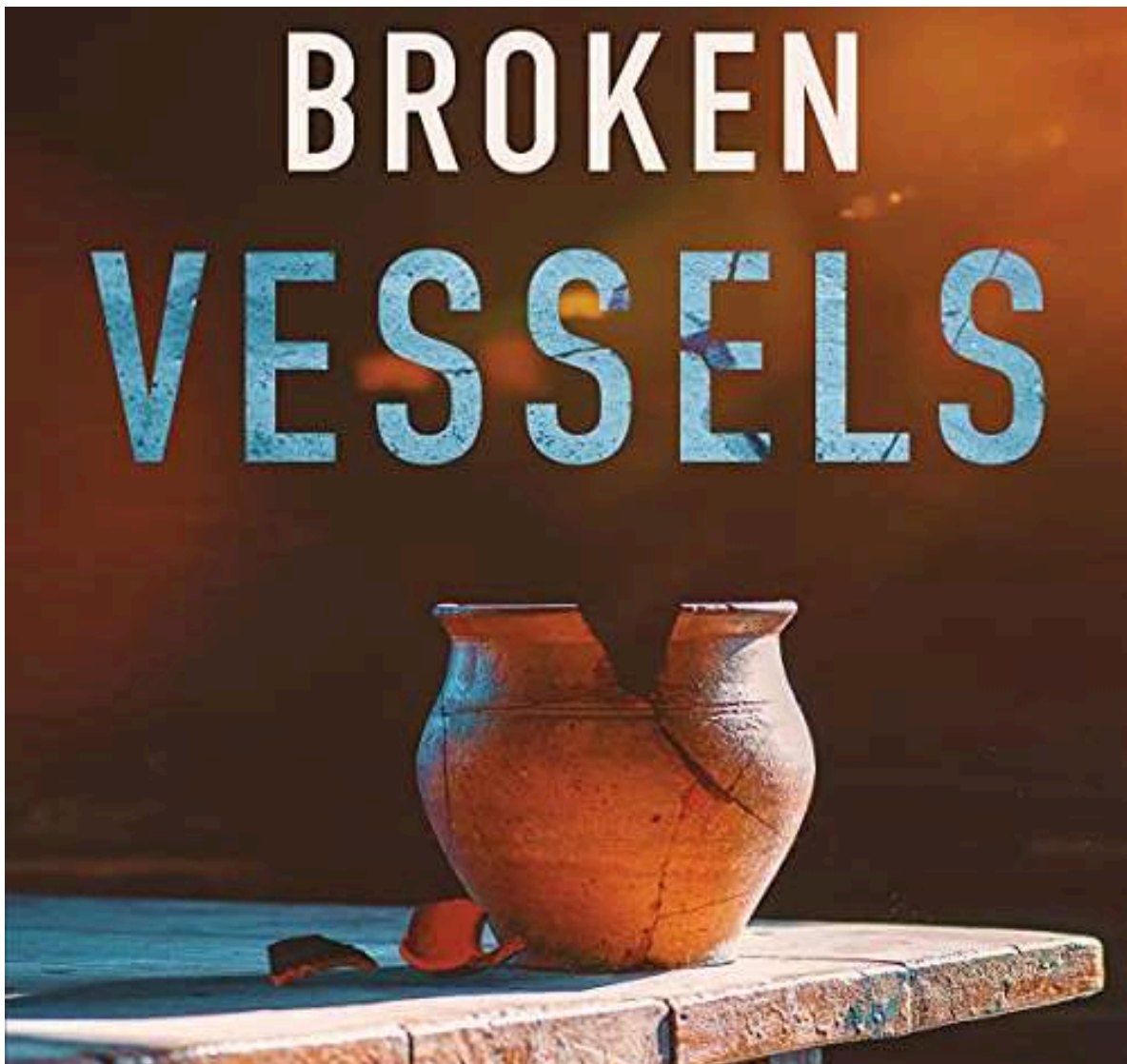


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JESUS CORNER



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MONTH'S ISSUE:

A BROKEN VESSEL (2 TIMOTHY 2 : 20-21)

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Welcome to the third edition of our monthly devotional, Jesus Corner. As we step into the year 2025, it is essential to begin with a heart of reflection and surrender, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us into deeper intimacy with God

. This month, we focus on the theme, "A Broken Vessel," exploring the importance of yielding completely to the Spirit of God. Our anchor Scripture for this month is 2 Timothy 2:20-21: "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."

