



SILENCIO

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BROKEN AND WHOLE

WRITTEN BY STEVE MACCHIA

Embrace my brokenness? Find strength in my weakness? Allow God to redeem my pain? As my interior world was tethering at the seams, I didn't want to go there! But it was exactly within those questions where I met God at a deeper, more grace-filled place. I knew I was broken and in need of God, and amidst that more authentic geography of the soul, I was certain I was also beloved in his eyes. Because of that incredible truth — I am dearly loved by God — I could be set free from the bondage of my brokenness. *I am deeply sinful and in need of God.* Wholeness was now on the horizon.

The primary sources of my brokenness didn't come from my vocation as a minister of the gospel or the work I was called to fulfill. Instead, it arose from a raw season of my life when coping mechanisms that had worked before were no longer fruitful. I was now confronting relationship challenges I thought I could fix, but instead, I had to acknowledge that, in reality, they were unrepairable. The wounds of my distant past had reared their ugly heads, and I was now willing to seek professional help. I enlisted the care of an excellent therapist. I clung to the promise that the truth would set me free — and that's what occurred.

It took my brokenness to get me out of the fog of leading and serving and living from a perceived place of vigor and vitality. What I had seen in others who I emulated as strong leaders was in fact more of a façade. They too had bruises left unattended. They too had sin patterns that eventually eked out. They too needed God to attend to their brokenness and restore them to his original intention. They too had pretense and posturing which only God could heal and redeem. I simply joined their ranks.

What I discovered in that season of my life was an unlocking of biblical truth which led me down a pathway of an emancipated soul. After discovering my brokenness and acknowledging its reality in my heart, mind and soul, I was gently invited to release it into the hands of a loving God who was more than willing to carry it for me. And more importantly, God was desirous of redeeming all of it for his glory. When that realization settled into the deepest crevices of my worn and weary soul, new life began to emerge. Today, I'm a completely different person, still in the process of redemption but experiencing the joy of wholeness in Christ like never before.

What are you holding on to today that is the true and broken you? Are you crippled by the fear of admitting your brokenness and the brokenness that others have inflicted upon you? Let me be one to encourage you toward owning, naming and then releasing this brokenness into the hands of a very loving heavenly Father. God himself is there to hold and comfort you no matter what you carry today. Let his love enfold you and heal you from the inside out — that's exactly what God is all about!

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

— Isaiah 40:29 NIV

'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

— 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

A HYMN BY RAY PALMER, 1830

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When life's swift race is run,
death's cold work almost done, be near to me.
Blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove.
O bear me safe above, redeemed and free!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

- Imagine Jesus sitting with you and a dear friend. What words would Jesus use to describe you to your friend as a dearly loved and forgiven child of God? Write these words or phrases down on paper. Use words that describe your personhood, not just your gifts and abilities.
- Prayerfully consider the brokenness that others have inflicted upon you. Write out a prayer of forgiveness and consider ways to bless them, rather than retaliate, in return.
- Share honestly and offer a listening ear to a trusted friend. What area of brokenness or weakness would you like for God to redeem for his glory and purpose in your life today?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you believe wholeheartedly that you are a dearly loved child of God? Have you received the gift of God's grace, mercy and forgiveness found solely in Jesus Christ? Is so, what stands in the way of you living an abundant life today?
- When you consider your own brokenness, what comes to the forefront of your heart and mind? Is it suffering, pain, heartache, sinfulness or imperfections?
- What would it look like for you to hand over your brokenness and weakness to God today?
- If necessary, are you willing to seek the help of a soul companion to help guide you forward?

A Prayer of Illumination:

Father, hold me gently in your love's sanctifying and transforming embrace. Jesus, graciously forgive and redeem my brokenness. Holy Spirit, renew your work in my heart and life, and may your strength emerge from my weakness. All for the sake of your kingdom and the glory of your name. Amen.

SUGGESTED SPIRITUAL FORMATION RESOURCES

Broken and Whole: A Leader's Path to Spiritual Transformation, by Stephen Macchia

Life of the Beloved, by Henri Nouwen



Additional spiritual formation resources are available online at www.spiritualformationstore.com.