

Giv02 - **Brokenness** - **Psalm 51:16-17**

Last msg - we started a short series Called - **GIVE UP**

& the first msg was kind of an **overview** msg called
Giving Up, In, & Over

& we talked about **how** the Concept of **GIVING**
is **CENTRAL** to the **Christian** Life

As in: **Giving UP** our **Pride** & **Self-Focus**
Giving IN to the **Lordship** of **Jesus** Christ
Giving OVER control in **every area** to **God**

If you **didn't hear** that overview - **grab one** (Free) at WBM
& it'll give you the **Big Idea** of this mini-series

Today - I want to talk more about **GIVING UP**
As in - **Giving UP** our **PRIDE** & Our **SELF-FOCUS**

& the **#1 WAY** we do that is - thru **BROKENNESS**

I **can't tell you** how **big** a Role -
BROKENNESS has **played** in my life

There was a **season** in my life - when **people** thought I only taught
TWO Messages - **BROKENNESS** - & **FORGIVENESS**

& it seemed **no matter** what **Scripture** I was teaching
I always **came back** to those **Two Subjects**

& so today - we **return** again - to **BROKENNESS**

Before we start - I need to **say** - that to a **large extent** -
I'm simply **re-teaching** a **Msg** that is **NOT Mine**

one of my **favorite** all-time **messages** - is called **BROKENNESS**
by **Damian Kyle** - of **CC Modesto**

Not only is he one of my **Favorite Pastors**

But his **message** on **Brokenness** is one of my **all-time favorites**

So - **HUGE Credit** - to **Damian Kyle** - for **teaching me**, & for **this msg**

I'd like to **OPEN UP** the **idea** of **Brokenness** today -
& **then FINISH** in Next Message - so this is **PT ONE**

Let's Pray

We're **going** to go thru **Psalm 51** in our **next Msg**
& **really dig** into Every Vs

But for **today** - Let's **begin** with **Vs's 16-17**
to **set the stage** for this **2-Pt msg** on **Brokenness**

After Comitting **TWO Sins** for which
there was **NO ATONEMENT** in the Law

& after a **CRUSHING YEAR** of bearing the guilt
& finally **realizing** there was **NO HOPE** in His **OWN Actions**

FINALLY - David understood - WHAT God is really after . . .

Psalm 51:16–17 (NLT)

16 You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

The **ONLY Chance** David had - to **RETURN** to **God**
Was Thru **Brokenness** - *Which we'll really look at next wk*

If you'll **really look** at the **Heroes** of the Bible

Not at the "**cleaned Up**", "**Saintly**" **version**
but at the **real nitty-gritty** reality of the **Bible Heroes**

You'll **see** very **clearly** - **God** uses **Broken** people

<p><u>In fact</u> - it seems - God <u>REQUIRES Brokenness</u> <u>BEFORE</u> He will <u>truly use</u> a person <u>for His GLORY</u></p>

God has always **made BROKENNESS** the **Beginning** of His **plan** -
for every **Bible Hero**, & **every Follower** of Christ

God cannot (& will not) Truly Use a man or woman . . .

in their own **STRENGTH**

in their own **CONFIDENCE**

in their own **ABILITIES**

& every "**would-be**" **Hero** in the **Bible** that has **refused** to be **broken**
has **had** a **DIRE end** to their **lives**

Maybe the **two Most Famous** - **NON-Broken** Characters
in the Bible - were **SAUL** & **SAMSON**

BOTH of them - **PERFECT Examples** - of what **NOT to be**

& **at the root** of **BOTH** of those **tragic lives** in the Bible
was a **refusal** to let God **BREAK** ;

Their SELF-Confidence

SELF-Will

SELF-Ways

The **truth** is - we **can't** even **truly BEGIN**
the **Christian life** - without **Brokenness**

Jesus - **Speaking** of **HIMSELF**
as the **Chief Corner-Stone** of our Salvation.

says in Luke 20:18 (NKJV)

18 Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

Jesus says - We **EITHER fall on Him** in **Brokenness** -
Or **One Day** He will **GRIND** us to **Powder**

Have you done **that** yet - **Fallen on Jesus** in **Brokenness** ?

