
A Cry for Help

Romans 12:1-2

“At the end of my rope”

Paul Cedar, director of Mission America in the AD2000 and Beyond movement, once shared about his early ministry, when God called him to minister to pastors. The cash flow was miserable, and he didn't feel he could ask for compensation from those he was serving. His financial state grew worse. Ultimately, things reached a climax.

“In addition, I felt attacks of discouragement and disillusionment—even humiliation. One final straw was when an area hospital named us as one of the neediest families in the community and presented us with a food basket for Thanksgiving. The Lord brought us to a point of total brokenness before him. We were completely dependent on him.

“On a given evening, while I was driving alone in my car, I cried out to God in pain and frustration. It was the only time that I remember being angry with God. I rehearsed for him all of the sacrifices that we had made for him, and reminded him of the embarrassment and humiliation we had suffered. I said in desperation, ‘Why don't you just take my life? I felt his answer, ‘Son, I already have taken your life.’ Immediately, I was broken before him. I pulled over and sobbed.”

Reflection

If you examine servants of Christ Jesus who are powerfully and effectively used by God, you will almost always find that they have experienced a desert and/or time of complete brokenness in their lives. It is this brokenness which enables them to be vessels used for God.

Joseph is a perfect example of this. His brokenness came during his exile in Egypt. Realizing that his life was no longer his own to control, he became completely surrendered to God. And, he was used by God in a mighty way.

Accountability and Application

How have you expressed surrender in your life? Have you turned over absolutely every part of your life to God? Are there any areas which you still control? Why is that area difficult to relinquish? It will help you to identify the reason and deal with it.

Prayer: Lord, I have not surrendered my entire life to you. I feel remorse for failing to follow you completely surrendered. Today I'm offering my life to you without reservation, without taking back control.

Romans 12:1-2

Dedicated Service

¹Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.