

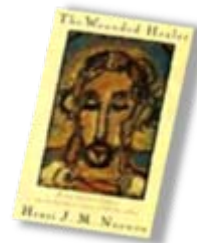
The Blessing of Brokenness



E. LeBron Fairbanks



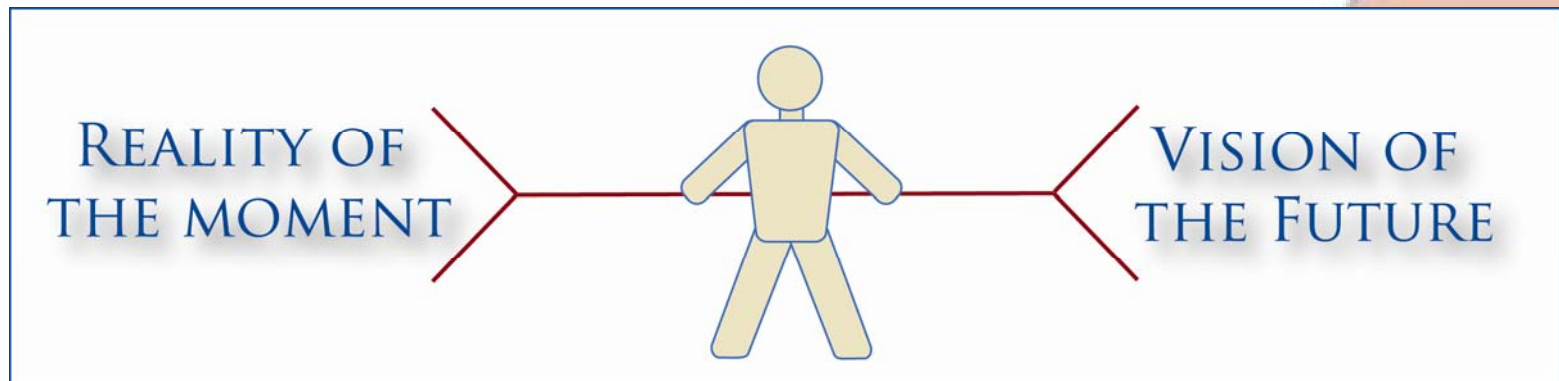
“...one who looks after his own wounds but at the same time be prepared to heal the wounds of others.”



Henri J.M. Nouwen
The Wounded Healer

The Blessing of Brokenness

The Joy and Pain of Leadership



PAIN

The Blessing of Brokenness



ACTS 27:25

“So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as He told me.”

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When God gives us a vision for the future...

- ♥ *Delays may occur*
- ♥ *Suffering and hardships may result*
- ♥ *Doubts may arise and tempt us*
- ♥ *Results may differ from what we expected*



Characteristic #1

*A suffering servant leader
EMBRACES BROKENNESS.*

*It can develop Christ-like
character qualities in us*

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Contributors to a broken spirit

♥ *Circumstances overwhelm us*

♥ *Suffering overtakes us; personal sin defeats us*

♥ *Words and deeds that harm us*

♥ *Friends use and abuse us*

♥ *Family members misunderstand us*

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PSALMS 51:17

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

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“Brokenness purifies our ambitions.”



“Brokenness allows us to see our own blind spots.”



“The breaking process produces a leader that can be trusted”



“I’ve yet to see a leader God has used tremendously who has not been broken”



II CORINTHIANS 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

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“His strength is perfect when our strength is gone,

He’ll carry us when we can’t carry on,

Raised in His power, the weak become strong,

His strength is perfect, His strength is perfect.”

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I PETER 1:5-9

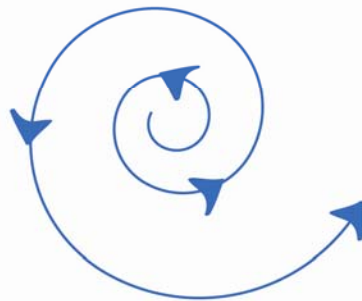
“For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.”

The Blessing of Brokenness

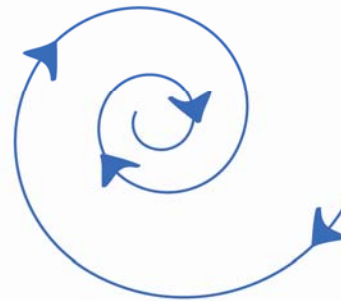
For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.”

The Blessing of Brokenness

Growth Producing



Growth Inhibiting



The Blessing of Brokenness



The Fruits of Brokenness are:

HUMILITY

AUTHENTICITY

INTEGRITY

SENSITIVITY



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EPHESIANS 4:1-2

“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

The Blessing of Brokenness



Seven Ways to Spot a Humble Spirit

1. *HUMILITY* does not demand its own way
2. *HUMILITY* does not seek attention or credit
3. *HUMILITY* forgives when offend, but is hard to offend
4. *HUMILITY* does not criticize others



Seven Ways to Spot a Humble Spirit

5. *HUMILITY* produces a teachable spirit

6. *HUMILITY* exudes an attitude of service
(service is doing mundane things that help others)

7. *HUMILITY* produces a gracious spirit

We are to respond to the painful conflict situations...



by focusing on our relationship with Christ;



by yielding responsibility of the “led”;

The Blessing of Brokenness

We are to respond to the painful conflict situations...



by leading *pastorally* out of the pain and brokenness;



by expecting trials, temptations, verbal abuse, and, at times, rejection;

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We are to respond to the painful conflict situations...



by relating to those in Christian fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ (even though evidence may not support their testimony).