Have you been so convicted of your sin

Recognizing you have **no hope** in your **own efforts** -

Allowing your **pride** & your **self-sufficiency** to be **broken**

& just **Humbly asking** God for **Forgiveness**

We've **got** to **Allow** our **Pride** & **Self-Sufficiency** be **Broken**
So we can **RECOGNIZE** our **True Need** for a Savior

But Then - at SOME POINT -

After we HAVE been broken enough to receive Salvation

We realize BROKENNESS is NOT a One-Time Event

Instead - it is a CENTRAL, CRITICAL, ON-GOING Requirement
for us to GROW - at all - in the Christian Life

& if we Return to our Pride & Self-Sufficiency - We will REMAIN
exactly where we were on the day we were Saved

SO - What does it mean - to be BROKEN

BROKENNESS is a CONDITION OF THE HEART
& so it can be DEFINED in a number of ways

But here is how Damien Kyle Defines Brokenness:

My WILL is Broken to God's WILL

My WAYS are Broken to God's WAYS

I've found - very SELDOM is MY WILL

Initially Aligned with God's Will

& VERY SELDOM are MY WAYS -

Initially Aligned with God's WAYS

& So MY WILL - & MY WAY

Must be BROKEN to God's WILL & God's WAY

If God is going to truly USE me - in ANY situation

Think of a Child - Living in their Terrible Two's
Who has Loving & Godly Parents

If that "Terrible Two" Baby's SELF-Will, & SELF-Ways
Are Broken to their Godly Parent's Will & Ways . . .

that baby will grow up Blessed & Godly

But - If the Self-Will & Self-Ways of the Terrible Two's are NOT
Broken that child Grows Up REMAINING in their Terrible Two's

How about the Military ?

Do you know that one of the PRIMARY PURPOSES of BOOT CAMP
is to BREAK the Independent WILL, & WAYS of Each RECRUIT

So they can become PART of the UNIT - the Bigger Team

AND - Boot Camp WEEDS OUT the Recruits who REFUSE
to have their Will & their Way Broken

Because that person becomes a HAZARD to the unit -
& so the Military - REMOVES them

& there's a ton of Horse people here

How valuable is a
STUBBORN, SELF-WILLED, UNBROKEN Horse?

& yet - we are ALL-THAT with God

ALL THAT - with the Frosting of a child in their Terrible Two's

A SELF-WILLED Two year old
An UNBROKEN Military Recruit
& a Head-Strong UNBROKEN Horse

They all have ONE THING in common

Their SELF-Will, & their SELF-Ways - must be BROKEN
for them to have a Future with any HOPE

& we all say - *YEAH - That's RIGHT!*

& then God says - It's the SAME THING for YOU
we say - *NO , NO . . . That's NOT RIGHT*

But here is the Great News - in GOD'S ECONOMY
Broken People Greatly INCREASE in VALUE to the Kingdom

When God wants to Really USE a Person -
When God wants to bring Himself GLORY thru a Person

He BEGINS - By Breaking Their WILL - to HIS Will
& by Breaking Their WAYS to HIS Ways

& THAT is ALWAYS How God begins his
MASTERPIECE (Poema) in a person's life

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Here's a TRUTH about Brokenness - we NEED to hear:
Brokenness is God PLANNING for OUR FUTURE

If you Desire - to BE God's Masterpiece

to be **Created Anew** in **Christ** Jesus

to **DO** the **good things** God has **prepared** for you . . .

