

After Brokenness (Part 6) - What Then?

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Introduction:

A. Our greatest enemy is not without, but within.

1. The self-life will hinder our relationship with God.
2. Unless self-life is broken we will not know God well.
 - a. We will be insensitive.
 - b. We will delay God's purpose for us.
 - c. We will be ineffective in ministry.
 - d. Satan will have a foothold in our lives.
 - e. We need to be broken of self independence.
 - f. We need to surrender our lives to God.
 - g. We need to let go of the self-life.

B. The principle of brokenness is death to self. (John 12:24)

1. One grain of wheat by itself remains alone.
2. When it is planted it dies and brings forth much fruit.
3. You could get a hundred million bushels of grain from one seed if it keeps reproducing.
4. God breaks us in order to bring us to spiritual maturity and supernatural ministry.
5. He targets areas.
6. He arranges circumstances.
7. He chooses the tools.
8. He applies pressure to get us to yield.
9. If we refuse to yield God will place us on the shelf.
10. If we do yield what then?

I. Three principles apply to those who yield to God.

A. You get a new view of God's purpose for your life.

1. Most people think God exists for us.

- a. He answers our prayers.
- b. He heals us.
- c. He helps us on our jobs.
- d. He is a divine errand boy.
- e. We call God sovereign but we act as if he exists for us.
- f. We remain at the center of our lives.
- g. This is worldly thinking that affects many Christians.
- h. Most of the theology we listen to is self-centered all about our prosperity and healing.
- i. God is really at the center of the universe and we move around him.
- j. God needs nothing and does not need to do as we say.
- k. The Bible calls this idolatry.
- l. We don't like to hear this but many of you are living in idolatry.
- m. What matters in life is how I feel and how I am affected by things.
- n. When you are broken what God desires is more important than what pleases me.
- o. We want to glorify God, not ourselves.
- p. Once we are broken our will becomes submissive to God.
- q. Who is God in your life?
- r. If you spend most of your time thinking about yourself and pray mostly about your needs then you are god in your life.

2. When God breaks us he becomes first in life.

- a. When opportunities come our way we ask him about what he thinks.
- b. We exist to glorify God because we are his purchased possessions.

B. After brokenness we gain a new freedom in our spirits.

1. Many of you are bound up with fear, anxiety, and anger.

- a. If somebody told you that you are rebellious how would you respond?
- b. I asked what you're holding on to and I ask again what are you holding on to?
- c. If you need to have something your way that is rebellion.
- d. After brokenness we sense a new harmony in our spirits.
- e. Man is composed of mind, will, and spirit.
- f. Before brokenness our desires are in conflict and our desires get out of control.
- g. After brokenness our desires are brought into submission to God.
- h. God controls our mind, will, and spirits.
- i. The war within ends as Paul says because sin no longer reigns over us.
(Romans 6)
- j. When we were saved sin's power was broken but we still try to deal with the inner desires ourselves.
- k. But after brokenness and our will, desires, and dreams are surrendered to God, we give up the fight and God orders our lives.
- l. Those who are surrendered to God have a greater potential for good health than those who live in rebellion.
- m. When body, soul, and spirit function in harmony there is a good physiological response.

2. We also begin to experience an inner quietness and peace.

- a. We no longer have demands on God.
- b. To not surrender to God is costly.
- c. Peace cannot be found in drinking and sex and experiences, but peace is inside.
- d. Inner peace comes only after surrendering to God.

3. We gain a spirit of meekness.

- a. We become open and transparent.
- b. We become teachable and humble.

- c. We stop defending ourselves.
 - d. We begin to bear much fruit by God's Spirit.
 - e. Greed and idolatry ends because we're no longer in competition with others.
 - f. We begin living for Jesus.
 - g. When we surrender to God we win.
 - h. A man told me to shut up when I preached this because he didn't want to hear about surrender.
 - i. We need to realize that we have no rights and realize that only God can satisfy our needs in his way.
 - j. God breaks us to preserve us and to accomplish his purpose in our lives.
4. We gain a greater ability to forgive those that hurt us.
- a. What others do just passes right on by us because what they do to us they really do to Christ.
 - b. The things that used to irritate us no longer bother us.
 - c. We have no spirit of antagonism.
 - d. We are in submission to Christ who makes our decisions for us.
 - e. We don't hold grudges.
 - f. But we must be broken, yielding our selves to God.
5. We gain a freedom in our spirits to relate well to others.
- a. When a person is broken they begin working in harmony with others, not draining from others what they think they need.
 - b. We are confident that we have what we need in Christ.
 - c. Jesus came to make men whole not only physically but emotionally and spiritually.
 - d. Some people are so needy they look for someone to fill them up but only God can do this.
 - e. Only God can meet all your needs.
 - f. As long as I'm rebellious I am in the flesh in rebellion and I throw rocks and sand into my relationships.

- g. As long as we play God our lives will not work well.
- h. Jesus needs to heal us of the need to take control of our lives.
- i. Many people are miserable in their marriages and in their jobs.
- j. This is not idealism but truth.
- k. Something happens on the inside when you surrender to God.
- l. Our relationships grow stronger and more fulfilling.
- m. Married people become two, complete, whole people satisfying each other.

6. After brokenness we gain a new sense of joy.

- a. Some people sing with no emotion.
- b. Some people sing with genuine joy out of freedom from sin.

7. After brokenness we gain a new sense of completeness.

- a. What belongs to God becomes ours.
- b. What we hold on to does not compare with what Jesus is to us.
- c. According to the way you spend your time and thoughts is Jesus at the center of your life?
 - a. We're going to lose all our self made dreams.

C. After brokenness we gain a new freedom and power in our service to God.

- 1. God can now release through us his supernatural power.
- 2. As long as we hold onto things God wants us to give up, we hinder God from working powerfully through us.
- 3. When we yield to him the Spirit of God begins to flow through us.
- 4. We say the same words but they weigh more.
- 5. We expend the same work but it is more effective.
- 6. The Christian life is not us living for Jesus but Jesus living through us.
- 7. This only works when we submit to him.
- 8. Now we can be trusted with greater opportunities.
- 9. Eloquence and esteem do not make us ministers.

10. Some people are talented enough to escape submitting, but God does not operate through them.
11. Have you been playing god in your life so long that you can't distinguish between self and god any longer?
 - a. People think highly of you but you are idolatrous.
 - b. Are you willing to tell God today that you're laying your life down so he can do anything he wants to do in you?
 - c. Are you holding onto something that will rob God's best out of your life?
 - d. You can turn me off but you will lose God's best.
 - e. God has targeted your rebellious spirit.
 - f. Are you willing to give up whatever God identifies in your life?
 - g. Are you willing to be broken so that God can produce fruit through you?
12. I love you all and desire the best for you.
13. If you make a decision to submit God will bring you to the end of yourself.
14. I can't do more than ask what you're holding onto that is going to cost you a life of peace and joy.
15. God hates idolatry while he loves the idolater.
16. As long as you resist you're fighting God.
17. You have no idea what God can do in your life if you surrender.
18. It will be painful but it will be worth it.
19. What have you been struggling over as you listen to this message?
20. If you play god you will mess up your life.
21. Are you willing to tell God you're getting off the throne of your life?
22. Give him whatever he wants to break in your life.
23. We don't break ourselves but we can shorten the time it takes God to break us.