

Sunday, November 30, 2025 PM
THE BLESSINGS OF BROKENNESS: God Wants The Best For Us 4
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Perhaps the most difficult thing in dealing with brokenness is the discouragement that often accompanies it. This is especially true if the brokenness last for an extended amount of time. When you look at the life of Job, we see some of his and even his family's frustration. And naturally so! Again when we are unable to determine what God is doing in our lives through the brokenness, we have a tendency to allow it to affect us emotionally.

This is where our faith comes in. Understanding that God is in control of our lives and that He is sovereign and nothing escapes his all-seeing eyes. And perhaps one of the things God is in the process of doing through our brokenness is deepening our faith and trust in the Lord.

Paul reminds us that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." The last thing God wants to do is discourage us or break our Spirits. Let's take some time to look at and come to an understanding God is not looking for negative results from His allowing brokenness into our lives but instead developing trust and/or some spiritual character trait in our lives.

Let's read Paul's reminder for us about these difficult times in our lives.

Romans 8:25-29

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

RECALL PAUL'S LIFE _____

If there is anyone who understands the difficulty of persevering through brokenness, it has to be Paul. Listen to the trials of life Paul had been subjected to . . .

II Corinthians 11:25-27

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

Philippians 1:29-30

²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Do you think just maybe when Paul was undergoing some of these hardships, He had to wonder what God was doing in his life? What were the results of these times of brokenness in Paul's life?

- **THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL:** Three missionary journeys & the establishment of numerous churches.
- **DEMONSTRATING THE POWER OF GOD:** Many healings and even the raising of the dead. II

Corinthians 12:10

¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- **INSPIRATION FOR OTHER BELIEVERS TO PERSEVERE IN FAITH:** By Paul's life experiences we too when faced with difficulties can continue on.

So Paul is well qualified to speak to us about dealing with the brokenness of life for he has certainly lived it. Let's see if we can discover how God works all things out for good.

GOD DOES NOT WANT TO _____ OUR SPIRIT

1. **IT IS _____ GOD'S PURPOSE . . .** to break our spirit.

We all recognize the words "broken spirit" but we may not have a definition for it. A "broken spirit" means a state of being overwhelmed with sorrow, despair, or hopelessness, often caused by life's challenges or trauma. It is characterized by a loss of desire and energy, a feeling of emptiness, loss of personal identity and the inability to move forward. The person with a broken spirit is not whole or healthy or growing toward spiritual maturity.

Proverbs 17:22

²² A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed ("broken" KJV) spirit dries up the bones.

God can't entrust His supernatural ministry to a person with a broken spirit.

2. **IT _____ GOD'S PURPOSE...** to break the stubbornness of our wayward wills. He desires to do this so that we will pursue His will for our lives.

Romans 12:2

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

His will is always for our good, for our blessing.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Every good parent knows that children are born with a “me-first, egocentric” stubbornness. “MINE!” and “NO!” seem to be the first two words every child learns and uses freely. Both are rooted in this selfish, self-centered pride and desire to govern our own lives. A good parent knows that children born with this selfish me-first stubbornness and pride must be broken to be obedient—not only to the parents, but to all authority.

Proverbs 22:15

¹⁵ Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.

Proverbs 13:24

²⁴ Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Proverbs 23:14

¹⁴ Punish them with the rod and save them from death.

If these are the things God indicates are necessary in order for a child to grow up useful, productive, law-abiding, generous, and loving spouse, friend, parent, citizen, and member of the body of Christ, don't you think He would apply the same to us as His children?

A child who is allowed to remain stubborn and proud will become an adult who is despicable to be around, who is ill-tempered and who has very little capacity to receive or give love. So just as a parent attempts to break a child's stubborn pride and willful disobedience, so God seeks to break within us the pride and disobedience that keeps us from being the loving, generous, childlike person He believes we can be.

GOD DOES NOT DELIGHT IN CAUSING US PAIN

1. GOD DESIRES OUR _____

Just as it is not God's desire to break our spirit, neither is it God's purpose to cause us pain! Pain and suffering are the end result of sin. God may allow or bring about circumstances and situations in our lives that seem painful to us, but these circumstances and situations are many times tools God uses to bring us to a position where we are willing to surrender our lives completely to Him.

Think about the calling of Saul/Paul:

Acts 9:3-9

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” ⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

God would much rather be able to just call us and we answer that calling in our lives.

The call of Peter and Andrew:

Matthew 4:18-20

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

Sometimes the pain and suffering are of our own making and then at other times it is because of the plan of God. Therein lays the difficulty. It is left to us to determine how and why God may be allowing the brokenness into our lives.

2. WHAT ABOUT WHEN WE ARE _____

Is a Christian ever a victim? Yes, sometimes. As Christians, we are victims only to the extent that others have injured us physically or hurt us emotionally. The hard part is realizing that God has allowed these painful experiences in our lives for some reason that normally escapes us.

Here is a caution: When we see ourselves as victims, we live in the past and continue in our pain. This is a trick of the devil. If we see ourselves as beloved by God who is preparing us for a special future and service, which He alone may know, then we find strength to endure the past pain and move forward. Paul's blindness on the road to Damascus:

Philippians 3:10-14

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Joseph and all he endured:

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

God is sovereign! He can stop anything He desires to stop or that is not according to His will. He, at times, will not override human will when it fits into the design He has for our lives. We see this when people close to us open themselves to evil, we may suffer in the wake of their evil doing. For example, if a person becomes an alcoholic or some other kind of addition, their family (spouse, children) may suffer from their rage or neglect.

God knows this. He loves us, however, and He has the ability to redeem these situations in our lives for good. Many of you may as a child suffered what we would label as injustices or abuse. These are very real to you and I don't want you to think I take it lightly. You may not be ready to hear that God loves you and ultimately He desires to use this to accomplish His plan for your life.

How many people have been able to minister to others coming out of some type of tragic, difficult experience of life? If we believe **Romans 8:28** to be true, we must believe it to be true for all circumstances in our lives. (And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.) We must never limit God's ability to turn even the worst, most vile experience in our lives into something productive, beneficial, and positive. Regardless of our source of pain, we must accept that God knows, and God is at work.

We may not be responsible for what has happened to us, but we are responsible for our response to it.

LIVE IT OUT

- Have you misunderstood the process of brokenness for discipline in your life?
- Has Satan attempted to crush your spirit in your brokenness?
- Do you understand God's delight in our pain?
- What tricks is Satan using to keep you in bondage?