May this devotional inspire you to surrender more deeply, to allow God to break and mould you into a vessel fit for His glory. Let us begin 2025 as broken vessels, walking closely with God, and bearing fruit that lasts. Only broken vessels can truly walk with Him.

INTRODUCTION

The difference between believers lies in their level of yieldedness to the Holy Spirit. This yieldedness determines the degree of brokenness in a believer, shaping their character, actions, and ultimately, their usefulness in the hands of God. Brokenness is not about how long someone has been a Christian or the position they hold in the church—it is about how much they have surrendered their will, desires, and pride to the refining work of the Holy Spirit.

Often, we are shocked by the words or actions of Christians—whether pastors, elders, deacons, or lay members. We may wonder, How can they speak, behave, or present themselves like this? The answer lies in the degree of their brokenness. Without brokenness, there is resistance to the transformative work of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14 reminds us: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” True sonship is evidenced by a life fully surrendered to the Spirit's leading and promptings, not by titles, years in the faith, or outward appearances.

As we begin the year 2025, it is crucial to reflect on our own lives and ask: Am I a broken vessel in the hands of the Lord? Have I fully yielded to His Spirit? Brokenness is not weakness; it is the condition of being pliable, humble, and fully available for God's use. Only broken vessels can truly bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and reflect the character of Christ in every aspect of life.

In this edition of Jesus Corner, we will delve deeply into the meaning of brokenness, exploring what it looks like in a believer's life and why it is essential for walking with God

BROKEN VS. UNBROKEN VESSELS: THE EXAMPLE OF SAUL AND DAVID

The lives of Saul and David provide a striking contrast between an unbroken and a broken believer. Both were anointed by God, both were chosen to lead His people, and both had opportunities to walk closely with Him. Yet, their responses to God's refining work reveal the stark difference between a heart that yields to the Holy Spirit and one that resists.

Saul: The Example of an Unbroken Believer

Saul started his reign with promise, humility, and a sense of inadequacy. When Samuel anointed him as king, Saul initially hesitated, hiding among the baggage (1 Samuel 10:21-22). However, this initial humility did not last. As Saul faced challenges, his unwillingness to yield to God's authority and guidance became evident.

One critical moment of Saul's downfall occurred in 1 Samuel 13. Facing an impending battle with the Philistines, Saul grew impatient when Samuel, the prophet, delayed in arriving to offer the sacrifice. Instead of waiting on God's instruction, Saul took matters into his own hands and performed the sacrifice himself. This act of disobedience revealed his unbroken spirit—a heart that prioritized his own reasoning over God's commands.

Another defining moment came in 1 Samuel 15, when Saul was instructed by God to completely destroy the Amalekites and all their possessions. Instead of obeying, Saul spared the best of the livestock and King Agag, justifying his actions by claiming he intended to offer the livestock as sacrifices to God. When confronted by Samuel, Saul deflected blame onto the people and failed to acknowledge his sin fully. Samuel declared: “To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel 15:22). Saul's unbrokenness was evident in his pride, excuses, and partial obedience—traits that ultimately cost him his kingdom and favor with God.

Saul's life shows us that an unbroken believer may still have the outward appearance of godliness but lacks the inward surrender necessary to truly walk with God. His unwillingness to be molded by God's discipline led to his downfall, leaving behind a legacy of disobedience and pride.

David: The Example of a Broken Believer

In contrast to Saul, David exemplifies what it means to be a broken vessel in the hands of God. Though far from perfect, David's life was marked by a deep, heartfelt surrender to God's will and a willingness to repent when confronted with his failures.

One of the most notable examples of David's brokenness is found in his response to sin. After his grievous sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah, the prophet Nathan confronted David. Unlike Saul, who justified his actions and blamed others, David immediately acknowledged his sin. His response was one of genuine brokenness: "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:13). This moment is captured beautifully in Psalm 51, where David cries out: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). David's willingness to repent and submit to God's correction is a hallmark of his brokenness.

