

Church of the Promise

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Infusion

Become

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Belong

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#2 The Law of
Brokenness & Service

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

The Law of Brokenness & Service

Session Two



Key Verse: *“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit”* (Ps. 34:18 NKJV).

Key Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 1:27–29
- James 4:10
- Galatians 2:20
- 2 Corinthians 12:9–10
- Mark 9:33–35
- John 13:1–17
- Mark 10:35–45
- Philippians 2:5–11
- John 12:24–26

Objective: This session will show the value of brokenness and how it leads to effective service in the body of Christ.

Introduction: Most people who are even halfway serious about their Christian walk express a desire to be used by God in His kingdom. Although they are aware of how much needs to change within them before they can experience God’s power at work through them, they hesitate to really allowing God free reign in their lives.

God, however, can work in us only if we come to a place of true brokenness before Him. Without that, we will continue to be led and influenced by self-will, self-centered desires, and self-

knowledge. Only through brokenness can we truly learn total dependence upon God, and only by losing our lives for His sake will we find true fulfillment.

I. Brokenness occupies a very important place in the kingdom of God.

A. A humble, contrite heart is pleasing to God (*Isa. 57:15; Ps. 51:17*).

1. Isaiah 57:15 tells us that the same God who inhabits the heavens also seeks to dwell in the heart that is humble and contrite before Him. This attitude of humility and dependence upon God is known as brokenness.
2. According to Psalm 51:17, God never despises true humility and contrition. Contrition means living in a state of repentance and dependence upon God's grace. A humble, contrite heart rejects pride and self-promotion, because it acknowledges its deep, deep need of God.

B. Simplicity of spirit makes for greatness in God's kingdom (*Matt. 18:1-4*).

1. At the heart of your being should be a simplicity born of God in terms of trust and single-mindedness in following Him. This means becoming childlike in your trust and obedience to the Lord. Only in this way will you be able to walk in humility before Him and thus enable Him to use you for His divine purposes.
3. In most ancient cultures, age increased social status and authority. Children, therefore, were the most powerless

members of society. It was different, however, in Jewish culture. Children were loved, not despised, by their parents; nevertheless, they had no status apart from that love and no power or privileges apart from what they received as total dependents on their parents (C.S. Keener and InterVarsity Press, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 1993).

3. W.W. Wiersbe has very appropriately remarked, “True humility is not thinking meanly of oneself; it is simply not thinking of oneself at all” (*The Bible Exposition Commentary*, “An Exposition of the New Testament Comprising the Entire ‘BE’ Series, Jkt. Victor Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1989, 1996.)

C. Brokenness leads to experiencing the Spirit without measure (Phil. 2:5–11; John 3:34).

1. For Jesus, being “nothing” was a way of life. Long before He went to the cross, brokenness characterized everything He did. Although He was King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He willingly surrendered His rights and made Himself nothing.
2. Surrender and brokenness are the secret to walking in the fullness of God’s Spirit. Jesus had no hindrances within Him, so God could pour the Spirit upon Him without measure (*John 3:34*).
3. The Father is just as willing to give you the Spirit without measure, but the limitations of your own heart will determine the measure of the Holy Spirit you actually experience.
4. In Jesus, God the Father had full access to pour in the Spirit without measure. In our lives, however, we are so often filled with emotional, intellectual, and spiritual clutter. Only brokenness can remove

the clutter and make room for the Spirit.

D. Brokenness releases a sweet “ointment” (*John 12:1–8*).

1. Before Mary could anoint the feet of Jesus, the alabaster jar had to be broken. Only then was the ointment available for use.
2. In a similar way, you must be broken before the ointment of the Holy Spirit can flow out from you. Unless you are willing to be broken and become “nothing,” God can never use you.

E. Brokenness prevents Satan from gaining a toehold in your life (*John 14:30; 17:14*).

1. The reason that Satan could never defeat Jesus was because there was nothing in Jesus but the Spirit of God. That meant there was no point whatsoever in which Satan could hold Jesus captive.
2. The devil wants you to indulge your old nature and be led by it. In this way, he can reach into your life and gain entrance, since nothing good resides within man’s natural, carnal nature (*Rom. 7:18*). Brokenness, however, forces you to look to God in a new, deeper way that does not permit casual playing around with the devil.

F. Brokenness is the mark of someone who has met with God (*Gen. 32:22–32*).

1. Jacob's struggle cost him everything he was and everything he had, that is, his name and his strength. However, in God's eyes, the night of Jacob's wrestling with the angel was the defining moment of his entire life. On that night, Jacob met God face-to-face and yet lived to tell the tale. He was never the same, though, because he bore the mark of God in his body.
2. The new Jacob (Israel) now walked with a permanent limp, but this seeming weakness was actually his greatest strength. When you meet with God, you are touched by His power and overwhelmed by His holiness. You, too, are marked for life.
4. To know that God has examined your life and in His love spared you from what you deserve—that is true brokenness. Brokenness like that is not weakness. It is the very source of strength in your spirit. After such an encounter with God, things will never be the same again. There will be an emptiness—not nothingness or meaninglessness—that only God can fill.

