

December 15, 2013

## A Broken Christmas

*Selected Scripture*

### ***bro'ken-ness***

God's stripping you of your self-sufficiency and getting rid of your pride in order to get you to a point of surrender.

"Many people want God's blessings, but they don't want to be broken. God's ultimate purpose in breaking a man is to remake him."

--Pastor Tim

### **I. Brokenness Has its Purpose**

- **II Corinthians 4:11** *For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus 'sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*
- Principle:  
God will not bless a man until that man is willing to be broken.
- **Isaiah 57:15** *For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

God lives in two places:

1. In the high and holy place
2. With the lowly

### **II. Brokenness Has its Pain**

- **II Corinthians 1:8-9** *For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*
- Principle:  
It is *not* true that God will not put more on you than you can stand. On the contrary, until God breaks you, he will *always* put more on you than you can stand to get you into a place of total surrender.
- Pastor Tim:  
"A person cannot go to heaven until they die to themselves."

### III. Brokenness Has its Productivity

- **Psalm 34:18** *God is near to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*
- Pastor Tim:  
“God cannot – and will not – use a man until that man has been broken.”
- Principle:  
The hardest thing for most of us to do is to give up control.