

**Aware Part I: Seeing the Signs**  
***God at Work On You***  
**June 12, 2011**

Let's pray together.

God, this morning, many of us can identify with that drama and song. Whatever You're doing with us right now feels a little bit like chaos. We can't see exactly where You are so it's hard for us to trust. I pray that You would use this message to bring peace and clarity and that we would then be able to say "yes" to the way You have chosen to work on us at this time.

In the name of the One who began that work and who promises to complete it.  
Amen.

I'm glad you're here this morning. This is the second message in our two-part series "Aware" – a 10-week journey of trying to recognize and experience the activity and presence of God in our lives. And, it's kind of funny how it worked out – we didn't really plan it this way, but it turns out that we, as a congregation, are at that same point *collectively* where we need to discern God's presence and activity concerning our plans to expand our auditorium space, which we've been talking about for quite awhile now.

As I wrote Friday in a post on *The City* – which is our online communications system here at NHCC – some interesting options have recently presented themselves. And I want to tell you all about that and include you in the spiritual discernment process that will help us recognize what God might be doing ...

**... at our next “Gathering” (which we used to call the “all-church potluck”) at 7pm on Wednesday June 29<sup>th</sup> (the last Wednesday of this month).**

There won't be a meal at this particular one in order to keep it simple. So, just show up at 7pm. We'll meet in here and we'll have a time of worship, then I'll give you some details about some of the things that have come up as well as what you can do to help us discern where God might be leading us. This is going to be a very important night in the life of NHCC so, if you're in town and this is your church, I strongly challenge and encourage you to be here the last Wednesday of this month.

Anyway ... part one of our “Aware” series is called “Seeing the Signs” because, if we're going to be aware of God's presence and activity, we need to be able see the signs of

it. And last week, we began by raising the foundational question that always comes up whenever the Bible talks about signs, which is ... will we see? Will we lay aside our preconceived notions of what God's presence and activity *ought* to look like and be open to what the Bible tells us His presence and activity *do* look like?

And that question matters because most of us want to look for God's activity and presence in how the events of our lives all fit together to produce a certain outcome. We look for signs that reveal that God is taking "A" and a little bit of "B" and He's arranging it so that "C" will happen. And sometimes God *does* do that. Sometimes we actually get to see it – how it all fits together – but, if that's all we're looking for when we're looking for signs of God's activity and presence in our lives, we open the door to a lot of speculation and maybe even sin.

For example, over the years I've heard more than one person say "I met this guy (or gal) totally by accident and, wow, we just connected. We have the most amazing relationship. I think God must have brought us together and wants us to be together" ... and it sounds really good ... all the signs are there ... except for the fact that they're already married to someone else and there is no way that God would say "leave your spouse," because in the Bible God says, "I hate divorce." So, if all you're looking for are "connect-the-dots" kinds of signs, sometimes you can see signs that aren't really there.

In addition, if all we look for is that kind of a sign, then we're likely going to miss the many *other* signs of God's presence and activity. And there *are* many ... and we *can* see them ... if we are willing to look in places that are maybe a little less dramatic.

*"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the Lord told [the prophet Elijah.]*

*And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.*

*[But] after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. 1 Kings 19:10-13 (NIV)*

I know that's mixing metaphors a bit, but the

point is the same: God's presence and activity isn't necessarily what we would expect it to be.

So, what we're going to focus on in this message and in the three that follow is something a little less flashy, perhaps, than what we're typically looking for when we think of signs and certainly less speculative – we're going to look for signs that God is working ...

- *on* us
- *in* us
- *for* us
- and *through* us.

## **Knowing What to Look For**

This morning, we're going to talk about the signs that God is working *on* us but before we can get to what that even means, there's

a three-part framework that helps us know what to look for. It's pretty simple and straightforward.

Here's the first part.

### **1. God is always working.**

One day, the religious leaders came to hassle Jesus because he had healed someone on the Sabbath. The Bible tells us that ...

*Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." John 5:17 (NIV)*

That's the first part of the framework. God is always working.

