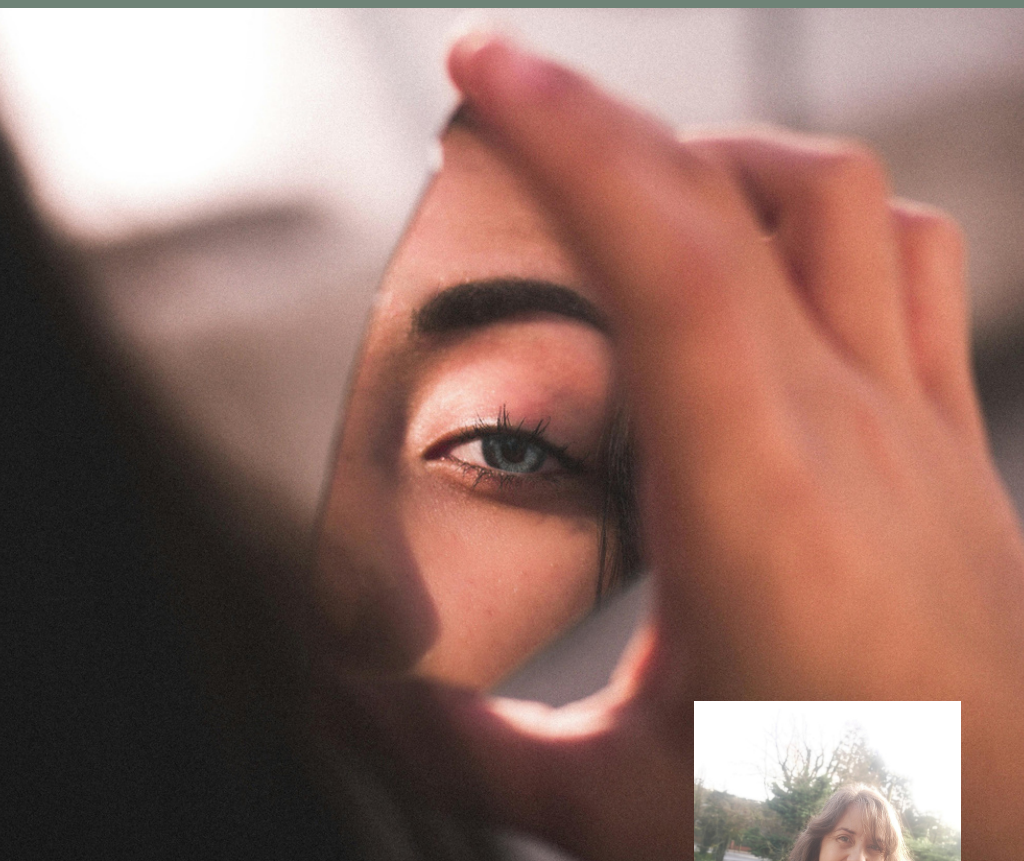


WHISPERS OF GRACE

BEAUTY IN BROKENNESS



BY Audrey Morrow



INTRODUCTION

MY STORY

In our lives, there are many times we can find ourselves in deep physical and or emotional pain and distress. It can seem like there is no hope or way out of those deep pits of despair.

I could tell of many different seasons and experiences from childhood, broken relationships, traumas, etc. but instead, I will just say, that after years of one thing after another, I was drained and I suppose I had become, in some way used to dealing with pain.

Like so many others I was good at hiding emotional pain, and pushing on with life, for the sake of others, especially my children.

The last straw, so to speak, was after my husband had taken a physical and mental breakdown. I was strong at first to help him, but after a few months, as he began to feel a little better, he started spending more and more time in the local pub.

I watched helplessly as he became more and more distant, and each day became a dread as he would look for any excuse to go into town.

Each time, he left the house with a simple excuse saying something like "I'm going to the shop to buy a light bulb" I knew where he would end up and I knew it would be hours before he would be home.

There was nothing I could do. Anything I tried to do or say just seemed to make matters worse.

