

Trials of the Christian Life

The Struggle is Real

Victory Through Brokenness

TEARING DOWN

"There must be a "tearing down" before there can be a building up".

- It first starts with our _____. We must be born again - John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23. The "old man" must be torn down - Rom. 6:6-12.
- This is NOT a "one and done". The flesh (dead spirit) still remains. We must choose to:
 - kill the flesh - 1 Cor. 15:31.
 - yield to God - Rom. 6:13.
- In this sense, a tearing down or _____ is a day by day, minute by minute CHOICE! Remember Satan and his forces are working for your brokenness too! Except they want you broken down in the flesh while remaining on the "ash heap" of defeat!
- The importance of trials and persecutions: we learn who we really are! God breaks us down to the core of our very soul. WHY? To give us a complete change of our perspective. It is not enough to abhor our sin...we must come to the point where we abhor ourself: the _____ - Job 42:5-6; Rom. 7:18.
- Brokenness – *Contrition*. (deep sorrow for sin; grief of heart for having offended and infinitely holy and benevolent God. The word is usually understood to mean genuine penitence, accompanied with a deep sense of ingratitude in the sinner, and sincere resolution to live in obedience to the divine law)
Only through brokenness can the magnitude of God's grace be fully understood and appreciated (Eph. 2:8-9). This in turn creates a total dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ (our vine). Only connected to Him do we have true life, can bear fruit, and can be strong. This is complete conformity to the image (person) of Jesus Christ – Rom. 8:28-29! Remember God's plan from the beginning was for mankind to be in His image – Gen. 1:26-27.
- **RESULT:** The most mature one's faith can ever be: _____ – Job 13:15.

BUILDING UP

"In order to be our best FOR God we must first experience the worst WITH Him."

- One of God's most effective ways of conforming us is through our _____ and yet we go to great lengths to ignore or hide them! The worst tragedy is NOT learning from our failures. The greatest lessons of success are often born through failure. Failure should cause us to desire success. It takes the focus off self and causes us to look at the source of success – Joshua 1:8.
- John 21:15-17; Luke 22:33-34: Jesus to Peter – feed my lambs. NOT when Peter pledged to follow him to the death but AFTER Peter had denied Him 3 times.
- Hosea 1-3: Hosea had to experience failure and absolute heartbreak before he was ready to preach to Israel.

- **RESULT:** You stop trying to work FOR God and allow Him to work _____ you – Phil. 1:6. You are completely built up and rooted in Him – Col. 2:7. Our victory is not Christ plus my efforts but Christ plus my surrender.

COMPLETE IN HIM

- Job 9:33-35 – Our need for a daysman (mediator) goes beyond salvation.
 - MEDIATOR - *One that interposes between parties at variance for the purpose of reconciling them.*
- Externally - Mediator for our salvation. How often has Jesus saved us from the wrath of God during our life? – Abraham and Sodom, Moses and the Jew. Don't we need a mediator every day?
- Internally – the battle between flesh and Holy Spirit - Rom. 7:14-25.
- **RESULT:** Jesus is my _____. - Phil. 1:21. You no longer fight the battles of life to get victory because you have accepted that God's victory is an all-inclusive one: you ALREADY have full victory in all matters.