Obvious question, then, is "what is God working on?" Well, there are lots of things



God is working on in this world, but as it relates specifically to you and me ...

## **2. God is always working to accomplish His purpose for our lives.**

The Apostle Paul wrote ...

*I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6 (NLT)*

God has a purpose – a finished product – in mind and his work in your life and mine is intended to bring it about.

The question, then, is “what is God’s purpose for us?”

## **3. God’s purpose for our lives is that we are to become like Christ.**

Again, it's the Apostle Paul who writes ...

*We know that in all things  
God works for the good of  
those who love him, who  
have been called according  
to his purpose.*

**And here is the purpose:**

*For those God foreknew he  
also predestined to be  
conformed to the image of his  
Son, that he (the Son) might  
be the firstborn among many  
brothers and sisters.*

*Romans 8:28-29 (NIV)*

There is a lot of theological language in there but here is what that means, bottom line, is that God has intended from the very beginning that Jesus would have a whole bunch of younger brothers and sisters who are cut from the same spiritual DNA;

brothers and sisters who bear the same family resemblance; who share the family character and nature.

And when we come to the point where we recognize that we're sinners in need of a savior and we confess that Jesus is our savior because he died on the cross and rose from the dead ... then *in everything that happens to us from then on*, God is always working to form us into a person who is filled with the very nature and character of Christ. We're "predestined" to that end. It's going to happen. God will see to it. He is constantly working in your life and in mine to see that it does.

Therefore – and this is the implication of this little framework ...

**If you want to see signs of God's presence and activity in your life, look for things that serve to make you *less like you* (as you are**

**in your natural state) and *more like Jesus.***

And if you belong to Jesus there are things happening right now in your life in which God is present and active for that purpose. Specifically, there are things happening in your life right now, and in mine, where God is working *on* you to make you less like you are in your natural state ... which is what we'll talk about in just a minute. But there are also things happening in your life where He's working *in* you, *for* you and *through* you so that you will become more like Jesus ... which is what we'll talk about in the next three weeks to follow.

Now, as I said, that's not as flashy as seeing how God is working to lead you from job to job or from one part of the country to another or how God miraculously kept something bad from happening to you this morning on your drive to church. It's not as flashy, but it's

just as real and, in the bigger picture, probably more important.

## **Chipping Away**

So, let's talk about what it means for God to be working *on* us and, then, some of the signs that God is actually doing that.

I chose to phrase it this way – “God working *on* us” – because the image that comes to my mind when I think of what God does ...

... is what Michelangelo reportedly said when asked how he was going to create a sculpture of King David out of an enormous chunk of marble. His answer was: “That's easy. All I have to do is chip away everything that is not David.”

He wasn't going to work *in* the marble to somehow change its internal make-up so it

would look like David. He was going to work on the marble. He was going to make less of the marble so that the "David" in the marble could emerge.

In the same way, in order for God to produce Christ in us, part of what He has to do is to work on us, chipping away all the "not Jesus stuff" in our character.

**Paul alludes to this process when he writes:**

*We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*

*For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 2 Corinthians 4:10-11 (NIV)*

Obviously, he's not talking about literal, physical death here. He's talking about the part of us that's not consistent with the character of Jesus being given over to death; being broken, being killed off by God so to speak. Death in us so that Christ can be revealed.

I like the way author Alan Nelson explains it. He writes:

"I once believed that when a person ... became a Christian and accepted Christ, all that was left was to learn more God and to 'grow in grace.' However, I continue to discover, often painfully, that there is a silent, but common and active process in the building of the Christian called brokenness."

**Then he explains why:**

“The soul of a person, in its early and natural state, is wildly undisciplined. Whether it aggressively rebels against God’s harnessing like a bucking bronco, or passive-aggressively resists like an old, stubborn mule, the human spirit resents the influence of God’s Spirit.”<sup>i</sup>

The Bible calls this “human spirit,” to which he refers, our “sinful nature” – the chief characteristic that all of us have inherited from Adam and we have in common with him and with one another; the arrogant, rebellious, self-sufficiency that says “I don’t need God. I can make my own rules; I can make my own way; I can meet my own needs; I can be my own god.” If you remember, that’s the path that Adam chose. That’s the path that we *all* choose in some way or another.



