

# For the Rest of Your Life: Broken Hearts, Open Doors

God uses our pain, weakness, and brokenness as an entrance for His amazing grace. He gives rest to our weary souls.

## Sin, The Beginning of Our Brokenness

Genesis 1:31

New Living Translation

31 Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

Genesis 2:25

New Living Translation

25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:8-13

New Living Translation

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man[a] and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. 9 Then the Lord

**God called to the man, "Where are you?"**

10 He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

11 "Who told you that you were naked?" the Lord God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

13 Then the Lord God asked the woman, **"What have you done?"**

"The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

Genesis 4:8-10

New Living Translation

8 One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." [a] And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

**9 Afterward the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?"**

“I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

10 But the Lord said, **“What have you done?”** Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground!

## **The Sacrifice of Repentance**

Psalm 51:14-17

New King James Version

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
The God of my salvation,  
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips,  
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;  
You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,  
A broken and a contrite heart—  
These, O God, You will not despise.

## **God Uses Broken Hearts as Open Doors**

Exodus 3:7-10

New Living Translation

7 Then the Lord told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. 9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

Romans 8:35-39

New Living Translation

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being

slaughtered like sheep.”[a] 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## The Wrong Way

Jeremiah 2:11-13

New Living Translation

11 Has any nation ever traded its gods for new ones,  
even though they are not gods at all?

Yet my people have exchanged their glorious God[a]  
for worthless idols!

12 The heavens are shocked at such a thing  
and shrink back in horror and dismay,”  
says the Lord.

13 “For my people have done two evil things:  
They have abandoned me—  
the fountain of living water.

And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns  
that can hold no water at all!

## The Called

Matthew 11:25-30

New Living Translation

Jesus’ Prayer of Thanksgiving

25 At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to **the childlike**. 26 Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

27 “My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

28 Then Jesus said, “Come to me, **all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens**, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and

gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Colossians 2:13

New Living Translation

13 You were **dead because of your sins** and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

Matthew 9:35-36

New Living Translation

35 Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were **confused and helpless**, like sheep without a shepherd.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

New Living Translation

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that **few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy**[a] when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world,[b] things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

## Bring Broken Hearts Near

Isaiah 29:13

New Living Translation

13 And so the Lord says,

“These people say they are mine.

They honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.

And their worship of me

is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.[a]

Luke 8:49-56

New Living Translation

49 While he was still speaking to her, a messenger arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. He told him, “Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.”

50 But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed.”

51 When they arrived at the house, Jesus wouldn't let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, James, and the little girl's father and mother. 52 The house was filled with people weeping and wailing, but he said, "Stop the weeping! She isn't dead; she's only asleep."

53 But the crowd laughed at him because they all knew she had died. 54 Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, "My child, get up!" 55 And at that moment her life[a] returned, and she immediately stood up! Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were overwhelmed, but Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone what had happened.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

New Living Translation

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died[a] will rise from their graves.

Luke 7:36-39

New Living Translation

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.[a] 37 When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 38 Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

Luke 7:47-48

New Living Translation

47 "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

Isaiah 40:29-31

New King James Version

29 He gives power to the weak,  
And to those who have no might He increases strength.  
30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary,  
And the young men shall utterly fall,  
31 But those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.