



Brokenness

Week One

The Self-Life John 12:24-26

Ice Breaker:

Did you ever take a glass of water, toothpicks, an avocado or other large seed and watch it grow?
If so, what did you see?
How long did it take?
What surprised you?
If not...perhaps you should purchase an avocado?

References:

Watchman Nee	The Normal Christian Life
Charles Stanley	Brokenness, The Way To Blessing
Lon Solomon	Brokenness: How God Redeems Pain and Suffering

Psalms 51:17 Psalms 34:18 Isaiah 57:15 John 12:24-26

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define "brokenness" as you understand it today?
2. Jesus described a kernel of wheat falls to the ground, where after it dies it yields many times itself in new seeds. How does this metaphor apply to us? (John 12:24-26)
3. Comment on the following statements:
 - a) Biblical brokenness is not a curse, but rather a blessing.
 - b) Biblical brokenness is not a punishment, but rather gain.
 - c) Biblical brokenness is not suffering, but suffering is part of life.
 - d) Biblical brokenness is God removing everything we depend on, other than Christ.
 - e) Biblical brokenness is not something to avoid, rather it may be an answer to your prayers.
 - f) Spiritual usefulness without brokenness is a spiritual impossibility.

4. If we are seeking a relationship with Christ that gives real life, do we honestly desire His will in every area of our lives, or are we really asking Him to bless our own agenda to accomplish our goals through our own resources? What does seeking a relationship with Christ mean to you? How is this demonstrated in your life?
5. Are we trying to find life through people, objects, selfish gratification and the world system or have we submitted everything to Him in order for His life to be lived through us? How do you do this on a daily basis?
6. Are we living out of the life we inherited from Adam in order to get our needs met or are we willing to exchange that life in the flesh for real life we can live in Christ as a result of the cross?
7. What was meant by the statement:
"Either I surrender, and discover God's desires or I hang onto me and miss out on God's blessing."
8. Are we open and willing to acknowledge that our feelings do not necessarily align with truth and that the only absolute truth is God's Word?