David's brokenness was also evident in his reliance on God's guidance. Throughout his life, he sought the Lord's direction in times of battle, leadership, and personal struggles. For example, when faced with the rebellion of his son Absalom, David chose to trust God rather than take matters into his own hands. He left Jerusalem in humility, saying: "If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, He will bring me back. But if He says, 'I have no delight in you,' here I am; let Him do to me as seems good to Him" (2 Samuel 15:25-26). This submission to God's sovereignty reflects a heart fully yielded to Him. Even in moments of success, David displayed a broken spirit. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem, David danced before the Lord with all his might, unashamed of what others might think (2 Samuel 6:14-15). His brokenness allowed him to worship freely, prioritizing God's glory over his own reputation.

The Key Difference: Brokenness vs. Pride

The key difference between Saul and David lies in their responses to God's discipline and their willingness to surrender. Saul's pride, fear of man, and reliance on his own understanding prevented him from yielding fully to God. He resisted correction and sought to maintain control, ultimately leading to his spiritual downfall. In contrast, David's humility, teachability, and genuine repentance allowed God to mould him into a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22).

This contrast teaches us that being a broken vessel is not about being perfect—it's about being humble, teachable, and fully surrendered to God's will. Brokenness means acknowledging our dependence on God, allowing Him to refine us, and being willing to lay down our pride for His glory.

A BROKEN VESSEL : JESUS AS THE LORD OF ALL IN YOUR LIFE

The concept of brokenness in the life of a believer is central to walking with God. Brokenness is not about weakness, failure, or inadequacy—it is about surrender, humility, and being pliable in the hands of the Creator. It is the mark of a believer who has allowed the Holy Spirit to strip away self-reliance, pride, and worldly desires, leaving behind a vessel fit for God's purposes. In the absence of brokenness, the Christian walk becomes superficial, filled with religiosity but lacking depth and transformation.

The distinction between broken and unbroken Christians is not determined by how long one has been in the faith, their title in the church, or the number of Scriptures they can quote. It is reflected in their level of yieldedness to the Holy Spirit and their ability to allow God to mould and shape them. Romans 8:14 makes this distinction clear: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Brokenness is the evidence of true sonship, a life fully surrendered to the Spirit's leading.

Brokenness is essential for walking with God because it is the process through which the believer becomes usable. Without brokenness, pride, self-will, and fleshly desires dominate, rendering a person ineffective for the kingdom. Consider the imagery in 2 Timothy 2:20-21: "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonour. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." The cleansing process described here is a metaphor for brokenness—removing impurities and preparing the believer to be a vessel for honor.

Brokenness is not a one-time event but an ongoing journey of yielding. It requires daily submission to the Holy Spirit and a willingness to let God have His way, even when it is uncomfortable. The more we are broken, the more we reflect Christ's nature. This is why brokenness is not optional—it is the pathway to spiritual maturity, fruitfulness, and intimacy with God.

The lives of Saul and David vividly illustrate the difference between an unbroken and a broken believer. Saul, though anointed as king, was never truly yielded to God. His actions were driven by pride, fear of man, and a desire to maintain control. In 1 Samuel 13, Saul's impatience led him to perform a sacrifice that was meant to be offered by Samuel. This act of disobedience revealed his unbroken spirit—a heart unwilling to trust God's timing and authority.

In contrast, David, though flawed, consistently displayed a heart of brokenness. When confronted with his sin, he responded with genuine repentance and humility. After his sin with Bathsheba, David's prayer in Psalm 51 captures the essence of brokenness: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise" (Psalm 51:17). David's life was marked by a willingness to surrender to God's discipline and a deep desire to walk in alignment with His will.

The key difference between Saul and David lies in their response to God's correction. Saul deflected blame and justified his actions, while David owned his failures and sought God's mercy. This contrast reminds us that brokenness is not about being perfect—it is about being teachable, humble, and fully surrendered to God's refining work.

An unbroken Christian is like a vessel filled with impurities—unable to reflect God's glory or fulfil His purposes. Unbrokenness manifests in various ways: pride, resistance to correction, self-reliance, and an inability to bear fruit. Such a person may appear outwardly religious but lacks the inward transformation that comes from yielding to the Holy Spirit.

