EWM

Adult Bible Study

God’s Pathway of Brokenness

August 14, 2018

INTRODUCTION. So often, Christians struggle to get to what they perceive as the top. They forge their long list of accomplishments, perhaps with the hope that they will one day be able to hand it to God and say, “See what I’ve done for You?”

However, God never accepts us on the basis of what we’ve done; rather, He receives us because of what Christ has done on the cross (Eph 2:8, 9). This is why He instructs us to stop depending on what we can accomplish and instead rely upon Him (Prov. 3:5, 6). However, that’s not just for salvation but for every aspect of life. He calls us to repent of our sinful habits, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until we can truly say, “All that I am and all that I have is God’s. He is in me and I am in Him, and that’s all that matters.”

**THE STRIPPING PROCESS**

What is God stripping away from your life? What things might a person trust in more than the Lord? For example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GOD IS COMMITTED TO YOU**

Because God is committed to you, He will break your dependence upon anything other than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no matter how long it takes or how difficult the process may be.

He is committed to bringing you to a place of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and conforming you to the likeness of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 8:29).

He does this so that He can work through you and bring others to wholeness and spiritual maturity through your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 1:3–7).

**THE PATHWAY OF BROKENNESS**

In order to bring us to a place of wholeness and spiritual maturity—conforming to the likeness of His Son, God sometimes takes us over a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Our brokenness serves a purpose in our lives as well as in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A person who suffers often becomes self-centered; begins to feel sorry for himself begins to feel self-pity; wants special attention and may become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A believer must never let this happen!

Believers must always keep in mind that God has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his brokenness. God uses brokenness to stir up:

A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (or comfort)

B. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FACING BROKENNESS**

Maybe you are facing a time of brokenness and it feels as though the emotional pain is more than you can bear. Or perhaps you are dealing with a series of disappointments that have completely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your sense of security. Instead of becoming fearful, ask the Lord to reveal what He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_you, and help you receive His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as an example and a consolation to other believers who observe you.

The apostle Paul faced such a time of suffering, and he wrote, “I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me” (2 Cor. 12:8). Although God did not remove the “thorn” from him, He did help Paul to understand that it was given to keep him from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself and from relying on anything \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 12:7–11). The Lord also taught the apostle that His grace would always be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all of Paul’s weaknesses.

**CALL TO ACTION**

The same is true for you. Whenever you experience brokenness, God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can sustain and mature you. He will show you how to relinquish your reliance on earthly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and teach you how to rest in His Great provision and love. In that way, you grow in the likeness of Christ and are prepared for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Peter wrote: “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation” (1 Pet. 4:12, 13).

**BROKEN BONUSES**

Keep in mind that God uses brokenness to deepen your understanding in at least three ways:

1. You gain a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His mercy and provision and learn to depend on Him more.

2. You develop a more complete \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of yourself.

3. Your compassion and understanding for others’ suffering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**CONCLUSION**

Are you facing a season of trials and brokenness? Then embrace the promise of Jeremiah 15:19: “If you extract the precious from the worthless, you will become My spokesman.” That is, if you trust in God and learn from Him through your trial, He will reveal Himself to you and work through you in wonderful ways.

The Lord has one goal in mind for your brokenness: spiritual victory. Therefore, be confident that Jesus Christ can take your weakness and turn it into strength, hope, and honor.