

I MUST BREAK YOU

January 6, 2020

PSALM 34:18 NIV - (18) The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

There is something about reaching a breaking point that causes us to seek the Lord more sincerely. King David was once a broken man, and he prayed, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (**Psalm 51:10, 17**). There are some things in our lives that need to be broken: pride, self-will, stubbornness, and sinful habits, for example. When we feel our brokenness, God compensates: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit" (**Isaiah 57:15**).

The Bible says that God breaks those who are proud and rebellious. The mighty Pharaoh set himself against God, but God broke him and freed His people from bondage and shame. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high" (**Leviticus 26:13**). God punishes all those who proudly resist Him. "My servants will sing out of the joy of their hearts, but you will cry out from anguish of heart and wail in brokenness of spirit" (**Isaiah 65:14**).

To us, broken things are despised as worthless, but God can take what has been broken and remake it into something better, something that He can use for His glory. Broken things and broken people are the result of sin. Yet God sent his Son, who was without sin, to be broken so that we might be healed. On the night before He died, Jesus broke the bread and said, "This is my body, which is broken for you." He went all the way to Calvary to die so that we can live. His death has made it possible for broken, sinful humanity to be reconciled to God and be healed. Without the broken body of Jesus, we could not be made whole.

Only when we surrender to Christ can we be restored and transformed. Such surrender requires a brokenness on our part (**Luke 9:23**). **Romans 6:1-14** describes how believers become dead to sin and alive to God in Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 43:2

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When life doesn't seem fair, it doesn't mean God's not there. Trust Him. He has a purpose in the pain.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"