

Blessings Come Through Brokenness!

We've seen that *God draws near to the broken ones*; He lifts up those who are humble, but resists those who are proud. He uses the yielded vessel who can be filled by the Holy Spirit unto overflowing. (**James 4:6-10**)

New life is released through our brokenness. On the eve of His crucifixion, as He broke the bread and distributed it to His disciples, Jesus declared, "This is My Body, which is broken for you." His death on the cross released eternal life for us. And so, when we are willing to be broken, His abundant life can flow through us to others.

I. Brokenness brings an increased capacity for love and worship. The "sinner woman," who anointed Jesus' feet with her tears and with the precious ointment, was a broken woman. As a result, she was free to lavish her love and worship on the Lord Jesus, without restraint, and without being bound by the opinions of those who watched. Some of us are not really free to love and worship the Lord Jesus with all our hearts. Perhaps that is because we are not broken. We are still more concerned about what others think and about protecting our reputation than about the object of our devotion. Or maybe we are so full of self that we are thinking about our wonderful feeling while we worship instead of His Person, His grace, and love. Do we meditate upon His majesty, and power?

II. Brokenness brings increased fruitfulness, for God uses things that are broken:

When Jacob's natural strength was broken down at Peniel, God was able to clothe him with spiritual power.

When the rock at Horeb was broken by the stroke of Moses' rod, cool waters came forth to quench the thirst of the people.

When Gideon's 300 soldiers broke their pitchers, the lanterns within shone forth and God gave a great victory.

When the young boy's five loaves were broken, they were supernaturally multiplied and became sufficient to feed a multitude.

When Mary's alabaster box was broken, the fragrance that was released filled the whole house.

And when Jesus' body was broken on Calvary, eternal life was released for the salvation of the world.

When we are truly contrite, broken and submissive then He can be all in all in us and through us for the benefit of others and the fulfilling of His will and purpose.

III. Finally, the fruit of brokenness is to be seen in revival--the release of God's Spirit through our personal and corporate brokenness. During the Welsh

Revival of 1904-05, the song that was heard frequently from the lips of broken, contrite hearts was, "Bend me lower, lower, down at Jesus' feet."

IV. Where do we start?

1. First, we must come to see God as He really is, for the closer we get to God, the more we will see our own need in the light of His holiness.

In the 5th chapter of Isaiah, the great prophet pronounces well-deserved woes on the materialistic, sensual, pleasure-seeking, proud, immoral people of his day. Over and over again, he cries out, "*Woe to them . . .*" But then Isaiah comes face to face with the holiness of God. And his next words are not, "*Woe to them,*" but "*Woe to me!*" The broken man or woman is more conscious of the corruption in his own breast than in the heart of his neighbor. Isaiah had seen the glory of God, His holiness as he found himself in God's presence and then he said, ". . . *for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts.*" (Isa. 6:5)

Having seen God for who He is, we must then cry out to God for mercy. Our attitude will no longer resemble that of the Pharisee whose prayers revealed that he thought he was in pretty good shape compared to those around him. Rather, we will find ourselves crying out with the publican, "*God, be merciful to me a sinner!*"

2. Then, learning to acknowledge and verbalize your spiritual need, first to God, is essential to a lifestyle of brokenness. The broken person does not blame others--there is no brokenness when the finger of blame is still pointed at another. His heart attitude is, "*It's not my brother nor my sister, but it's me, oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer!*" because of our pride we often find it very difficult to be honest about our own sinfulness, and our need of genuine repentance.

There are five R'S involved in having revival -- they are **repentance, renewal, returning, restitution,** and then **refreshing** that comes from the Lord. You might want to look up the words in a Bible Concordance, it will help you.

3. The broken person is able to verbalize his needs to others, as well. Usually, there is no brokenness where there is no openness. Almost without exception, the greatest victories over sin and temptation that I have experienced have been won when I was willing to humble myself and confess my need to a mature believer who could pray for me and help hold me accountable to obey God.

4. Finally, do the very thing you know God wants you to do, even

though your flesh is telling you not to do! Ultimately, brokenness is a matter of surrendering control of your life to God, much as the horse that has been broken is sensitive and responsive to the wishes and direction of its rider.

The heart that has been emptied of itself and broken of its willfulness and resistance, is the heart that will experience the filling and the reviving of our glorious, holy Savior, Who humbled Himself, that He might lift us up.