



Broken

By Jeffrey Bush, Director

In Bible times the alabaster box was worth a large sum of money. It was kept safe and stored until an appointed day, but the sweet-smelling perfume inside the box could not be appreciated until the container was broken. It is the same with the lives of God's children: no one wants to be hurt, uncomfortable, or go through trials, but God's amazing grace and glory is not fully seen until God's children have been broken.

David was going to be the next king, but God first chose to make him run for his life hiding in caves from the jealous king who wanted to kill him. Joseph dreamt that all would bow down before him, but God first allowed him to be sold as a slave, mistreated, lied about, and imprisoned before he became the leader the world needed. Jacob was going to be the father of multitudes, but God first allowed him to roam through the desert running from his brother and working for a father-in-law who didn't give him his fair share. Moses was to be the savior of God's chosen people and see mighty miracles take place, but the Lord first humbled him in the desert for forty years before he could go before Pharaoh. Paul was the amazing apostle to the Gentiles, but he was broken again and again. The stories go on and on; God breaks a man before He uses him. Whether through health, humiliation, loss of loved ones, financial or physical issues, God allows things to happen to break us as His children in order to mold us in the form He wants us.

Dear friend have you been broken? How do you react when God tries to break you? None of us want to be hurt, but maybe that's what we need to better depend on God or put God in the correct priority level of our life. So maybe instead of avoiding or trying to rush through the hard times God places in our path, we should allow them to form us into better servants. Maybe God is teaching you or me about patience, humility, dying to self, dying to pride, having full dependence on Him. May we be broken people—dead to self and filled with Christ.



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"A Hunger for God"

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

"May I burn up for thee! Consume my life, O God, for it is thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one like Yours, Lord Jesus," Elliot prayed. "Pour out my life as an oblation to the Lord."

This was God's plan - to pour out the life of Jim Elliot as an example of a life totally given to the Lord. Elliot's prayer was one of total surrender. He gave his life sacrificially and cheerfully.

How could Jim willingly give his future to God? How can you do this? God must be first in your life. When you give yourself to the Lord, you will want to give your life for His purpose. Jim Elliot said, *"There is within a hunger after God, given of God, filled by God. I can be happy when I am conscious that He is doing what He wills to do within."* When you are in the will of God, you can be happy with what HE is doing in your life. How could Jim Elliot so willingly give up all, even his very own life? It was the deep love for the Lord Jesus Christ in his heart that drove him.

Because of this love for Christ, he was willing to risk even his own life to win the Auca Indians to the Lord. One morning he and the other four missionary men went to visit the Auca Indians for the first time after months of dropping gifts over their village. The Indians ran out with spears and machetes, killed the men, and left their bodies in the river.

They Turned the World Upside Down

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