**God has to chip this away, the Bible says,  
because ...**

*The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.*

*Galatians 5:17 (NLT)*

The arrogant, rebellious, self-sufficient like-Adam nature is constantly seeking to choke off the like-Jesus nature that God puts inside of us when we accept Christ. It has to be chipped away and removed. It has to be put to death. That's the picture. That is what's happening here.

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Now, I know at this point some of you may be thinking, "I get the visual of that, Rick. God is trying to do something in me, and there's still some part of the Adam piece in me that's the rebellious part, and God is trying to chip this away. But, get specific, what kinds of things are you talking about that God needs to chip away?" Well, as I was preparing for this message, I just thought back over my own life, and I thought, over the years that I've followed Christ, what characteristics has God repeatedly tried to break away and remove from *me*. And I came up with a list of seven things that seem to be part of my inborn nature that are like really opposed to God. They shut out the room for God in my life. And I'll share these with you.

I'm just going to go through them kind of slowly so that you can think about your own life and see if any of these things are

characteristic of you.

One of the inborn traits in my nature that I think is derived from Adam is an ...

**1. Inflated self-importance – “it's all up to me” or “it can't be done without me” attitude.**

“I can't take a day off – if I do, the whole world will come to an end. I have to do everything in my family. I can't go on vacation. I can't turn off email. I'm tied to the mast of the good ship North Heartland.” And you've heard me talk about that – that is inflated self-importance. It's part of the nature Adam had that is passed on at least to me and maybe to some of you.

The second thing I've noticed in myself is a ...

**2. Misguided self-image – “I am \_\_\_\_\_” (the**

## **role or game in which we find our identity, our security and our significance)**

When I was younger I used to think, "I'm the lead trumpet player." I was a good trumpet player. I was hot. I was really good. And my identity was "lead trumpet player." There was a coolness about being the lead trumpet player; "I'm the answer man." I've gone to school. I've studied. If you have a question about God, the Bible, computers, weather – I've got the answer; "I'm the shortstop"; "I'm the leader"; "I'm the hard worker." This misguided "this is who I am" and I think that comes from Adam. And I think maybe you could fill in the blank on your own life. Misguided self-image "that is who I really am."

Another thing I've noticed in me and maybe you've noticed in yourself is ...

### **3. Overstated self-sufficiency – "I can**

**handle it on my own.”**

“Pretty much whatever it is, I don’t need anyone else. Maybe I’ll through a prayer to God every once in awhile but I really don’t need God. What I need to do is just buckle down. I just need to work harder, be smarter, do whatever.” Overstated self-sufficiency.

Another thing I’ve noticed in myself is ...

**4. Extravagant self-centeredness – an attitude that says, “My wants and needs are the most important agenda.” Now, there’s room for you, but mine come first.**

So, “If I’m hungry, I want to eat. If I’m tired, I want to sleep. I’ve treated you nice, I want sex. I’ve worked my hours, now it’s my time. I earned this money, I can spend it however I want. ” You know that’s how it works. It’s extravagant self-centeredness – my wants and needs are the most important agenda around here. It’s true of me and I’m sure it’s

true of some of you.

Here's another one.

**5. Excessive self-confidence – the attitude of “I am right. I’ve studied and I know more than you. I’m right; therefore I must win/it must be done my way”**

Wow, I could spend all day talking about this one. But I won't.

**6. Prideful self-righteousness – “Well, I don't do X, therefore I'm better than all the people in the world who do.” And, “I'm just a special kind of guy to God because I'm so much better.” Or, “I follow all the rules, so therefore God owes me.”**

“I've tithed 10% faithfully for years and years, therefore my car better not break down.” “I gave up a big career to go into the ministry, so God better...” I follow the rules, therefore God owes me. That is prideful self-righteousness. I see it in myself. Maybe you

see it in yourself.

