

# If It's Not Broken Break It!

## Introduction:

When God begins to stir people for revival, He begins to convict them of all that is preventing Him from reviving them.

God does not convict us so that we can make the changes that need to be made. He convicts us so that we will be broken, repent and allow Him to make the changes that need to be made.

If conviction is real, brokenness and repentance naturally follow.

## Brokenness: *(The Realization of Our Own Helplessness.)*

### Brokenness is needed when:

#### We are still relying on human power.

**ILLUSTRATION:** A young boy went to the local store with his mother. The shop owner, a kindly man, passed him a large jar of suckers and invited him to help himself to a handful. Uncharacteristically, the boy held back. So the shop owner pulled out a handful for him.

When outside, the boy's mother asked why he had suddenly been so shy and wouldn't take a handful of suckers when offered.

The boy replied, "Because his hand is much bigger than mine!"

***"When man works, man works. When man prays, God works."***

#### We are still relying on human agendas.

Striving to make things the way we think it should be

#### We are still seeking human approval.

**ILLUSTRATION:** William Booth - During the early days of the Salvation Army, William Booth and his associates were bitterly attacked in the press by religious leaders and government leaders alike. Whenever his son, Bramwell, showed Booth a newspaper attack, the General would reply, ***"Bramwell, fifty years hence it will matter very little indeed how these people treated us; it will matter a great deal how we dealt with the work of God."***

#### We think we are broken enough.

The fact that we think we are broken enough says that we are relying on human reason.

## Repentance: *(A Change in Behavior Brought on by a Change in Thinking Brought on by a Change in Perspective.)*

**When our perspective changes, our way of thinking changes.**

**When our way of thinking changes, our behavior changes.**

**God doesn't make us do what we need to do – He makes us be who we need to be.**

The difference in our behavior originates from the difference in our nature.  
**The Farside: the cow eating grass suddenly realizing: “Hey! This is grass!  
We’ve been eating grass!”**

## **Repentance is needed when:**

### **Obedience to God is done out of obligation.**

If our motive is anything but love for God.

***“If we have never made it our purpose to do His will, if we have never made His glory the end of our actions, then our lives have been an unbroken series of transgressions. Our sins are not to be numbered by the conscious violations of duty; they are as numerous as the moments of our existence.”***

**-Charles Hodge.**

### **Our work has borne no fruit.**

It is impossible to please God and not bear fruit.

If God were to call us to account today, what would He ask us?

- Did you serve on any boards or committees?
- Did you come to church every time the doors were open?
- How many bible studies did you participate in?
- Did you sing hymns or choruses?

I don't believe any of that concerns God. I believe He will ask:

- Did you obey me?
- Did you bring anyone to heaven with you?
- What impact for eternity did you have in the lives of those around you?

If we always do what we've always done, we'll always be what we've always been.

### **We are complacent with our spiritual life.**

Things that deaden our desire for God:

**Pride:** God is not needed.

Do you feel a sense of accomplishment in your level of spirituality?

Do you feel satisfied in how righteous you are?

***You need to surrender your pride to God!***

**Deception:** God is not seen.

Do you fail to see your need for more of God?

Do you live as if spiritual truths apply to others but not to you?

***You are deceived!***

**Compromise:** God is not first.

Do you make excuses for not making God first priority?

Do you seek to be holy or just as good as you need to be?

***You need to sell out to God!***

**Sin:** God is not obeyed.

Has God told you to do something you are not doing?

Has God told you not to do something you did anyway?

Has God told you anything that you have ignored?

***You have sin in your life!***

**Death:** God is not heard.

Do you find yourself with no desire for spiritual things at all?

Do you no longer pray?

Do you no longer read the Bible?

Can you sin and not be bothered by it?

***Check your pulse! You may be spiritually dead?***

# Conclusion:

**ILLUSTRATION: Roman Man of Death Torture:** According to Paul Lee Tan's Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, "The Romans sometimes compelled a captive to be joined face-to-face with a dead body, and to bear it about until the horrible effluvia destroyed the life of the living victim. Virgil describes this cruel punishment: 'The living and the dead at his command/Were coupled face to face, and hand to hand;/ Till choked with stench, in loathed embraces tied,/The lingering wretches pined away and died.'" Without Christ, we are shackled to a dead corpse -- our sinfulness. Only repentance frees us from certain death, for life and death cannot coexist indefinitely.

- Trying to live a righteous or moral life in our own power is just a futile and miserable.
- Nor can we "work up" conviction, brokenness, repentance, or revival.
- They come about as we seek God for them, for ourselves and others.

## ***Application Prayer:***

*"Dear Jesus, I ask you to convict me of all that displeases you. Break me of all that I am depending on that is not you, and give me repentance for all that keeps me from you. Revive my heart as you see fit. Send me your fire and let me burn for you alone. In Jesus' name, Amen."*