

Daily battle to sacrifice comfort and pleasure to pursue God. Here are some of the prayers I pray: "God ruin me. I give you all of me. Take away this pain and suffering, but if you don't use it to draw me closer to you and bring honor to Your name. Show me more of you. I lay down my comfort to take up your cross. Whatever it takes, draw me close to you."

G.K Chesterton "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."

**What are you willing to go through to have more of God in your life? What are you willing to give up? How desperate are you for Him?**

**Franciscan Benediction – Bless You With Discomfort**

**May God bless you** with discomfort at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

**May God bless you** with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

**May God bless you** with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain in to joy.

**May God bless you** with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

1. **There are some things in our life that can only be removed through brokenness.** What are the strings holding you back in your life? Sometimes they're things we don't even know are there.

**Illustration:** Balloon with strings (fear, relationships, false sense of control, lack of faith, addiction, greed, comfort, convenience, etc.)

These are things that become substitutes for God. In reality through they are temporary and inadequate.

As David went through this period in his life, he had some of these strings removed: his position, his wife, trusted friend (Jonathan), his counselor (Samuel), self confidence/respect

→forced him to rely and trust God ALONE

### **Psalm 62:1-2**

- 1 My soul finds rest in God alone;  
my salvation comes from him.
- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

As these things were removed from David's life, this allowed him to become a greater man of God, king, father and leader than he ever would have if he had an easy road.

→ **Story before our adoption – not being able to conceive.**

2. **There is a deeper relationship with God that comes only through pain and suffering.**  
Difference between knowing something in your head and believing it fully in your heart. Psalm 55:22 "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."

Example: Grand Canyon story – friend almost dying

3. **A level of God's power that can only be realized when we are weak.**

### 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - Paul

7To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a **thorn in my flesh**, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **8Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.** 9But he said to me, "**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. 10That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

My recent journey and dissatisfaction with pursuing comfort. My desire to do whatever is necessary and to experience whatever is needed to know God more. To God deeper in relationship with Him. To experience more of His power in my life.

St. Augustine (300 A.D.) "My inner self was a house divided against itself."

### Psalm 55:12-14

12 If an enemy were insulting me,  
I could endure it;  
if a foe were raising himself against me,  
I could hide from him.  
13 But it is you, a man like myself,  
my companion, my close friend,  
14 with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship  
as we walked with the throng at the house of God.

Some of our most difficult and painful trials are from those closest to us.

**Why does God put us through these trials in our life?** These times of brokenness? Questions I ask myself:

- I have done everything right, why is so much going wrong?
- Why would a God that loves me allow me to suffer so much?  
**Friend with bone cancer at age of 24**
- Why do other people who live worse lives than me have it so good while my life is so difficult?
- God if you're my Father, shouldn't you want to protect your children from harm, pain and suffering?
- God, I love you, serve you, work hard, attend church, tithe, love my family, pray, read my Bible... why me?

**David responded much better to his situation than I would have. How did David respond?**

- He stayed focus and continued to be successful
- He refused to fight back or get even
- He called out to God and trusted him completely:

### Psalm 55:16-18

But I call to God,  
and the LORD saves me.  
17 Evening, morning and noon  
I cry out in distress,  
and he hears my voice.  
18 He ransoms me unharmed  
from the battle waged against me,  
even though many oppose me.

David's response was possible because he discovered a secret in the midst of all the pain and suffering: There is a **blessing in brokenness**. There are things in our life that can only happen through difficult and painful situations. Hopefully after today you start to see brokenness not as something to be feared and avoided, but as something God can bring great good out of in your life. We live in a fallen and broken world that is not operating how God designed it, we can all be sure that we're going to face brokenness throughout our life.

## 12/14/08 – Heart of a Champion: Dodging Spears

Things were going well for David:

- Anointed by Samuel as God's chosen one
- Promoted to serve King Saul directly; even gets promoted as an officer in the army
- Just killed Goliath! Successful at everything he did.
- Discovered a best friend in Jonathan and a wife
- Throughout it all David modeled humility, dependability and integrity

### 1 Samuel 18:5-6

5 Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well.

6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. 7 As they danced, they sang:

"Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands."

How is David rewarded for his faithful service to the king and for living a right life?

- He isn't allowed to go back to behind a shepherd which is what he knows and loves (1 Samuel 18:2,5)
- He is viewed critically and suspiciously (1 Samuel 18:8-9)
- He's forced to leave his best friend and new wife and flee to the wilderness (1 Samuel 23:15)
- It all started with the king throwing spears at him! (1 Samuel 18:10-11, 19:8-10)

### 1 Samuel 18:811 (and again in 1 Samuel 19:8-10)

8 Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" 9 And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

10 The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand 11 and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

**Maybe you can relate to David...** everything was going right and then it all came crashing down. –  
**Illustration: Video – girl with glass of water** <http://www.sermonspice.com/videos/10357/broken>

**Where are you today?** Is your glass full? Half full? Empty? Perhaps you feel like your glass has been dropped and broken... shattered.

Christmas is a challenging time for many of you – loss of a loved one; unemployed; a child is being rebellious; relationship has been strained or broken.

All this was instigated and pursued by not just some enemy or unknown person in David's life. But by his mentor, king and friend! A man that he went to church with and worshipped God beside.