

GOD'S BUMPER STICKERS

WHAT MIGHT THEY SAY?



My Kids Are Broken (Psalm 90:10-17)

God's Bumper Stickers sermon series

By Pastor David Hillis, 09.01.19

BIG IDEA: Suffering is seen as an unwelcome intrusion into our lives, but learning to sit with our suffering can perfect us and make us more like Christ.

1. Why God values & how God uses brokenness in our lives

a. To learn to rely on God. ([2 Corinthians 1:8-10](#))

- i. When we are broken or endure hardship beyond our ability to control, we *can* learn, if we choose, to rely on God *more*.

b. To crucify, break our own selfish desires. ([Galatians 2:20](#))

- i. Through this process we stop being in control and learn to surrender to Christ, who comes to live inside us.

c. To experience God's grace & power. ([2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#))

- i. Paul describes a time of suffering and brokenness in his life where he begged God to just get him *out* of the situation as quickly as possible.

d. To bear fruit. ([John 12:24](#))

- i. The fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, self-control) all develop through the brokenness we endure.

e. To help us learn how to better comfort others. ([2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#))

- i. No one can comfort someone going through a difficult time like someone who has already been in that same place in life and understands.

2. Questions we can ask in response to suffering

a. What can I let it teach me? (Psalm 90:12-13)

- i. When we can see it in perspective and ask "what can I learn from this?" then no matter how *painful* it is, it can at least be used to our benefit.

b. How can it bless me and help me grow? (Psalm 90:14-17)

- i. We can come to experience God's deep and abiding love (v14).
- ii. God can use it to help develop in us a heart of gratitude (v15).
- iii. It opens a door for us to see the power of God at work, for God to show us His approval and bring lasting change (v16-17).

NEXT STEP: What is broken in your life today, and how are you handling it? Spend some time this week asking God what He wants to teach you and how He wants to use it to help you grow.

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week in part 3 of *God's Bumper Stickers*, we talked about how God values using the brokenness in our lives. Spend some time re-reading and meditating on [Psalm 90](#) this week. Consider each of the petitions in verses 10-17, and if you might make them your prayers also. Which are the easiest? Hardest? How do you "number your days" and what might that look like for you?
2. What is meant by a "heart of wisdom" (verse 12)? Read [Proverbs 9:10, Jeremiah 9:23-24 & James 4:12-16](#) to compare.
3. Spend some time considering your own areas of brokenness this week, writing each one down. Which of these have you avoided rather than befriended? What stands between you and the acceptance of your brokenness? Can your prayer help you find the courage to be vulnerable to your pain? Ask yourself with each one, "What might God want to teach me through this brokenness?" and "how can it bless me and help me grow?"
4. When we are broken, God is near to love, heal and strengthen us. Look up these verses and see what you discover and how they speak to you: [Psalm 34:18, 51:17, 73:26, 147:3](#). You might also look at [Isaiah 41:10, 43:2](#).
5. Jesus understands our brokenness and came to not only heal the brokenhearted but to be broken Himself for us. Read [Luke 4:14-19 & Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16](#). What do you see from each of these verses about Christ's ties to brokenness?
6. Next week, we will look at how God chose us, blessed us, and allows us to be broken at times, all so that we can be given to others as Christ is toward us. What Scriptures can you find that speak to this? What do they reveal to you?

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- **Pastor Dave mentioned a book which was part of the inspiration behind this new series.** It is Henri Nouwen's book [Life of the Beloved](#), available on Amazon in paper, digital and audio formats.