

Broken for the Master's Use

Key Scripture:

*"My grace is all you need. My power works best in your weakness."
2 Cor. 12:9*

*"My sacrifice [the sacrifice acceptable] to God is a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart
[broken down with sorrow for sin and humbly and thoroughly penitent],
such, O God, You will not despise."
Psalm 51:17 (AMP)*

Portion for the Journey:

I love horses! I have always been fascinated with the white Lipizzaner stallions of Vienna. Through years of training and discipline, a bond is formed between these immensely beautiful, strong, intelligent animals and their riders. As they learn to trust their wills to their Master the two move in perfect synchrony. The movement of horse and rider in perfect oneness has the beauty of a ballet but was actually preparation for war where their ability to move as one meant life and death. This is a picture of the oneness of mind and unity of purpose Jesus described between Himself and the Father. It is that same oneness He wants us to have with Him. It comes only as we submit fully to God's discipline and training.

A horse is not naturally submitted to having a rider. An unbroken horse is fearful and suspicious. They are headstrong and rebellious and they use their strength to resist the efforts of a rider to direct their actions. An unbroken horse is independent and has no concern for the welfare of the rider. In the old "Wild West," horses were often broken with cruel methods, their spirits crushed and beaten through domination and use of ropes, spurs and whips. They obeyed, but they never learned to trust or love their rider. Often they became mean spirited and dangerous to be around--biting and kicking when given the opportunity. True horsemen have always known that there is a better way. Like the Lipizzaner, horses trained by a master trainer will be of the utmost value, fit for the highest purposes. They move with grace and freedom and beauty out of total trust in the rider. They bend to their slightest touch or movement without fear or forethought. Their gifts are released and refined so they achieve what a horse cannot do on its own.

As believers, unless we are broken by our Master, we are like that headstrong, self-willed horse. We are wild at heart. Only when we submit to the Master's training and discipline that we will be broken in a way that makes us fit for His use. Biblical brokenness is not the same as the world views brokenness. The world thinks of broken as ruined or wounded beyond repair. Godly brokenness brings us into a place of being fit for the Master's use. It is in brokenness we learn to trust, to submit and to obey. It is clear the Church is in need of being trained by the loving hand of our Master! We are not in need of more power, we are in need of more brokenness... greater weakness!

What is brokenness? Brokenness produces a fragrance that is easier to detect than it is to define. Brokenness is not a feeling or an emotion. It does not come through reading or studying. Brokenness is not something we can accomplish by ourselves. God must be at the center of the process. The process of breaking reveals the clash between our will and God's will. Brokenness is achieved when God brings us to an end of our "self will" and "pride" into a relationship with Him that is based on love, trust and

submission to His will. Through the process of brokenness God strips us until we stand naked and emptied, to confess, “All that I am and all that I have is God’s.” Brokenness brings about a surrender that becomes a consistent way of life that says “Yes, LORD, with no hesitation, chafing or bitterness. The Bible does not have many references that directly use the term brokenness, but the pattern of God bringing a person to brokenness is a theme repeated throughout the Scriptures. This process might be described by other names that contain aspects of the process, such as refining, humbling, discipline, sanctification, or bringing to maturity. There are various stages or severity of discipline depending on how completely we embrace the process or rebel and resist His work. Prov. 32:9; 1 Cor. 5:5

As much as we want to be submitted and surrendered to God’s will, we are no more likely to accomplish this without His help, than a horse is to turn itself into a show ring performer without a trainer. God does not expect us to have the power to change our heart by the power of our own will. What He does require of us, is that we would draw near to Him in prayer, seek Him in His Word, and not resist His efforts to change us. When He shows us our sin, we need to confess that sin and repent quickly. Our victory comes when we decide to agree with Him and let Him train us! We are called to “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who worketh in you, both to will and to work, for His good pleasure.” Phil. 2:12-13

Brokenness is a process by which we achieve true humility and Christlikeness. It is a component of the way of the cross because it always entails dying to self and crucifying the flesh. It is not a comfortable process because brokenness is most often achieved through times of trial. The greatest brokenness usually takes place in times of greatest pain and difficulty. Trials may come through adversity, failure, persecution, conflicts and disappointments. In these trials we are given opportunities to choose to surrender and submit to God’s way or to choose the less painful way and serve self. God uses life events that are extremely hard for us. He takes those things that have the potential to destroy us and uses them, even if they may not be good in themselves. It may be painful for us, especially if we do not submit in the trials. If we are to be truly broken, we must choose not to run from trials but to trust God and remain in the fire where God can truly complete His work in us. We cannot be truly broken until we trust God enough to release all unforgiveness, woundedness and pride. Brokenness is necessary if we are to walk in true wholeness. If we respond according to God’s ways God uses trials to mold us into people He can use. As we give the reins of control to the Lord, we trust Him to direct our paths without questioning even when the direction seems to make no sense. Rom. 8:28, James 1:2-4; 1 Pet.4:1-19; Rev. 3:17-19