Unbrokenness also leads to spiritual stagnation. When a believer resists God's work, they remain stuck in immaturity, unable to grow or experience the fullness of God's presence. Hebrews 12:15 warns of the dangers of bitterness taking root, defiling not only the individual but also those around them. Without brokenness, bitterness, pride, and self-righteousness thrive, hindering both personal growth and the ability to positively impact others.

Brokenness is often a painful process, as it involves the stripping away of everything that hinders our walk with God. It may come through trials, failures, or moments of deep conviction. However, it is in these moments of surrender that God's power is made perfect. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Brokenness allows us to experience God's strength and grace in ways we never could in our self-reliance.

This process also requires humility. Just as clay must yield to the potter's hands, we must allow God to shape us according to His will. Isaiah 64:8 says, "But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand." A broken vessel is one that has been shaped and refined by the potter's hands, ready to fulfil its purpose.

To walk with God as a broken vessel is to live a life of complete dependence on Him. It is to prioritize His will over our own, to allow His Spirit to lead, and to reflect His character in all we do. Brokenness produces the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). These fruits are evidence of a life yielded to God.

Brokenness also makes us vessels of honor, useful for God's kingdom. When we are broken, we become instruments of His love and grace, able to impact others for His glory. A broken vessel does not seek its own recognition but points others to the One who fills and uses it.

SIGNS OF UNBROKENNESS

The signs of an unbroken Christian are not always obvious at first glance. Many unbroken believers maintain an outward appearance of religiosity while their hearts remain resistant to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. These signs can be seen in attitudes, behaviours, and spiritual habits that reveal a lack of surrender to God's refining process. Let us examine five key signs of unbrokenness, along with their spiritual implications.

1. Pride

Pride is one of the clearest indicators of an unbroken spirit. An unbroken Christian often resists correction, refuses to acknowledge faults, and struggles to apologize when wrong. This kind of pride prioritizes self over God, seeking personal recognition and attention. Such individuals always want to be the centre of attraction, even in spiritual matters, and their focus on self often leads to conflict with others.

The Bible warns against pride repeatedly. Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Pride blinds the believer to their need for change and growth, keeping them stagnant in their spiritual walk. In contrast, a broken vessel humbly accepts correction, acknowledges their flaws, and seeks to grow in Christ-likeness. James 4:6 reminds us: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

2. Lack of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The fruits of the Holy Spirit, as listed in Galatians 5:22–23, are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. An unbroken Christian often lacks these attributes. Instead, their lives may be characterized by impatience, harshness, selfishness, or a lack of self-discipline. For example, an unbroken person might struggle with love, showing partiality or harbouring bitterness toward others. They might lack peace, constantly complaining or creating discord. Without the fruit of the Spirit, their life does not reflect the character of Christ, and their relationships are often strained. Jesus said in Matthew 7:20, "By their fruits you will know them." A lack of spiritual fruit is a clear sign that the believer has not yielded fully to the Holy Spirit.

3. Character Errors

An unbroken Christian often struggles with significant character flaws that manifest in their daily lives. These may include gossiping, slandering others, spreading rumours, sowing discord, lying, deceit, or an inability to forgive. These behaviours reveal a heart that has not been transformed by God's grace and remains resistant to the Spirit's sanctifying work.

Proverbs 6:16–19 lists seven things God hates, including "a lying tongue," "a heart that devises wicked plans," and "one who sows discord among brethren." These are common traits of an unbroken vessel. A broken Christian, however, strives to live in integrity, extending grace and forgiveness to others, knowing they have been forgiven much by God (Colossians 3:13).

An unbroken believer may justify gossip or slander as "sharing concerns," but these actions are destructive and reveal a lack of spiritual maturity. James 3:6 warns, "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity." A broken vessel learns to tame their tongue, using it to edify and build others up rather than to tear them down.

4. Lack of Acceptable Service

Unbroken Christians are often highly active in church activities but lack the right heart and motivation. They may be the first to volunteer for programs, projects, and events, but their service is often self-centred rather than God-centred. If things don't go their way, they withdraw, go silent, or become indifferent. Their service is conditional, based on their preferences rather than God's will.

This behaviour is a stark contrast to the attitude of a broken vessel, who serves with humility and obedience, seeking to glorify God rather than themselves. Jesus said in John 4:24, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Service that is not rooted in obedience to God and love for others is unacceptable, no matter how active or visible it may be.

