

Brokenness (Part 1) - The Principle

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Introduction:

A. The most painful and difficult times of my life were times of brokenness.

1. I didn't like it but after brokenness comes fruitfulness.
2. Most Christians don't understand brokenness and try to avoid it.
3. We like healing and blessing.
4. But God gives his best only to those he breaks.
5. We need to be able to thank God for continuing the process of breaking us even though we don't like it.

B. Stay with these messages to understand more about suffering.

I. The underlying principle behind brokenness is death to self. (John 12:24-25)

A. A grain of seed by itself remains alone.

1. It produces no fruit.
2. If it dies it grows into a stalk and produces much fruit.
3. It reproduces itself and can be sewed into millions of fields.
4. This illustration applied to Jesus;
 - a. As long as he remained alive he remained alone.
 - b. When he died he made it possible for us to experience life.
5. He who loves his life will lose it but he who hates his own ambitions and dreams and goals will find life to the fullest.

B. Several ideas must get into our minds.

1. A great obstacle to the Christian life is thinking that we need to work for God.
2. The Christian life is more about being than working.
3. Fruitfulness is an overflow of a life of being united with Christ.
4. The Christian life is being, becoming, receiving the life of Christ himself.

5. It's not what I do but what I'm becoming by God's grace.

C. What is brokenness?

1. God removes all hindrances that stop us from depending on him alone.

2. If we trust in anything in us we refuse to be broken.

3. We have an inner desire to be independent of Christ.

4. We have a wall around a segment of our lives.

5. We offer 95% of our lives to God but God wants 100%.

6. We want to make some decisions but God wants us submitted to him.

7. There are areas of your life that God does not have control of.

a. We talk to God about it.

b. We rationalize about it saying that since we can't have victory we're going to relax in this private area.

c. The self life is an independent attitude that God wants to break.

d. I love roaming around out west away from everything and this requires riding horses.

1. Sometimes I have obedient horses.

2. Sometimes I get independent horses that have not been broken well.

3. Sometimes they get me in dangerous situations.

4. A truly broken horse gives instant obedience to the rider on his back.

5. A broken child of God does not lose his zest for living but learns to give instant obedience to God.

6. Often we act like an unbroken horse.

7. If we insist on having our way in spite of what God says we act independently of God.

8. We all have these areas and don't want to surrender.

9. God has targeted this area for brokenness.

10. He is after self-will and self-dependency.

11. God wants us to live in full dependence on him.

12. God has already surfaced this area of self-will to you.
13. This area that you have not submitted is hindering God's work in you.
14. We fear that if we surrender that God will not meet our needs.
15. Would God withhold good from you and stop you from reaching your potential?
16. God knows these areas of independence must be broken.
17. We admit that God knows best but we still desire independence.
18. Paul called himself a bond-slave of Christ.
19. God has targeted self-reliance.
20. He wants us resting in him and relying on him.
21. Christ in you is the Christian life.

D. He who loses his life will save it. (John 12:25)

1. I can lose the best by holding on to the self life.
2. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. (Matthew 10:37)
3. We must be willing to die to the self in me to experience God's best.
4. We must take up our cross and deny self to follow Christ. (Matthew 16: 24)
5. God must sanctify us body, soul, and spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)
 - a. Our bodies relate to the environment by the five senses.
 - b. Our souls (emotions, mind, our conscience etc.) relate to self and others.
 - c. Our spirit is the inner man that relates to almighty God.
 1. Adam and Eve were perfect in body, soul, and spirit.
 2. When they disobeyed they died spiritually and no longer could relate to God.
 3. We also cannot relate to God in our unregenerate spirits.
 4. Only a believer is a whole person, capable of relating to God.
 5. Jesus mended our bodies, souls, and spirits.
 6. We are forgiven by the blood of Jesus.

7. We can relate to God in our spirits.
8. He can speak to us through his word because we've been born again.

6. The unbelieving world doesn't understand Christians.

- a. Unbelievers live by their five senses; appetites for beauty, sex, food, etc.
- b. After the fall man began to live this way.
- c. A spirit filled believer lives in relation with God.
- d. Believers that don't understand this act independently of God's leading.

1. We argue with God.
2. What has God targeted in your life that you are fearful of giving up?
3. What are you afraid of?
4. Are you unwilling to place full trust in God?
5. God says when you surrender to me things will turn out better.

7. The essence of brokenness allows the Holy Spirit to express the life of Christ through our human bodies.

- a. This only happens when we submit completely.
- b. We give instant obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- c. Only God can provide the best for us.
- d. Brokenness is usually a process.

8. What is breaking?

- a. We like to depend on past experiences or skills or relationships or their looks or position in society.
- b. What ever you place your dependence on God wants to shatter.
- c. God wants no competition.
- d. No one likes this; we like prosperity and healing.
- e. The Bible does not teach this.
- f. Jesus said fruitfulness comes only after death to self.
- g. Grape juice and bread come only after crushing; Christians become fruitful only after breaking.

- h. Brokenness is God's way of dealing with the self life.
- i. Paul said his outer man was decaying yet his inner man was being renewed day by day by momentary light affliction producing eternal blessings. (2 Corinthians 4:16)
- j. The people God has the most difficult time breaking are the most gifted and determined.
- k. They appear to be getting through life but they miss what God could do through them; out of fear of losing the best they lose it.
- l. You can never lose by giving away your life.
- m. God wants instantaneous obedience from us.
- n. We are the temples of the living God and he wants to express his life through us so we are living expressions of the life of Christ.
- o. We are to be trophies of the grace of God to remind the angels of the grace of God.
- p. This life is a school for entering eternity.
- q. We are on the potter's wheel and God reworks us when he sees independence, breaking us again and again until Christ is formed in us.
- r. When we become saddle busted we belong to Christ completely.
- s. We argue with God because we refuse to surrender.
- t. Brokenness is God's method of dealing with independence in our lives.

8. Is God working on you to break you of self-dependency?

- a. Do you want God's best for your life, becoming what God predetermined for you?
- b. Are you willing to surrender all to him so he can make of you what he wants?
- c. Are you willing to submit to breaking?
- d. Either I surrender, letting God have his way and discover what God can do, or I'm going to ignorantly hold on to my little bit and miss God's great blessing?
- e. What am I holding on to that will cause me to miss God's best?
- f. This is foolish.
- g. Nothing is so valuable that you should miss God's best.

h. Revival follows brokenness.

i. Are you willing to say “All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give?”

j. I’ve been broken, smashed and chiseled on and didn’t like it one bit, but I can look back on it now and thank God for every moment of breaking.

k. One day we’re going to stand before God and realize how foolish it is to hold on to self when God has his best for us.

l. If you will surrender God is willing to give you more than you could ever attain by your self effort.

II. Prayer.

Father, we stand in your presence. Only you know what our potential is. Help us to die to our selfish independent spirits. I pray for a renewed commitment to repent of self. I pray for the unsaved that they would confess their sins and commit their lives to you. I pray in Jesus’ name that many would surrender all to Jesus, giving all to him, living every day in the presence of Christ. Lord God, move into the saddle of our lives today, in Jesus’ name.