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*“Grace alone, which God supplies,
Strength unknown, He will provide.
Christ in us, our cornerstone;
We will go forth in grace alone.”*



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Choral Blessing:

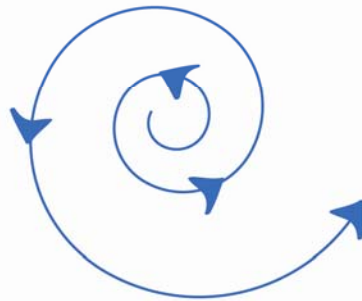
“Grace to you, grace to you.

May grace abound in all you do.

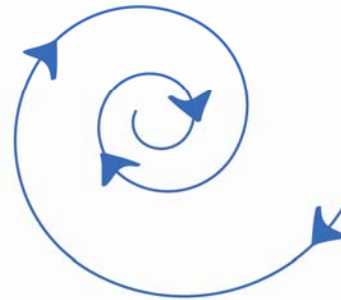
Grace to do the will of the Father,

Grace, grace to you.”

Growth Producing



Growth Inhibiting



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Your way of thinking when “good and godly” people differ from you:

Growth
Producing

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Growth
Inhibiting

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We lead as “wounded leaders”
with a broken heart by
EMBRACING BROKENNESS.

1. God uses brokenness to draw us closer to Himself
2. Our brokenness can develop Christ-like character qualities in us



Characteristic #2

*A suffering servant leader
PRACTICES HOSPITALITY.*

*It “makes room” and “creates space”
for the people whom we lead*

“Hospitality is a core attitude toward those whom we are leading.”

“...to relate to others as if we were relating to Christ Himself.”

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“When we see the other person and discover in that person gentleness, kindness, and other beautiful gifts which he or she is not able to see, then our compassionate heart is revealed.”

Henri J. M. Nouwen

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Insight:

*The gift of “spiritual hospitality” is a
“love gift” **TO** Christ*

Service to others is service to Christ

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“A few years ago, I met an old professor at the University of Notre Dame. Looking back on his long life of teaching, he said with a funny twinkle in his eyes: ‘I have always been complaining that my work was constantly interrupted, until I slowly discovered that my interruptions were my work.’”

Henri J. M. Nouwen
OUT OF SOLITUDE

The Blessing of Brokenness



Insight:

*The gift of “spiritual hospitality” is a
“love gift” **FROM** Christ*

*Christ turns our gifts of hospitality to
others into “gifts” from Him to us*

The Blessing of Brokenness

Our brokenness, sufferings, and wounds can serve as blessings to us if:

1. WE EMBRACE BROKENNESS
2. WE PRACTICE HOSPITALITY



Characteristic #3

*A suffering servant leader
EXPESSES GRATITUDE.*

*Gratitude is grounded in a focus on
Gods' mercy and grace-not on
people and problems*

“Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” Let the poor say, “I am rich,”

Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.”

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I THESSALONIANS 5:18

Three Imperatives of *Gratitude*

1. ATTENTIVE
2. INCLUSIVE
3. GOD-CENTERED

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Our gratitude must be
ATTENTIVE

“Give thanks...”

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Our gratitude must be
INCLUSIVE

“in all circumstances”

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Our gratitude must be
GOD-CENTERED

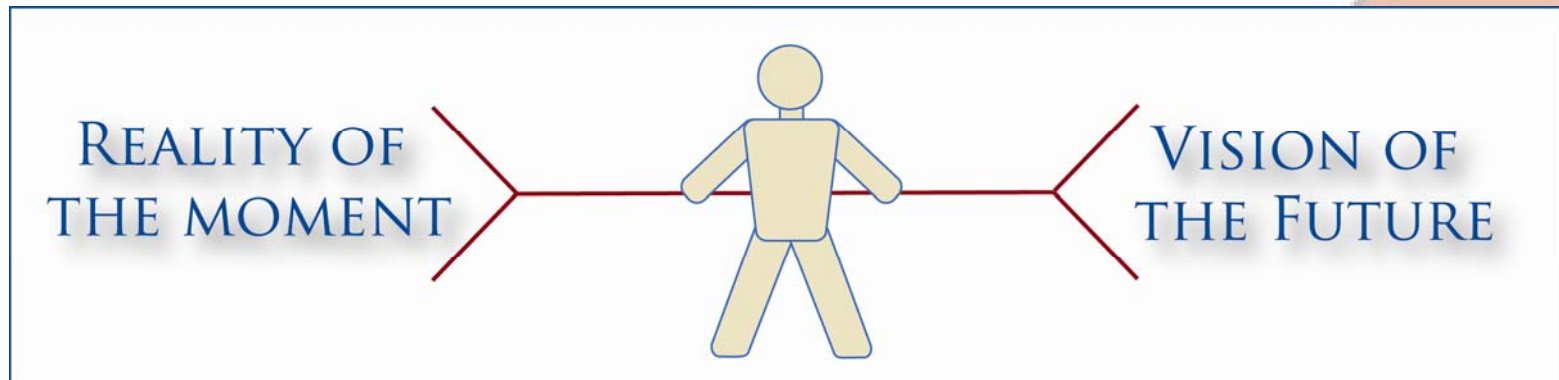
“for this is God’s will
for you in Christ Jesus”

The Blessing of Brokenness

Joy and **Blessing** comes to a
“wounded leader” who:

1. **EMBRACES BROKENNESS**
2. **PRACTICES HOSPITALITY**
3. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE**

The Joy and Pain of Leadership



JOY AND BLESSING

The Blessing of Brokenness

“Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” Let the poor say, “I am rich,”

Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.”

The Blessing of Brokenness

