

**“Finding Blessing In Brokenness” Part 1**  
**November 8, 2009**  
**Revealing God’s Glory**  
**2 Cor. 4:7-18**

*We need a biblical understanding of evil and suffering in the Christian community. We need some answers for ourselves, and a world that’s desperate to know if God is both good and great. Disciples of Jesus should not be the first to question who God is when suffering happens. We must be prepared by knowing the Bible’s account of God’s unchanging plan for blessing in brokenness.*

**Questions we ask:**

1. Where did evil and suffering come from? God?
2. Is God really “good” (perfectly loving)? Why would he allow evil in the first place?
3. Is God really “great” (all powerful)? Why doesn’t God intervene and just end evil and suffering?
4. Why doesn’t God deliver me from my suffering when I pray? I thought He wanted me happy?
5. Does God have a purpose for suffering? What is it?
6. Is it true that He won’t give me more than I can handle?
7. How do I make it through suffering?

**What’s your question?** Become a First Friends Church Facebook “fan” and weigh in with your thoughts.  
[www.facebook.com/cantonffc](http://www.facebook.com/cantonffc)

**Evil** is the opposite of all that God is. Our participation with evil is *called sin. All suffering is a direct, or indirect, result of sin.* (Genesis 1-3; Romans 6:23; 8:19-21)

\*Suffering causes us to ask the ultimate question:

***Who is God and what is He like?***

\* ***What is spiritual “brokenness” and where’s the blessing?***  
Spiritual “brokenness” is humbly presenting yourself to God in response to sin and suffering.

Psalm 51:17 *The sacrifices of God are a **broken** spirit; a **broken** and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

**Blessing #1 – Our temporary brokenness reveals God’s eternal Glory!** (evidence of God’s nature)

**Text: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18**

Vs. 5-6 It’s all about God and His glory! Is. 8:10-11

Vs. 7-12 Our bodies are like “cracked pots” that reveal the glory of Jesus within us.

Vs. 13-15 Our suffering will result in others seeing the glory of God.

Vs. 16-18 Our suffering is TEMPORARY and God’s glory and purposes are ETERNAL!

**The “Anti-Blessing”– Satan has a plan for suffering too!**

He desires we respond to suffering by separating ourselves from God’s glory, our true heart, and from each other’s hearts.

John 10:10

**Application Questions:**

1. What suffering are you currently going through?
2. Is it a direct result of your own sin? If so, repent in humble brokenness and receive God’s forgiveness. Then ask for His grace to work through the consequences.
3. If not a result of your sin, present yourself to God in humility and ask that He reveal His glory through you. Ask for his perfect strength in your weakness to see you through.