then **LOOK** for God to **BEGIN** that plan

By **Bringing BROKENNESS** into your Life

Because **THAT** is how **His PLAN** for your **Future** - **BEGINS**

If God is bringing **PRESSURE** into your **life** -

To **BREAK** your **WILL** - & **BREAK** your **WAYS**

Then you **can KNOW** - **you** are **ON THE WHEEL**

& the **POTTER** is **Pressing** you - **pushing** out the **impurities**

& **when** it's time - he's **going** to **put you** in the **REFINER'S FIRE**

& We will **Just ALLOW** God's **Great work** to **Continue**

We will **come out** as His **Masterpiece** !! (His **POIEMA**)

Our **biggest problem** is - God **ALLOWS us** to **get off** the wheel -
at **least** for a **time**

Imagine a **Lump of Clay** - & the **Potter** begins **putting pressure**
on it - - & it **JUMPS** off the **wheel**

& the **Potter** says, *"Oh, clay, I'm just gonna let you lay there in the
dirt on the floor for awhile . . . & then I'll be back"*

Then God comes **back**, puts us **back** on the **wheel**, **touches** us
with the **first bit** of **pressure** - & we **JUMP off** the **wheel**

& God says, *“Oh, clay, I’m just gonna let you lay there in the dirt on the floor for awhile . . . & then I’ll be back”*

& Then God comes back, puts up back on the wheel -
And . . . well, you get the picture, right?

Please - Listen to these scriptures

James 4:6 (NLT)

6 . . . “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.”

PRIDE - **SLAMS** the Door on God - From **OUR SIDE** !!

PRIDE is a **WALL** - that **WE build** - that **Separates** us from God

But God says in Isaiah 66:1–2 (ESV)

1 Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool . . . 2 All these things my hand has made . . . But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

God **OPPOSES** the **Proud** - But **LOOKS TO USE**

those who are **HUMBLE** & **CONTRITE** in **SPIRIT** (& tremble)

Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

& **Maybe** right now - You’re saying - **HEY, WAIT a Minute** !!

This is becoming a Real **DOWNER Message**

You’re talking about a **Person** we should **feel SORRY** For

You’re talking about a **Person** Who’s **Really Down-&-Out**

& that just PROVES how OPPOSITE our thinking is to GOD'S

We think that person who's all PUFFED UP with PRIDE -
& All FULL of their Own Accomplishments & Their Own Will

All - Master of their own Destiny - Captain of their own Ship
We think THAT person is Riding on TOP

But God says, *"Hmm, that reminds me of that angel I threw out of heaven, what was his name? . . . He was all full of his own agenda & his own will . . ."*

Our Sin Nature & Our Pride - sees things
EXACTLY OPPOSITE of How God sees them

& when are we going to Figure out that God is NEVER
going to CONFORM to OUR WAY of seeing things?

Instead - God says - over & over again - the man or woman;
He USES MOST
He BLESSES MOST
He is MOST GLORIFIED Thru . . .

IS the person Who's WILL & Who's WAYS
Have been BROKEN to HIS

& Often - Even when we ARE experiencing
the Blessings of God

God will purposefully COUPLE with those blessings -
a measure of Brokenness - to KEEP us from getting puffed up

We see this in SO MANY Heroes of the Bible

Use Paul, Peter, others

Paul in **2Cor 12** - Was **sharing** (reluctantly) about **one** of the **most incredible Blessings** God had **given** him (*Caught Up to Paradise*)

But - At the **Same Time** - Paul **shared** the **BALANCE** to the **Incredible Blessing** from God

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (NLT)

7 . . . So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.

9 Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

10 That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul realized - God was using a TOOL -
to KEEP him Broken and Dependent on God

& Paul came to REALIZE - the Great Benefit - of Allowing God to
KEEP him in this place of Brokenness & Dependence on God

God often brings **TOOLS of Brokenness** into our lives -
in order to **KEEP** us **usable** - & **to purify** our lives

AND to SHOW more clearly **WHO the strength** in our life **Rally IS**

It seems **CLEAR** - Paul **Thought INITIALLY** - This **TOOL** of **Brokenness** was a **Hindrance** to his **Successful Ministry**

But it was Actually THRU this tool of Brokenness that God was able to use Paul to the extent he did

Is there a TOOL of Brokenness - God is trying to USE in your life for YOUR GOOD right now ?