II. Having a servant's heart is also very important in the kingdom of God.

A. A servant is one who is not his own master but rather serves another.

1. If you want to know whose servant you are, look at what occupies most of your time, has priority in your heart, or takes most of your money. That is what you serve.
2. A servant of God is one who has dethroned himself and his interests and enthroned Jesus as Lord of all his life. In other words, he puts Jesus first, before anything else.

3. As a disciple of Jesus, you are expected to serve God only (*1 Cor. 4:1*). This means that you put God's kingdom first (*Matt. 6:33*) and do not serve riches, power, possessions or anything else (*Matt. 6:24*).

B. A servant of the Lord has certain easily recognizable traits.

1. **He seeks first the kingdom of God (*Matt. 6:33*).** Nothing else is as important to Him as serving in God's kingdom.
2. **He is servant of all (*Matt. 20:26–28*).** Greatness in the kingdom of God comes from a life of service to others. The servant of the Lord does not look for others to serve him, but looks to see how he can serve others.
3. **He looks to his Master for his reward (*Matt. 25:21*).** The servant of the Lord is not swayed by the opinions of others and does not need their approval. He works to please His Master, knowing that his reward comes from God.
4. **He serves others and in doing so serves the Lord Jesus (*Matt. 25:31–40*).** Nothing is too menial or lowly for the servant of the Lord, because He knows that service to others is service to Christ.
5. **He is willing to deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow the Master (*Luke 9:23*).** His life is one of surrender, sacrifice, and daily obedience to the will of God.

6. **He follows the example of Jesus in selfless acts of service** (*Luke 22:27*). His humility and lack of pride clearly show that he lives according to the example of Jesus.
7. **He knows that it is more blessed to give than to receive** (*Acts 20:35*). The servant of the Lord finds happiness in giving to others and putting their needs before his own. He is generous, selfless, and concerned about the welfare of others.
8. **He is faithful when entrusted with something.** (*1 Cor. 4:2*). To the servant of the Lord, there is no such thing as a “too small” task. He delights in serving and proves his faithfulness in the little things that others don’t want to do.
9. **He carries the burdens of others** (*Gal. 6:2*). He has compassion for the needs of others and puts his compassion to work in practical acts of service.
10. **He is humble, gentle, and patient, and he bears with others in love** (*Eph. 4:2*). He is not easily angered and does not take offense quickly. His life emulates the life of Jesus.
11. **He looks to the interest of others and not just to his own interests** (*Phil. 2:4*). He is genuinely concerned about others and is not self-absorbed.
12. **He wants to please the Lord in all he does** (*2 Tim. 2:4*). Like a soldier in an army, he is single-minded. His one focus is to serve his master and please Him. This is the interior motivation that prompts him to a life of service to others.

Summary: To be great in the kingdom of God is to become a servant. That's the example Jesus gave us, and that is our goal, too. When we allow the Lord to work character, perseverance, and maturity in us through the trials of life, we grow in Christ's likeness. As we experience this breaking of self-will, we become less and less preoccupied with ourselves and more and more centered on the needs of others. We look to serve rather than be served, to love rather than be loved, and to give rather than to receive. Those are the marks of the Christian who has been broken before God.

Questions and Discussion Points

1. Does the way you live reflect your trust in God, or do you act like you need to give Him a hand running it?
2. If you single-mindedly follow God, does that make you narrow-minded? Explain.
3. If you die to self and live for God, how will that change your life on a daily basis? Why do some people have the mistaken idea that a life lived for God will be difficult, boring, and unfulfilled?
4. What in your life hinders God from filling you with the Holy Spirit to the measure He desires?

5. Examine your life. Do you put Jesus first in everything? Can you truly say that you have been crucified with Christ and that you no longer live, but rather Christ lives in you?

6. Read Joshua 24:14–15. Whom will *you* serve this day?

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Ephesians

*Use the **Epistles Study tool** as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from INFUSION if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Remember to Pray before you read Scripture and let God’s Love lead you as you read. There are other Study tools that can help you learn more about the various groups and heresies that the New Testament Writers were facing. Those issues still exist today in various forms and names. The human condition is universal across culture and time. Remember God’s intent in your Bible Study is to BUILD and INCREASE your FAITH! If you are a beginner to reading the Scripture, you should read ONLY Bible itself! It is sufficient. Listen, The Holy Spirit is with you to help, convict & comfort as you encounter HIM in His WORD.

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