

REPAIRING THE BROKEN

By Stephen Hicks

Sometimes life hits us so hard that we feel broken. It could be caused by a divorce, the loss of a job, the death of a child or other loved one, cancer, bankruptcy, abuse, neglect, or rejection, just to name a few.

These and countless others can take a man or woman, no matter how strong they are, and shatter them on the floor like a vase. Brokenness can happen to anyone. The right circumstances, at the wrong time can break the best of us.

What I have encountered over the years in ministering and counseling is that many people tend to live in one of two extremes. There are people who will continue to wallow in their brokenness, and never find healing for their pain. Then there are those who completely ignore or hide their brokenness, until it eventually destroys them from the inside out.

I have witnessed the damage and destruction of the brokenhearted, the shattered, who couldn't find a way to repair and restore themselves. I watched my own dad waste away and finally die after my mother died. He had lost a part of himself and didn't know how to fill the void that it had left in his life. I tried to help him find peace, but he had already surrendered to his broken heart. He chose to carry the broken pieces by himself and didn't ask anyone for help.

When we leave the wound open without treating it, then it will never heal. Many will keep the wound festering by saying, "Oh, woe is me! Look how terrible my life is! Life has broken me." We tend to promote our damaged and baggage filled lives like it's a badge of honor.

We try to function with a gaping wound, and fractured pieces of who we are called to be.

We have all been broken at one time or another due to loss, pain, abuse, addiction, rejection, father or mother wounds, death, or other types of afflictions. We have all been dropped and shattered in some way in life. For some the shards of the broken vessel are bigger than others, but the brokenness is all the same. It leaves us hurting.

We can't carry around the broken pieces of our lives, and then still expect to have a relationship with family, friends, or with God. We're more likely to push them away. This is exactly what Satan wants us to do. He desires to cull us out, keeping us alone and in his darkness.

But thanks to our loving God, Jesus, the Christ is the golden glue that can and will bind us back together. He makes us whole. He restores us. Not only will he seal the wound, but He will heal the wound completely. Because of his life, death, and resurrection, He gives us the ability to heal, if we just allow Him to fill the void and heal the pain.

Consider what Jesus said in Luke 4:17-19 *"And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."*

Jesus came to preach the gospel, to heal the brokenhearted, to free those captive to sin, to open the eyes of the blind, to free those bruised by life, and share the Father with all who would listen to Him.

Often, we shut off our hearts to the idea of loving any longer, because of the fear of losing those we love or due to the lack of trust, because of things that happened to us in our past. We stop trying to form relationships, because of the pain we don't want to experience.

This kind of fear or these ideas do not come from God. They come from the devil playing upon our minds, convincing us that if we don't love, if we don't forgive and forget, then we won't get hurt. Our Lord says that there is no fear in love. 1 John 4:18 *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."*

If there is a void in your life, then let God fill it with His wonderful love. Start praying if you have stopped. God wants to hear from us. Philippians 4:6-7 *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

Read the word and start learning about His love and start practicing love in your life again, showing love to everyone you meet. The old saying that "practice makes perfect" still holds true today. We must practice love, practice forgiveness, and trust in the Lord to help us. Practice creates habits.

Let the scars you have turn into a witness to others. Share your stories with others so you can help them cope with any pain they might be feeling.

Because of what we have gone through, because of what we have endured, because of brokenness, pain, and being dropped and shattered in life, we now have a story to tell. We can now share how we were restored because of Jesus, the Christ. What a great witness.

When people talk about the pain they are having, then we can tell them of how God healed and repaired our shattered vessel. We can show them the beauty of his redemptive and restorative power from those shattered parts of our lives. We can point people to the great healer. Psalm 147:3 *"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."*

We can be a witness to others of how God, through Jesus healed us and made us whole.

You must choose to allow Jesus to bind up the brokenness of your life, and to heal the wounds. He will not force His way into our lives. We have to ask Him in. Psalm 34:17-19 *"The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."*

Remember that no matter how broken you are, how empty you fill or how lost you may be, you have a God that loves you, and a Savior that has felt pain, faced death, and knows what it feels like to be alone.

Romans 8:38-39 *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Mark 15:34 *"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"*

Hebrews 4:15-16 *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

Jesus is called our Savior for a reason. He can save us from our pain, our broken heart, our suffering, and He promises to be with us always. We are only alone if we choose to be. A broken vessel holds nothing, but a vessel repaired has value and beauty and can then be used.