

Talk #3 But I am broken and can't....

Paul says something interesting in Ephesian 3:7-8 "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ."

What does that mean? He is explaining how, according to normal standards, he was not qualified to do all that God had him do. But... God does not call the qualified... if you think about it no one is qualified! He does qualify the called. It has nothing to do with our natural abilities, society's standards, or what we think of ourselves. God equips us, no matter how broken or unqualified we may feel.

I think He does that especially if we and when are broken. Here is why. Would you rather talk with someone who has been through some stuff or talk to someone who appears to have it all together, never has issues and keeps up the façade of 'ok'? I know people like that, and they aren't the people I go to naturally or even feel comfortable around.

Have you ever heard the saying 'my mess will someday be a message? Or 'you can't have a testimony without the TEST'. That is so true! Failures get our attention. They cause us to reevaluate our spiritual maturity. God often uses the failures we experience to humble us, remind us of our limitations, make us more willing to depend on God, submit to His commands, and remain open to His leading in our lives.

A key point to remember when contemplating the idea of failure in a believer's life is that *while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*. He died for our past, present and future sins. If we live in a mindset of failure, we are wasting the blood of Jesus, who suffered and died to set us free from the punishment of those failings.

Remember, God is not shaken by our failures. He knows the beginning from the end.

God is in the business of redemption. And since we are in the business of being human, failure will happen.... and He can use it later. Oftentimes, people who are in the same spot we used to be in find us, and our words have power only because we have 'been there done that'. Those words, at that time, have power

only coming from us. If they came from someone who hadn't been through what we had, they would be empty and probably come across as cliché.

So maybe you can't RIGHT NOW, but you will be able to with God's power in you. Or maybe you can't right now, but later you can.

Speakers should talk about situations in their life when they were broken and how God used that down the road to help someone else.

Discussion questions:

- 1) Do you believe that God can use your brokenness?
- 2) Has God used your test to create a testimony?
- 3) If so How?

Prayer focus: Ask God to heal your brokenness and use it to help others.