Last thing on my list (and I could add many more to the list, but I'll spare you),

**7. Arrogant self-deception – “I’m normal; everyone else is the problem.” “I’m okay; you’re not”**

Jetta told me “you’re too demanding about sex.” I said, “I’m just a guy. You’re just frigid.”

She told me “you’re too harsh with me and the girls” ... I said, “You’re just women. You’re too sensitive.”

My boss told me that my expectations of my co-workers was too high ... I said, “These guys just goof off. They just don’t care. They don’t care like *I* do. Somebody needs to crack down on them.”

Inflated self-importance, misguided self-

image, overstated self-sufficiency, extravagant self-centeredness, excessive self-confidence, prideful self-righteousness, and arrogant self-deception: those are the kinds of inborn traits in me that needed to be chipped away. They're not of God. They're not the character of Christ. What about you? Do you see those things in you? Or, what else needs to be chipped away?

## **Signs of God at Work**

The question is ... what does that look like? What are the signs that God is actually working *on* us to chip away those kinds of things – the parts that don't look like Jesus?

Well, the Bible gives us a lot of examples of how that happens. And they aren't very pretty.

- Once, when the apostle Peter was



caught up in prideful self-righteousness (“I’m a good Jew, and good Jews don’t hang out with Gentiles even though Gentiles have been saved by Jesus just like Jews were. I’m going to keep my distance”), it says in Galatians that God sent the apostle Paul to the city of Galatia to personally call him out and embarrass him in front of the Jews and the Gentiles, just humiliated him.

- When Paul was in danger of falling into excessive self-confidence (because at one point in his life he had seen a vision of heaven so from then on anything he would say about theology would be “right” because he’d seen it – he had this excessive self-confidence), he said that God used Satan to give him a “thorn in the flesh” – it doesn’t say what the thorn was, but it was some type of physical weakness to humble him. Paul was saying, “God put that in my life to

keep me humble, so that my excessive self-confidence would not choke out Jesus in me.”

- When King Nebuchadnezzar (in the Old Testament) developed a case of overstated self-sufficiency (he went around saying things like, “I’m as powerful as God; I’m making a statue and you all need to bow down”), the Bible says that God took away his ability to reason (he literally lost his mind) for a while and he became like “the beasts of the field” to quote his own words.
- When the Old Testament patriarch, Jacob, kept returning to a misguided self-image (basically, he was a deceiver), one night God met him and personally wrestled with him, broke his hip and changed his name to “Israel” or “Prince of God.” No longer “deceiver” but “Prince of God.” So,

from then on, he never forgot who he really was but he walked with a limp for the rest of his life.

- When Jacob's youngest son, Joseph, fell into the pit of prideful self-righteousness ("I had this dream where God showed me that I'm going to be better than all of you, and all of you will bow down to me"), God allowed him to be treated unjustly and kept from his destiny, put on the shelf, *for years*.

Speaking of what God did to the whole nation of Israel, the Psalmist wrote:

*You, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.*  
*Psalm 66:10-12 (NIV)*

Jesus said ...

*Everyone who exalts himself  
will be humbled ... Luke  
14:11 (NIV)*

The author of Hebrews writes:

*The Lord disciplines those he  
loves and he punishes each  
one he accepts as his child.  
Hebrews 12:7 (NIV)*

Paul wrote that he and his companions ...

*... were under great  
pressure, far beyond our  
ability to endure, so that we  
despaired of life itself. Indeed,  
we felt we had received the  
sentence of death. But this  
happened that we might not  
rely on ourselves but on God,  
who raises the dead. 2*

## *Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV)*

And the point is that in all of these situations, for all of these people, God was present and active in their lives. He was at work and all of those difficult circumstances were the signs that he was! Now, to be sure, not all of those circumstances were *caused* by God. Some were, some were not. But it really doesn't matter because the point is, God was present and active and his presence and activity could be seen by those with eyes to see it.

So, let's go back to that list I gave you a few minutes ago of the things that need to be broken in me – and probably in you, too, if you're honest – and let's see what kind of things God might do to break that or allow it to be chipped away.

