Live, Give, **Grow**, Go (45)

Brokenness

Many Ironies and seeming paradoxes in the Christian Life:

* The Last shall be first…
* The Servant is the Greatest…
* Rich Young Ruler– sell possessions give to the poor…
* But none so incredible as you must die to live

**Being Broken**

**John 12:24-25**

**24**I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. **25**Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

**A Living Seed trapped inside a Dying Shell…**

**Transformed and radically changed my thinking about life…**

(Watchman Nee: *The Breaking of the Outer Man and the Release of the Spirit*)

“The Holy Spirit has only one goal: to break and dismantle the outer man so the inner man can come forth…”

**2 Cor. 4:8-11, 16-17**

**8**We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. **9**We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. **10Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.** **11**Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, **so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies**. **12**So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

**16**That is why we never give up. **Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17**For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. **Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!**

**The Cross: God’s Tool for Breaking**

**Luke 9:23-25**

“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. **24**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.**25**And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?

**God’s not looking for perfect people….**

* He’s looking for people who are willing to **Carry the Cross**…
* People who are willing to **Endure Suffering**…
* People who trust that brokenness brings **Authentic Life**…

**The Spirit uses the Cross as God’s Tool for Breaking.**

**It BREAKS:**

* + - * Expectations
      * Relationships
      * Plans & Dreams
      * Picture of How Things Should be…
      * Opinions
      * Wisdom & Methods
      * Emotions
      * Needs
      * Self-Love

**The Resurrection: Holy Spirit Bursting Forth in New Life**

**Philippians 3:10-11** “I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, **11**so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!”

**Jesus was raised as a man with scars…**

**When our lives and hearts and dreams and relationships and reputations get broken by our own mistakes, misfortune, wrongs done to us…they leave behind:**

* **Hurts**
* **Scars**
* **Wounds**

**It’s from these very holes that the Spirit can flow out of us and bring….**

* **Healing**
* **Testimony**
* **Peace**
* **Fruits of the Spirit**

**James 2:1-4**

**Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity** for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance **has a chance to grow. So let it grow,** for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.