“[Brokenness is] The condition whereby our will is brought into full submission to His will so that when He speaks, we put up no argument, make no rationalizations, offer no excuses and register no blame, but instead, instantly obey the leading of the Holy Spirit as He guides us.”
Dr. Charles Stanley



Brokenness is characterized by:

- ♥ Repentance and godly sorrow for our sins are vital components of true brokenness.
- ♥ To surrender all we are and all we have to the LORD Ps. 90:17
- ♥ Humility to recognize honestly who we are in light of who God is
- ♥ Resurrection in the life of Jesus, conformed to His ways
- ♥ End of self-reliance and independence; removal of all hindrances that keep us from depending totally upon God

- ♥ We develop a bond of intimate friendship and trust in God as we lay down our own understanding and lean on Him
- ♥ Submission and obedience to His will, desires, and intentions
- ♥ Contentment in insults, weakness, hardships, persecution, calamities and infirmities -- a want of strength, physical weakness, frailty, feebleness of health, sickness 2 Cor.12:8-10
- ♥ Realization that we do not impress God with our gifts, talents or abilities, we impress Him with our awareness of our neediness and our obedience
- ♥ Brokenness reveals our wickedness and inability to meet God's standards of holiness
- ♥ Brokenness brings with it transparency and openness
- ♥ Brokenness brings transformed relationships in which true unity is achieved. Contentious, unbroken people cannot be in true unity with the LORD or others. 2 Cor. 2:10; 1 Pet. 5:5
- ♥ Fruitfulness follows brokenness, just as the crushing of grapes is necessary to making the best wine.

Purpose of Brokenness

- ♥ Brokenness brings about death to self and a shattering of our self-will and independence; so we demonstrate ongoing consistent surrender to the will of God.
- ♥ To reveal to us our desperate need for God to be able to do anything John 15:5
- ♥ To be useable in God's hands for His purposes, bringing fruitfulness in service
- ♥ To come to a place of spiritual maturity and fruitfulness
- ♥ God wants to show us our weaknesses, not our strengths
- ♥ God's greatest blessings and fruit are seen in a life that is truly broken before the LORD
- ♥ The pain and distress of being broken are necessary to walking in true wholeness
- ♥ A release which produces a deep sense of joy and peace

How to Respond in Times of Trial: While we never go out looking for troubles, when times of trial, pain or heartache come to us, this is a time when we should seek to "buy gold" that is refined in the fire. Our times of greatest growth and maturing in the LORD will come as we submit to Him and choose to trust Him in the trial.

- ♥ Thank God in the trial! Thank Him for the trial even if you can see no reason for being thankful!! As we offer Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving, we honor Him and choose to place our faith in Him. The promises are clear that these times of trial are for our good! 1 Thes. 5:18 (Amp); Phil. 4:6-8; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; Rev. 3:18
- ♥ Avoid murmuring (complaining and grumbling!) When we complain about our circumstances, we are actually complaining about God, who is our provider and keeper. Israel complained about their circumstances and the Word says God was not pleased with them. Num. 14:27; John 6:43; Phil. 2:14; 1 Pet.4:9
- ♥ Keep your eyes on the LORD and choose to place your faith in Him to bring you through the trial. Trials are times when we are tempted to run to man for help, to form alliances and receive comfort from others. It is OK to share our trials with others, but make sure your FIRST source of help and comfort is the LORD.
- ♥ Ask Him to search your heart and show you any sin that comes to the surface during the trial. Repent and ask Him to help you to break free from old patterns so you can walk in His ways.

One of the most foolish things we can do, when God is seeking to break us is to resist His Spirit. When we resist brokenness we hold onto sin and fleshly thought patterns contrary to God's Word. Instead of

accomplishing the purpose of softening our hearts and making us submissive, if we resist God, we will harden our heart. Trials will need to become more severe if we resist. What if we harden our heart to the point we cannot hear His voice any longer? Ask the Lord to how you if any of these sinful attitudes are keeping you from true brokenness.