### **1. Inflated self-importance – the idea that “it's all up to me” or “it can't be done**

## **without me” attitude.**

How might God show up in that? Well, sometimes you just get “shelved” and they do it without you. And you have to sit and you have to watch while they do it without you, and it begins to dawn on you that you are not irreplaceable.

And when that happens, that’s God at work in your life.

## **2. Misguided self-image – “I am \_\_\_\_\_” (the role or game in which we find our identity or security)**

How might God work in that? Well, you might lose whatever “that” is, and it begins to dawn on you that “maybe I’m really not ‘that’ and maybe I don’t need to be trapped by ‘that’ - maybe I am someone else in Christ.” And when that begins to happen to you, that’s God at work.

What about ...

**3. Overstated self-sufficiency – the idea that “I can handle it on my own. I just need to work harder.”**

What sign would tell you that God is working on you in that area? That you are overwhelmed. Or, you fail. You try your hardest and you fail. It doesn't work and you've given it your best. And then it begins to dawn on you that “maybe I do need other people; maybe I do need God's power in this. It's too big for me.” And when that happens, God is at work in your life, friend!

What about ...

**4. Extravagant self-centeredness – the attitude of “My wants and needs are the most important agenda.”**

How might God work in that? You might lose your health or your comforts, and God might

actually take those from you, or He might not. It doesn't really matter how it happens. But you lose those things that bring you your comfort and your health, and then it begins to dawn on you that God really could make you content no matter what your circumstances are. And, when that happens, that is God at work in your life.

**5. Excessive self-confidence – attitude of “I am right; therefore I must win/it must be done my way.”**

This one is really fun. How does God do this? Well, you are dreadfully wrong at some point. You think you're totally right, but you're totally wrong. Or, you try to win and you lose. Or even worse, you're right and you win and *no one cares - they don't give a flip that you're right* ... and then it begins to dawn on you that it's really not about being right. Life is not about being right or winning. It's about caring and about loving.



And when that starts to happen in you, that's a sign of God's presence and activity in your life.

**6. Prideful self-righteousness – “I'm better than they are, so I'm special before God” or “I follow the rules, therefore God owes me.”**

Well, this one is painful, it really is ... sometimes God works in your life in those situations by *not* working in your life like you think He should or maybe even said He would (A+B does NOT equal C; do this and do this, and God will provide this) and for some reason, God says, “I'm not doing that.” And it begins to dawn on you that what God wants from you is not rule keeping but a relationship. And when that happens, that's God working in your life.

Or, sometimes God works in your life when

you have this issue of prideful self-righteousness by allowing you to be "sifted like wheat" (which is what Jesus told Peter was going to happen to him the night before Jesus died, the night he was betrayed. Remember, Jesus told Peter, "the rooster will crow three times and you are going to deny me three times." And Peter said, "Never. This is never going to happen." And Jesus said, "Satan has asked for permission to sift you like wheat. You're going to fail.") And sometimes what happens when we have this prideful self-righteousness is that we experience a moral failure beyond anything we would have ever dreamed possible ("It would never happen to me") and then it begins to dawn on you that you truly are a far worse sinner than you ever believed and God's love and grace is greater than you ever imagined. And when that happens, that's a sign of God at work in your life ... even in that.

And the last thing is,

**7. Arrogant self-deception – “I’m normal; everyone else is screwed up.”**

Well, how might God be at work, chipping that away? Well, how about people just get sick of you and they reject you because they’ve told you over and over and over again, “look, this is how you’re acting and this is what you’re doing” and you’re like “nah, forget it” and finally they’ve had enough of you. And you sit there and you’re by yourself and you’re going “hmmm, maybe I do need to grow and change just like everyone else.” And when that happens, that’s a sign of God working in your life, chipping away the stuff in you that’s not like Jesus.

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And those are just some examples of things that I've experienced in my own life or seen in other people's lives. And, on those things that have happened to me, I've got to tell you, at the time when they happened I didn't go, "Oh, hey, great, I'm miserable. That's God working in my life." I mean, it didn't work that way. What I did was, later, I realized that that rejection was the hand of God. So now what happens is, when I look in my life now and I think, "man, there is some rejection going on." Instead of immediately blaming other people, "what a loser. What an idiot," I ask, "Is there something that God is chipping away on me here?" I'm looking for the sign because it's happened in the past, it might be happening again in the future. And that's one of the values when you start thinking like this. And I'm sure there are many other ways you could think of but I think the point is made.

