

Break Me!

Message 03 in the series "Dangerous Prayers"

1. To become fully devoted followers of Christ, we need to be broken.

"...Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you."

Hosea 10:12 (NLT)

"...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

Luke 9:23-24 (NLT)

2. Three interesting processes God uses to break us:

a. God breaks us by pruning us.

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more... When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father." John 15:1-2, 8 (NLT)

b. God breaks us by disciplining us.

"My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.' As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children... Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?" Hebrews 12:5b-7a, 9 (NLT) (see also Proverbs 3:11-12)

c. God breaks us by refining us.

"...There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)

3. God's motives for breaking us are good.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 (NLT)

a. God breaks us in order to make us look/act/talk like Jesus.

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Romans 8:29 (NLT)

b. God breaks us in order to make our lives fruitful.

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23a (NLT)

"When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

John 15:8 (NLT)

c. God breaks us in order to make us useful.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

"The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:8 (NLT)

4. Asking God to "break me" is a dangerous prayer.

a. I need to pray that God will help me cooperate with His plan for my life.

"The Lord says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.'"

Psalms 32:8-9 (NLT)

- b. I need to pray that God will help me patiently endure trials/hardships.

“Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.” Hebrews 10:36 (NLT)

“The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord. And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline.”
Lamentations 3:25-27 (NLT)

- c. I need to pray that God will help me praise Him during difficult times.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4 (NIV)

“Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord. So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!”
Psalm 32:10-11 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 01-17-21 • john@centeringlives.com

Connect Group Questions

1. Describe a time when you experienced something difficult yet recognized that God was using it to accomplish something good in your life. (see James 1:2-4)
2. Charles Stanley defines brokenness as follows: “Brokenness is God’s method of dealing with self-life, which is a desire within us to act independently of God.” Why is that wrong?
3. Discuss the following three ways the Bible describes the processes God uses to break us:
 - God breaks us by pruning us. (John 15:1-2, 8)
 - God breaks us by disciplining us. (Hebrews 12:5-11)
 - God breaks us by refining us. (1 Peter 1:4-7)
4. What would scare you the most about praying, “God break me”? What would He want to change in you?
5. When did you first realize that God is working in and on you to make you more useful to His Kingdom work? (2 Peter 1: 3-8, Ephesians 2:10)
6. Spend some time as a group praying for each other, our church, and our country.
7. Discuss the following quotations:

“True brokenness before God isn’t a one-time event; it’s a daily decision.” Craig Groeschel

“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.” A. W. Tozer

“Jesus Christ is always unyielding to my claim to my right to myself. The one essential element in all our Lord’s teaching about discipleship is abandon, no calculation, no trace of self-interest.” Oswald Chambers

“Because Christ has purposed to bring every area of our life into submission to His will, he will continue to remove every obstacle necessary for our complete surrender and full trust in Him.” Charles Stanley

Great Resource:

Dangerous Prayers: Because Following Jesus was Never meant to be Safe. By Craig Groeschel, Zondervan, 2020