- ♥ Pride
- ♥ Victim thinking
- ♥ Run from pain
- ♥ Unwilling to relinquish trust in self; continued confidence in flesh/people
- ♥ Worry about other people's reactions
- ♥ Refusal to crucify the flesh
- ♥ Ignorance of His Word and His ways
- ♥ Fear
- ♥ Worldly entanglements
- ♥ Unhealthy relationships
- ♥ Disobedience and rebellion
- ♥ Strongholds of Satan

Consequences of resisting brokenness:

- ♥ Hindering our relationship with the LORD
- ♥ Delay in fulfillment of God's purposes for our life
- ♥ We will walk in woundedness and unforgiveness
- ♥ Hardening our hearts against God
- ♥ We will be left to our own devices and God may not hear us when we call

Digging Deeper in the Word

1. **God's Part vs. Our Part:** God promises that He will accomplish what concerns us. Our part is continually draw near to Him, to receive His grace and promises, place our faith in Him and submit to Him in obedience. The Bible warns against running away, shrinking back or resisting His will.

2. **Study the Examples of Individuals God has Broken:** Make note of what they did to receive His training. How does that compare with Jonah, someone who resisted God's training? Do you see characteristics in yourself that need to change? Do you notice commonalities in how God chose to break each of these men? Why do you think He isolated them from others during the time of His greatest work in their hearts?

- ♥ **Moses:** God took Moses into the wilderness to break him and train him. There is no evidence that Moses resisted God's training. It is said that Moses was the most humble, meek man on the face of the earth. Num. 12:3
- ♥ **David:** Like David, we may need to be broken anew as we become comfortable in a new role or setting. God trained David in the wilderness when he took care of his father's sheep, He broke him in the desert when Saul pursued him and wanted to kill him, and perhaps, David's time of greatest breaking took place when he sinned by committing adultery and killing an innocent man. David's prayer of repentance in Psalm 51 carries many of the aspects of true brokenness. Meditate on this passage and make a list of the characteristics you see of the brokenness exhibited in David's prayer of repentance.

- ♥ **Nebuchadnezzar:** A detailed account is given of God’s methods of dealing with Nebuchadnezzar to bring him from a place of great pride and arrogance, to humbly acknowledging God’s rule over all the affairs of mankind. Daniel 2-4
- ♥ **Gomer** Hosea 2
- ♥ **Jonah** resisted God’s call. Note how diligently God pursued Jonah. There is always a cost when we disobey the LORD. (See Jonah 1-4)
- ♥ **The Prodigal Son** Luke 15:11-32
- ♥ **Peter:** Throughout Peter’s walk with Jesus as His disciple we see characteristics of an unbroken man. Yet after Jesus resurrection, Peter is a new man! Read the following verses and note the character traits that indicated an unbroken spirit and look for the events that changed Peter. Matt. 26: 69-72

3. **The verses below all relate to the process of brokenness.** Read each passage. Allow the LORD to reveal any resistance to His working brokenness in your life. Pray through these verses for yourself, loved ones, and the body of Christ.

Hebrews 12:1-11	Jer. 18:1-23	Ps. 147:3	James 4:6
Ps. 34:18	2 Chron. 16:9	Prov. 3:5-6	2 Cor. 1:8-10
Ps. 51:17	Isa. 66:1-2	John 12:24	Gal. 2:20
Isa. 57:15	Lam. 3:27	Matt. 5:2-12	James 5:16
Ps. 31:12	Prov. 19:20	Luke 4:18	Acts 20:24
Prov. 23:12	Ps. 94:12	Job 5:17; 36:10, 13	

What is God Speaking to Me?

1. Is there anything you are holding on to that hinders God from breaking you?
2. Is there an area of self-will that hinders God’s work in your life?
3. Is there anything worth missing out on God’s work in your life?
4. Are you willing to surrender to God’s breaking work in your life?
5. Are you willing to say “mold me, make me, break me?”

My Prayerful Response to the LORD

Tell God you want him to break you and remove all that hinders full death to self and surrender to His will.

