

# The Blessing and the Breaking

by Chip Brogden

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*The blessing of the Lord is not in physical health, financial prosperity, or happiness, but in being reduced to Christ and increasing Him in our lives.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 34:18, Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 57:15, Matthew 5:3, Matthew 16:24, Luke 24:30, John 3:30, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 1:3

**Topics:** "Brokenness And Blessing", "Spiritual Growth"

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## Description

Chip Brogden emphasizes the profound truth revealed in the post-resurrection encounter with Christ, where the act of blessing involves breaking. While many desire God's blessings in various aspects of life, true blessing often leads to brokenness. The common misconception of blessing equating to physical health and prosperity is challenged, highlighting that true blessing results in being reduced to Christ and embracing brokenness. The journey to 'more of Jesus' involves having less of ourselves, allowing Him to increase within us.

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## Transcript

"And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread, and blessed it, and brake and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him" (Luke 24:30-31).

There is a simple truth demonstrated in this post-resurrection encounter with Christ. Can you see it?

I cannot think of a single Christian that does not desire the blessing of the Lord. We earnestly seek and desire God's blessings on our life. We want the Lord to bless our spiritual life, our home life, our children, our finances, our churches and our ministries. Is there anything wrong with that? Of course not. But the fact remains that we do not always get what we ask for.

What does it mean to be blessed? The common assumption, I believe, is that when God has blessed a person then they will enjoy physical health, financial prosperity, and a general sense of happiness and well-being.

I want us to see that when Jesus blesses something He breaks it. The blessing results in breaking. The prayer for "more" results in "less". The request for "increase" results in "decrease". The prayer for blessing results in brokenness.

Do you want to be a blessing to other people, or a burden? Most Christians would say they want to be blessing to others. So God blesses them and then breaks them.

What is going on here? Simply put, the blessing of the Lord is in being reduced to Christ. Who is blessed? Not the one who is rich in spirit, but the one who is poor in spirit. The poor in spirit possess the Kingdom. Those who are broken are blessed, and those who are blessed are broken.

The heart-cry of a disciple of "more of Jesus". How do we get "more" of Jesus? By getting less of us. With less of me there is more of Him. As I am decreased, He is increased. This is what it means to be blessed.

A brother in the Lord related the following experience to me. As he was watching television he says he came across a woman who was yelling, "Increase! Increase! God wants to increase you and all you have!" This brother says he staggered out of his chair laughing, and said, "Decrease! Decrease! Keep decreasing me Lord, till all there is left is YOU!" Friends, when we understand the blessing and the breaking then we will find ourselves responding the same way. What I love about this is the brother LAUGHED as he rejected the "increase" and embraced the decrease. This is what it means to take up the Cross.

We cry out for "increase" but God has already (past tense) blessed us with "every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). We have the blessing already. What we are lacking is the breaking. We want the blessing without the breaking. But it is not that we need more of the Lord, because we already have all of Him; we just need less of everything else.

After Jesus blessed the bread, and broke it, and gave it to them, their eyes were opened and they knew Him. Until you have the blessing and the breaking your eyes will remain closed. Blessings alone do not open our eyes. Indeed, blessings by themselves tend to close our eyes. We do not come to know Him in the blessing, but in the breaking. Then what we already have in Him will be revealed. Our eyes will be opened and we will see that He has been standing there the whole time.

Do you want to know Him? Do you want to see Him for Who He is? Do you want to go deeper? Do you want to have your eyes opened? Embrace the blessing AND the breaking; receive them both. If you are a bruised reed or a broken cistern, take heart, because you are making progress.

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