

May 3, 2011

Charles Stanley's Life Principle #15

Brokenness is God's requirement for maximum usefulness.

PRAYER FOCUS: _____

The candle must burn!

In what shape is the candle before it burns?

What happens to the wax when the candle burns?

How does this example apply to God's use of brokenness in our lives?

The Life of Peter - Before Brokenness

Peter was willing to attempt walking on water (Matt. 14:24-31).
What admirable quality did this indicate about him?

Why did Jesus rebuke him (v. 31)?

What revelation did Peter have about Jesus (Matt. 16:13-23)?

What did he fail to understand about Christ's mission?

Peter drew a sword and attacked the high priest's slave (John 18:10).

Peter still in his own strength doesn't get it. (Matt. 26:31-35)

How would you describe the strengths and weaknesses of Peter before the Father led him to a state of brokenness?

The Life of Peter – The Breaking Process

Matthew 26:57-75

How did Peter follow Christ (v. 58)?

What factors do you think contributed to Peter's profound cowardice in this passage (Matt. 26:69-72)?

The disciple wept bitterly when He realized that Christ's prediction had come true (Matt. 26:75). What did the experience reveal to him?

The Life of Peter – The Blessing Through Adversity

John 21:15-19

Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him?

Notice that Jesus never directly addresses Peter's failure. Why do you think Christ told him to "shepherd my sheep" or "tend my lambs" (vv. 15-16)?

Peter needed to be broken to be useful to God.

Look up these verses on your own to see examples of how God used him.

Sermon at Pentecost – Acts 2:14-41 & The fruit of the sermon (v. 41)

His response to the Jewish religious leaders demonstrates his transition (Acts 4)