“In the Name of the LORD of Hosts, I this day renounce all former lords that have had dominion over me, the joys of this world in which I have much delight and all carnal desires. I renounce all perishable things in order that God may constitute my all. I consecrate to Thee all that I am and all that I have, the faculties of my mind, the members of my body, my future, my time. Grant me Grace, O My Father of mercies, to employ all to Thy glory and obedience to Thy commandments for ardently and humbly I desire to be Thine through the endless ages of eternity. Should Thou be pleased to make me an instrument in this life of leading others to Thee, give me strength, and courage to openly declare Thy name. Enable me not only to devote myself to Thy service, but to persuade my brethren to dedicate themselves to it also.” John Oberlin, pastor (1740-1826)

“Lord, I renounce my desire for human praise, for the approval of my peers, my need for public recognition. I deliberately put these aside today, content to hear You say, “Well done, my faithful servant. Amen” Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

“Lord, I say to Thee again, with more insistence than ever: Teach me to pray! Implant in me the dispositions needed for the prayer of the Holy Spirit. Make me humble, simple, docile, and may I do all that is in my power to do so. Of what use is my prayer if the Holy Spirit does not pray with me! Take possession of my understanding and of my will, govern my actions, not only at the moment of prayer, ut at every moment.” Jean Nicholas Grau, 1750

“Dearest Lord Jesus, I desire a heart that wants nothing for myself and all for Your glory! You are precious to my soul, nothing is too good, nothing too costly. Everything that I am, everything that I have, my dearest, most priceless treasures I shall pour upon You and I shall not count it shame to have done so.” Author unknown

“Make us choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be contented with half truth when whole truth can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when right and truth are in jeopardy.” - Prayer said at West Point during chapel services

One by one He took them from me.
All the things I valued most
Until I was empty-handed
Every fluttering toy was lost

And I walked earth's lonely highways,
In my rags and poverty,
Til I heard His entreating,
“Life your empty hands to me.”

Empty hands I lifted heavenward.
And He filled them with a store
Of His own transcended riches
Til my hands could hold no more.

And at last I comprehended
With my mind so dull and slow,
That God could not pour out His riches
Into hands already full.
~~Author unknown~~

“Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou biddest me to come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come

Just as I am waiting not
Just as I am, with many a conflict, many a doubt
Yes, Just as I am,
poor, wretched, and blind...
Just as I am, I come.”

~~Charlotte Elliott~~

Choosing Brokenness or Woundedness

Trials and suffering are designed to establish and strengthen us in the faith! If we respond by holding onto our wounds, we work against the purposes of suffering. However, when we embrace the cross and endure each trial with our eyes on Jesus we will emerge from the trial more conformed to His image and reflecting His glory! The Lord wants to rid us of hurt and anger, guilt and fear, and free you to walk in His joy and peace. Extending forgiveness is a requirement for releasing hurt; once you have done that you can ask the Lord to cleanse and heal you of the effects of the wounds and free you to love and serve Him wholeheartedly. As you open yourself to Him, you will find the ability to enter into relationships with others and an increased ability to love from the heart. (Materials on this page include notes adapted from Reuven and Yanit, Wholeness Ministries & Jerry Tobias handout, Ma. 2012)

Wounded Heart	Broken Heart
Focus on Self and inner pain; open wounds	Focus on Jesus and the cross
Relives & rehearses past hurts/	Forgiving and released/healed from past hurts
Holds on to pain and anger	Surrenders to God's will, releases anger/pain
Difficulty forgiving others	Accepts God's mercy & freely extends forgiveness
Chained to the Past	Hope for the future
Focuses on evil and its power to hurt	Sees God in all things, working for good
Expectation of bad news	Rejoices in the Good News of Gospel
Hardened Heart	Soft and Repentant heart
Unresolved issues with others	Pursues peace with others
Blames others	Trusts God's sovereign will, no second causes
People have power to hurt us	Belief God works all things in one's life for good
Bitter Attitude/Complaining	Grateful attitude/Thanksgiving
Doubt-filled (Cynical)	Fully yielded to God in Faith
Negative attitude and outlook	Positive attitude and outlook
"I've been wronged." Angry and Resentful	"I've been wrong." Accepting and forgiving others
Thinks of ways to get revenge or "get back"	Allows God to be judge
Holds on to offenses, keeps a record	Blessing & forgiving those who hurt us
Easily offended	Overlooks wrongs and offenses
Blames others, sees their sin	Recognizes we are all sinners, God's creations
Entitlement: everyone owes me	I deserve nothing
Walking in the flesh	Willing to die to flesh, to be led by the Spirit
Intimidates, criticizes others	Affirms, encourages others
Insecure and paranoid	Trusts God in every trial
I must defend myself	My reputation is in Jesus
Destructive	Redemptive
Victim mentality	Resurrection mentality
Need to remain in control	Surrender of control to God
Defensive & self-protective	Transparent and vulnerable
Unwilling to risk further pain	Sacrificial love for others
Unwilling to accept personal responsibility/sin	Accepts personal responsibility/repentant heart
Holds people at distance d/t fear of being hurt	Perfect love casts out fear
Wounds others, leads to more wounding	Blesses others, leads to wholeness