

## SHATTERED DREAMS

### THE 3 LESSONS OF BROKENNESS

Dear Friend:

Do you know that God always wants what is best for us? The problem is, sometimes we do not know what is best for us. God, like any good father, sometimes must allow us to go through trials or even shattered dreams to bring about what is best for us. The difficult thing for us is to hold on to God through the trial.

Biblical characters knew about shattered dreams and brokenness. Examples include Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, the disciples, and Paul. Trials are meant to strengthen our faith and bring us closer to God and teach us dependency on Him. Without trials we would never fully appreciate and be thankful for the blessings He gives us.

Think about this statement: "Without trials, only spoiled brats would enter heaven. And that would turn heaven into hell" (Larry Crabb, *Shattered Dreams*). At first this statement sounds terrible. I shared it with a good Christian friend of mine the other day and when I said it, he gave me just a blank stare! What is a spoiled brat? One who always gets what he/she wants, never faces a hard moment. That is exactly what we would be if we never faced trials.

Trials can teach us 3 lessons. First: The deep journey to God will always, at some point, take us through darkness where life makes no sense BUT God never leaves us. Second: When God seems most absent from us, he is doing His most important work in us. Third: Feeling good should never be our ultimate goal; our ultimate goal should be a close and intimate relationship with God. Sometimes God allows trials to come to us so that we can reach our goal. Keep striving for the goal - the finish line is worth it!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Brenda Carpentar (heart surgery next Tuesday), Josie Mae Roehrenbeck (newborn with bleeding on the brain), Dick Fisher (brain tumor)

Events: Management Team Meeting Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.