and so often the fruit of lowliness and contrition grow from the soil of honest, unflinching memories.

Pattern your life as the penitent prodigal son who returned to his father and you will receive the robe of righteousness, the ring as a symbol of sonship, the sandals represent God's concern for our practical needs, eating the calf that represented the sacrifice of the Father and the final gift, a celebration as His beloved son returned.