Isaiah 29:13 highlights this issue: "These people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me." True service flows from a heart surrendered to God, not one driven by personal agendas or recognition. An unbroken believer's service may appear impressive outwardly, but it lacks the spiritual depth and fruit that come from genuine surrender.

5. Indiscipline

An unbroken Christian often displays a lack of discipline in various aspects of life. This may be evident in their speech, dress, relationships, entertainment choices, or even the places they frequent. It is shocking how some Christians continue to engage in worldly behaviours, blending in with the culture around them rather than standing apart as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

For example, their speech may be filled with profanity, gossip, or careless words, reflecting a heart that has not been fully surrendered to God. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." An unbroken vessel speaks without considering the impact of their words, whereas a broken vessel allows the Holy Spirit to govern their tongue.

Similarly, their choice of dress or entertainment may reflect worldly values rather than Godly principles. Romans 12:2 instructs us: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." An unbroken believer resists this transformation, clinging to habits and associations that do not glorify God.

Indiscipline also extends to relationships. Unbroken Christians may surround themselves with ungodly influences, compromising their values and testimony. Psalm 1:1 warns, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly." A broken vessel, however, seeks relationships that build their faith and honor God.

IMPLICATIONS OF UNBROKENNESS TO SELF AND THE CHURCH

Unbrokenness has profound consequences, both for the individual believer and for the broader body of Christ. While it may not always be immediately visible, the long-term effects of an unyielded spirit can lead to spiritual stagnation, disunity, and ineffectiveness in fulfilling God's purposes. Below, we explore the implications of unbrokenness on the individual and the church.

Implications to Self

- **Spiritual Stagnation**

Unbrokenness hinders spiritual growth. An unbroken believer resists the transformative work of the Holy Spirit, choosing self-reliance and pride over humility and surrender. As a result, they remain spiritually immature, unable to progress in their faith journey. Hebrews 5:12-14 warns about the dangers of stagnation, where believers fail to mature and remain stuck in the "milk" of basic teachings instead of moving on to the "solid food" of deeper truths.

For example, an unbroken Christian may struggle with the same character flaws—anger, gossip, unforgiveness, or envy—for years without seeking change. They fail to bear the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), leaving them ineffective in their witness and unable to experience the fullness of life in Christ.

- **Lack of Inner Peace**

Unbrokenness creates an internal struggle. When believers resist God's refining work, they experience unrest and dissatisfaction. Pride, bitterness, and unforgiveness weigh heavily on the soul, robbing them of the peace that Christ promises. Isaiah 57:20-21 describes the unbroken and rebellious heart as being like a restless sea: "'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked.'"

This lack of peace also affects mental and emotional health. Bitterness and unresolved conflicts lead to stress, anxiety, and even physical ailments. In contrast, a broken and surrendered heart experiences the peace of God that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7).

- **Ineffectiveness in Ministry**

An unbroken vessel cannot be fully used by God. While they may participate in church activities, their service often lacks depth and impact. This is because unbrokenness stems from self-centeredness, leading to service that seeks recognition rather than glorifying God. John 15:5 reminds us: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Without brokenness, a believer cannot bear lasting spiritual fruit. Their efforts may appear successful outwardly, but they lack the anointing and effectiveness that come from a life fully yielded to God.

- **Distance from God**

Unbrokenness creates a barrier between the believer and God. Pride, disobedience, and resistance to correction grieve the Holy Spirit, making it difficult to experience intimacy with God. James 4:6 says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." An unbroken believer may go through the motions of faith—prayer, worship, and Bible study—without truly encountering God's presence.

Implications to the Church

- **Disunity and Conflict**

Unbrokenness among believers often leads to disunity within the church. Pride, gossip, slander, and an unwillingness to forgive create divisions and strife among members. Instead of working together in harmony, unbroken believers may seek to assert their own preferences and agendas, causing tension and discord.

Paul addresses this issue in Philippians 2:3-4, urging believers to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." When humility is absent, the church becomes a battleground of egos rather than a unified body glorifying Christ.

