Brokenness is part of all of our human experiences because we are living in a broken world with broken systems and broken people. What is brokenness? Many people describe it as fractured, damaged, or no longer in one piece. Others describe it as feelings of hurt, devastation, or hopelessness. Some people use the word to try to show off their spiritual "deepness," while others use the word as an excuse or a crutch to stay where they are. However we use the word, let's discover God's plan to help us overcome brokenness.

"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 delivers him out of them all" (Psalms 34:17-19).

Let's face it, even though we're Christians, we are still going to experience trouble. God is with us when we experience trouble and has promised to deliver us from **all** of our afflictions, even those that lead to brokenness. First, let's identify some key types of brokenness that many of us face. We can experience brokenness that is 1) self-inflicted; 2) brought on by other broken people; or 3) brought on by the broken world that we live in.

What is self-inflicted brokenness? This kind of brokenness is inward, and is a contrite spirit over our own sinfulness. When we are able to face our brokenness by being honest with ourselves, it will ultimately lead to surrender and repentance. Have you ever looked in the mirror and saw yourself as selfish or

deceptive—even as a liar? Have you seen that you've done things to hurt and wound people? That honest look in the mirror can lead to humility, surrender, and repentance. These ultimately lead to restoration and the opportunity to authentically enjoy our relationship with God again. We cannot see progress in our lives above the level of our unresolved brokenness, so we need to surrender our whole hearts to God in spirit and in truth.

We have all heard the saying, "Broken people break people." It rings true that when we don't deal with our own brokenness, we can end up damaging other people and vice versa. Here's the good news—Jesus, who was broken for broken people, makes the worst brokenness in your life bearable. Why? In Christ, we're forever known, forever held, forever loved, understood, and befriended in our brokenness and the entanglements of life. Jesus has got our backs and comes near us because He's been there—Jesus understands!

Finally, no one gets through life without feeling the brokenness of this world. If you have ever gotten a shocking phone call, suffered an intense physical sickness, or lost someone that you deeply loved, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Let this not bring you to fear, but let it direct you to look to Jesus, who has overcome the world and will always take care of you!

God has an awesome way of creating beauty from our broken lives. Think about this—if God allows brokenness in your life, He's going to use it. For many of us, brokenness may be the bridge to promotion or our next destination in life. God works through our

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

brokenness, I believe, to make us whole. Yes, I am saying that the greatest shaping of our lives may come from struggles that we experience.

I know in my own life that it was the struggles I experienced that motivated me, that pushed me, that taught me, that imparted wisdom to me. It wasn't the greatest preacher or the greatest revelations that shaped me. Brokenness made of hurt, humiliation, guilt, and shame shaped who I am today. God wants to redeem you and use your brokenness to shape your life, too! No matter what, look forward to the awesomeness that God brings out of whatever brokenness you're experiencing.

Taffi and I love you and pray for you every day. May the blessing of God be on you and your family. Remember, Jesus is Lord, and "...in all of your getting, get understanding."

Love,

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"THE RIGHTEOUS CRY, AND THE LORD HEARETH, AND DELIVERETH THEM OUT OF ALL THEIR TROUBLES" (PSALM 34:17).

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LOOKING TO JESUS

GOD WILL NEVER DESERT ME. (HEBREWS 13:5)

OUT OF EVERYTHING I GO THROUGH, VICTORY WILL BE REVEALED. (1 JOHN 5:4)





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