It may be a Circumstance - a Situation - a Physical Condition - or God's TOOL of brokenness might even have a NAME

God has Many Different WAYS (or Tools) to break us

Often (for me at least) God uses our own FAILURE to break us -

& I don't mean FAILURE as deep as King David's was in Psalm 51 (Nxt Wk) - I mean regular - day in-day out - failure after failure

After a while - Failure creates a true dependence on God

& God says, "*Oh, I see it's beginning to work, good for you . . .*"

& the more I FAIL in my Own Will & My Own Ways - the more I realize - Apart from my brokenness - I can do NOTHING for God

In Fact - APART from Brokenness -

I am a DANGER to God's People - & to God's Purpose

Damien Kyle says;

As leaders, apart from brokenness, we are a DANGER to God's people. It is ONLY through brokenness that we can become a BLESSING to God's people.

We'll Look at MORE of that (specifically) - NEXT WEEK

Continuing with God's **TOOLS** for **brokenness**

Sometimes our **Brokenness** comes through a **Physical Challenge**
or **Problem** - *Like Paul's Thorn in the Flesh*

Sometimes our Brokenness comes through Spiritual Warfare
which was ALSO what Paul's thorn in the flesh was

Sometimes it comes thru some Crushing Circumstance

As Paul wrote in **2Cor 1** - Talking about his Difficult Circumstances

2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (NLT)

8 . . . We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it.

9 In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God . . .

If your **Crushing Circumstances** **cause** you to
STOP Relying on **Yourself** - & **START Relying** on **GOD**

Then **that** is **one** of the **Greatest Blessings**
God can **Bring** into your **life**

It can be an **ECONOMIC TOOL** God Uses

It can be a **FAILED RELATIONSHIP TOOL** God Uses

& **often** our **brokenness** comes through **DIFFICULT PEOPLE**

& **I KNOW** - **ALL** of us think **WE'RE NOT** that **difficult person** -
that **OTHER person** is the **Difficult Person**

& **what I've found** - in **Difficult People circumstances** -
including ones that **involve me personally**

**Most always - BOTH people think
the OTHER person is the difficult person**

& God says, *“That’s fine, because I’m using you BOTH in each others lives, to OFFER Brokenness to EVERYBODY”*

Guys - We must NEVER REFUSE God’s TOOL of Brokenness

**It’s NOT the TOOL that God uses - it’s our RESPONSE
that determines whether we Benefit from it or not**

Oswald Chambers wrote;

God can never make us into wine if we object to the fingers He chooses to use to crush us . . . we must never try to choose the place of our own martyrdom. If we are ever going to be made into wine, we will have to be crushed . . .

**If we are ever going to be made into WINE for God’s use
we are going to have to be CRUSHED**

**The truth is - we CANNOT be conformed into the
Image of Jesus Christ - APART from being BROKEN**

Jesus Himself experienced True Brokenness here on earth

**When Jesus CRIED OUT in the Garden - in Luke 22:42 (NLT)
*42 “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”***

That was Brokenness in our Lord

**& the theme of Brokenness in our Lord is carried out regularly -
in the Communion Service - (today for us)**

When Jesus Initiated communion at the Last Supper
He took the bread & he did WHAT with it?

He said - *this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me*

& then the CUP - which represents His blood - poured out for us

What more intense picture of True Brokenness can there be?

& yet - as we say, "Thank you" Jesus - for being BROKEN for US
We (at the same time) often REFUSE to be BROKEN for Him

BROKENNESS is the Breaking of our WILL to God's Will
& the Breaking of our WAYS to God's Ways

It only thru the process of Brokenness -
can we experience the life that God has for us

When God sends His MEANS of Brokenness into your Life

STAY on the Wheel
STAY in the Fire

ALLOW God's TOOL
to bring the Blessing of Brokenness into your life

Let's Pray