As one writer puts it:

God uses all kinds of methods. Either He will break our [sinful nature] gradually, like one steadily chips away at a large stone, or He will break us suddenly, through some major crisis. Sometimes there is a sudden breaking, followed by gradual. For others, the Lord arranges daily trials, difficulties, difficult people, hard circumstances, physical problems and all sorts of things to bring us to the place of brokenness.

See, God is always at work in our lives to develop the character of Jesus within us. And, so, he allows adversity and hardship and rejection and all these terrible things to chip away the parts in us that are not like Jesus. And He does it – and let's not forget

this part – He does it because He loves us. We are His kids. He is like a loving dad who would say, “Hey, look, this is not good for you and I’ve got to take this away from you. I’ve got to teach you that this is not how to be.” And he takes that away from us. He breaks us into pieces. He breaks us because He loves us.<sup>ii</sup>

## **Responding to God’s Work**

So, the question this morning is ... is anything like that going on in your life right now? Can you sense anything in your character that is not of Jesus that is being chipped away in you? Maybe some of the things I put on my list? And as you look at your life you think, “oh, now I see why that is happening, because God is trying to chip that away.” If that’s what is going on, then what you do is what Jesus said we should do - Jesus’ message was, “repent and believe

the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand." Rejoice because God is near and God is working in your life and you are actually getting to see the signs of it.

Of course, the goal of seeing the signs of God is not just seeing. It's submitting to what God is doing. So, when that happens we need to cooperate and say "Yes, God, I see what You're doing in me and I want to let go of these things. I want to let go of *that* self-image and start getting my self-image out of You."

King David of whom Michelangelo created that amazing sculpture was a man who God had to do a lot of work on. After a terrible moral failure in his life he wrote an amazing prayer in which he said:

*God, You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;*

*you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings [God, I know You're not into playing the religious game. You don't want the religious ritual. That's not what pleases You.] My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. Psalm 51:17-18 (NIV)*

In other words, David is saying, "This is what I have. I see that I'm broken, and it's all that I have to bring to you."

So, this morning as we close, I want that to be the focus of our time. Some of you may be getting the sense that, "wow, God is breaking this in my life." And, what I want you to have is, not a sense of condemnation, God is not saying, "Okay, you've got this issue in your life and I've got to break this off of you. You're such a bad person." Yeah,



we're bad; we're in Adam; we're sinners and we need to be saved. But Jesus has died and saved us. So, this is a point of conviction, not condemnation. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. So, this morning as we close, we just want to bring our broken spirit, the things that need to be broken to God, and say, "Dear God, we want to bring these to you, and we rejoice that we are convicted but not condemned." So, let's pray to that end,

God, thank you for the message of your Scripture. Thank you that you don't leave us in the dark about what you are doing in our lives. God, I know this morning some of us are listening to this message and the light is coming on and we're saying, "oh, wow, this is why this is happening in my life. God is trying to break this out of me." God, I pray that in this moment we would say

"yes." God, some of us are hearing this message and we're saying, "these things are happening to me and I don't even believe in Jesus." But God, they're happening because we don't, and you're trying to show us how much we need you, how much we need a savior. So, in this moment right now, God, I pray that some of us would say "yes" to you. Say, "yes, I am a sinner. I need a savior. Jesus is that savior. I want you to be in my life. I want you to be my leader and my Lord. God, I know people are saying that right now to you for the first time. So, God, we want to take this moment and we just want to rejoice that even though you continually chip away the old nature that's in us, that we are forgiven, we're redeemed, we're covered, we're not condemned, and that you want to do great things in us and this is part of the process. We

thank you for that in Jesus name. Amen.

Let's stand and sing together.

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> Alan E. Nelson, *Embracing Brokenness*, pg 19

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.faithwriters.com/article-details.php?id=98776>