

“THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY”

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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Monthly Newsletter

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II Peter 3:18

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...” The path from where we are to where God wants us to be - which is a position of total surrender to him and total wholeness - is one that is called spiritual growth. It’s goal is spiritual maturity.

GOD BREAKS US TO MATURE US!

Spiritual growth has three aspects: change, growth, and brokenness. **CHANGE**

Change is part of the process of maturity.

If you are not willing to change, not willing to grow, then you will not grow spiritually.

We cannot hold onto old ways and expect to grow spiritually. **GROWTH**

All growth is marked by change.

Spiritual maturity means a “growing up” until we are fully Christlike in all our decisions, thoughts, feelings and actions.

We grow spiritually as we love one another.

Ephesians 4:15-16 Spiritual growth is marked by increasing dependence upon the Lord Jesus. **BROKENNESS**

We must be willing to move away from what has been holding us back or keeping us from being in a position to receive God’s best.

We must be willing to give up our hold on things to which we have been clinging with all our might.

THE BREAKING OF MOSES



For forty long years, Moses worked for his father-in-law Jethro as a shepherd in the desert. Moses went from Pharaoh, to being an exile and a lowly shepherd in the desert. Moses was being broken!

What in the life of Moses needed to be broken? Moses had skilled, credentials, prestige, power and position. He had been given position with pharaoh. Moses had everything it took, from a human standpoint, to be the leader of his people. Why forty years in the desert? Because Moses needed to be changed. God needed to take Moses

from a position of self-reliance to a position of total reliance upon Him. God had to remove the Egypt in Moses so that when God delivered His people from Egypt, God would get the glory. This would allow the Hebrews to put their trust in God. God's purpose in breaking Moses was with a much larger intent of breaking the Israelites so that he might refashion them to be His people. In breaking Moses, God stripped him of everything he had known as a child and a young man. Moses lost his family, his palatial home, his privileges, his power, his pride, everything when he fled to the desert. Over the years, God changed Moses. Moses moved from being self-centered to being God-centered.

A STRIPPING AWAY OF EVERYTHING NOT OF GOD



God will break and keep on breaking us until all resentment, hostility, anger, and self-importance have been broken out of our lives. For forty years, Moses was in the process of being shredded, crushed back down into the potter's wheel, pruned, and chiseled until Moses recognized himself. The Moses whom God sent back to Pharaoh to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt was not the man who fled from Pharaoh.

BROKENNESS IS COUNTER CULTURAL

So much of brokenness goes against what we are taught in our culture. We are taught to be self-confident, to make our plans and set our goals. Moses had the same upbringing in Pharaoh's court. "Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action." Acts 7:22 In the desert, Moses had to learn to be God-reliant. He had to let God set the program for him and do whatever God asked him to do. Jesus set the example in relying upon God! "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father... The words that I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work. Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me." John. 14:9-11 Jesus was living out God's divine plan. This is what God desired for Moses and what He desires for us. Someone said, "A soul is converted in a moment of time, but to become a saint takes a lifetime."

PREPARATION FOR SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY

God uses BROKENNESS to prepare a person for supernatural ministry. God caused Moses to mature spiritually so that he could liberate his people from bondage. God gave Moses a supernatural ministry. Supernatural ministry requires the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why Moses could not trust in nothing that was of the flesh. God sent Moses to Pharaoh with only one thing – God's staff. "So Moses took... the **STAFF**

OF GOD IN HIS HAND.” Ex. 4:20

Moses had been completely stripped of any other “qualifications”. He was now totally trusting God. Moses obeyed God and He did the miracles. The Bible teaches us that God used Moses in the supernatural to deliver His people from bondage.



CONCLUSION:

God’s purpose for breaking you and bringing you to a place of wholeness and spiritual maturity is so that He might use you as his tool in bringing others to spiritual maturity. He teaches us so that we might teach others. He imparts His insight to us so that we might share them with others. He gives us spiritual gifts so that we might use them to help others. He gives us financial prosperity so that we might benefit others and use it to win souls for Jesus. If Moses had not been fully broken before God, he could not have endured the supernatural ministry put before him. Before God can use us mightily, He must know that we are completely surrendered to Him.