- **Hindered Spiritual Growth of Others**

The unbrokenness of one believer can negatively influence others in the church. For example, a gossiping or slandering member can lead others into the same sin, creating an environment where divisiveness thrives. Hebrews 12:15 warns, "See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

Similarly, unbroken leaders who fail to model Christ-like behaviour can discourage and mislead those under their care. Their inability to yield to the Holy Spirit sets a poor example for others, hindering the spiritual growth of the congregation.

- **Reduced Effectiveness in Evangelism and Ministry**

An unbroken church loses its effectiveness in fulfilling the Great Commission. When members prioritize personal agendas over God's will, the church becomes inward-focused rather than outward-focused. Jesus calls the church to be a light to the world (Matthew 5:14-16), but unbrokenness dims that light, making it difficult for the church to attract and impact unbelievers.

Additionally, the church's testimony is weakened when its members fail to display the fruits of the Spirit. John 13:35 says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Without brokenness, love, humility, and unity are absent, leaving the church ineffective in its witness.

- **Quenching the Holy Spirit**

Unbrokenness grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit, limiting His work within the church. When members resist God's correction, refuse to forgive, or prioritize their own desires, they block the flow of the Spirit's power and guidance. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 warns: "Do not quench the Spirit." A church filled with unbroken believers may go through the motions of worship and ministry, but it lacks the anointing and supernatural impact that comes from being Spirit-led.

- **Missed Opportunities for Revival**

Revival begins with brokenness. Throughout Scripture and church history, genuine revivals have always been preceded by repentance and humility. When believers humble themselves, confess their sins, and yield to God, He moves powerfully in their midst (2 Chronicles 7:14). However, a church filled with unbroken believers misses these opportunities for revival because pride and resistance prevent God from working freely among them.



CONCLUSION

This year, I have come to realize that the recurring theme running through the body of Christ is the desire to soar like the eagle in our walk with God and in our work for His kingdom. It is a beautiful and noble aspiration, but it comes with a profound truth: God does not soar with unbroken vessels. He only partners with those who are broken enough to yield to His instructions, reflect His character, and bring Him glory.

The eagle offers us a powerful analogy of brokenness and transformation. At the age of 40, the eagle retreats to the mountains for a painful process of renewal and recreation. It sheds its old feathers, breaks its beak, and pulls out its talons. This season of brokenness prepares the eagle for an additional 30 years of soaring strength and purpose. Likewise, as believers, if we truly desire to soar with God, we must submit ourselves to the breaking and refining work of the Holy Spirit. It is only through this process of dying to the flesh that we can be transformed and recreated into vessels fit for His purpose.

There are no shortcuts to this divine partnership. The path to soaring with God requires brokenness, humility, and a willingness to surrender everything—our will, our pride, and even our comfort zones. In 2025, God is not seeking sacrifices, busyness, or projects. While these things have their place, they are not what He desires most. God is yearning for deeper friendship, an intimate relationship with His children, and vessels that are broken enough to reflect His glory and execute His will.

Hosea 6:6 reminds us of this truth: “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” The heart of God longs for a deeper connection with us, not just our outward acts of service. He is looking for those who are pliable in His hands, vessels who have been emptied of self so that they can be filled with His Spirit and power. Only these broken vessels can ascend to the heights He has prepared for His children.

A CALL TO REFLECTION

As we step into this new year, let us pause and reflect on our walk with God. Are we truly broken before Him? Have we allowed the Holy Spirit to strip away our pride, self-reliance, and worldly desires? Are we prepared to endure the painful yet necessary process of being transformed into vessels of honor, sanctified and ready for the Master’s use (2 Timothy 2:21)?

The call for 2025 is clear: God is seeking intimacy, surrender, and obedience. He is calling us to a higher place—a place where we soar on wings like eagles, not by our strength but through His power. But to soar, we must first submit to the process of brokenness and recreation. There is no other way.

May we yield ourselves fully to Him, allowing Him to mould us into vessels that bring Him glory. Only then can we soar to the heights He has destined for us, walking in intimacy with Him and fulfilling His divine purpose for our lives.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart that desires to be fully surrendered to You. Break every area of pride, self-will, and resistance within me. Mould me into a vessel fit for Your purpose, one that reflects Your love, grace, and holiness. Holy Spirit, help me to yield completely to Your leading and embrace the process of brokenness. May my life bring glory to You in all that I do. In Jesus name, Amen.