It got to the stage where I was angry, anxious, frustrated, and exhausted all the time.

I felt so alone, hopeless, and completely helpless. I loved him so much, but yet I felt resentment building towards him at the same time. Looking back, I can now see that I was starting to hate myself.

I began to call out to God in total desperation. As I lay on my bed crying, for God to change things, I remember praying "God, please do something, I can't take this anymore!"

HAVE YOU EVER PRAYED LIKE THAT?

I have been a born-again Christian since a young child, and I have always loved the Lord, I believe I had a good personal relationship with my Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus.

Yet part of me felt so ashamed, not because my husband was going through such a difficult time, but because it was consuming my thoughts and my life.

One night as I was crying out to God, I had an encounter with the Holy Spirit that transformed me and then changed everything else.

As I was crying out to God, to do something, tears streaming down my face, I felt an overwhelming sense of God's Holy Spirit. The only way I can explain it, is like someone had put their hands tightly on my shoulders, and was looking me straight in the eyes – saying

“Is what Jesus done on the cross NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?”

I was shaken to my very core and was broken to a level I had never felt before. At that moment, my heart was flooded with the realisation of what Jesus had suffered on the cross for me.

All I could do was cry out to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

The tears continued, but it was completely different than before, there was an amazing sense of relief sweeping over my soul, in that brokenness, looking at Jesus and what he had already done for me and for my husband.

I was given a brand new perspective and a new heart.

Something happened, that changed me, deep inside and continued to flow, until everything had changed on the outside.

Before that night, everything looked hopeless, now there was hope that I couldn't explain. I could see a brighter future and there was a peace in my soul that nothing in this world could give.

I received strength that night that enabled me to see my husband, being set free, even before there was any change in him. I didn't tell him anything, but he very quickly began to notice that something was different.

A few weeks later he told me that he was feeling 'freaked' out by how peaceful I was. Instead of staying longer at the pub and then coming home to start an argument, he began feeling a sense of fear and that he better come home earlier. He told me that he didn't know how to react to me being so calm and peaceful.

Still, I didn't tell him anything.

I continued to thank God for all that he had done for me and praised him every day for setting me free and setting my husband completely free.

I was truly changed and I continued to grow in faith, being strengthened by this revelation that in my weakness God's Grace was more than enough.

Then came a real challenge to my faith!

One day as I was praying and praising God, I felt that the Holy Spirit was telling me to trust my husband with our bank card again.

This was a big step of faith for me, and one I did not want to take.

You see, my husband had given the bank card to me because he couldn't trust himself not to spend all the money. But in truth, it wasn't working anyway, because if he ran out of money he would borrow from people in the pub and then have to pay it back.

But I felt SO strongly that God wanted me to give him back the bank card and to tell him that I trusted him.

I remember saying "But God, I don't trust him!" and yet I felt that tug on my spirit even stronger. As the Holy Spirit was saying "I didn't ask you to trust him – but TRUST ME"

So I prayed "Lord, I may not be able to trust my husband right now but I can trust you".

Later that day, I explained to my husband that I was giving him back the bank card and that I was going to trust him to make the right choices. He was shocked, and kept saying, "I don't trust myself".

Things continued for another few months, and there were times when we didn't have enough money for food and bills, etc. But I continued to hold tightly to God's love and peace.

Then, a few days before Christmas, my husband had been to the pub, and I was fighting to hold onto God's promises. I had no money, no Christmas gifts for my children, and no Christmas food. All I had were God's promises.

Was it easy? I can't say it was difficult but it was not a comfortable time. But I am so glad that I didn't let go of God's peace and his promises because He did not let me down.

I remember, as my husband came into the house, drunk, and I was trying so hard not to cry, yet things happened so fast, I can hardly believe it – within minutes, I was in tears, and my husband was on his knees beside me, saying “that’s it, I will never drink again”.

The next day he took me to the shop to buy whatever I needed. Praise God!

That was his last day of drinking. He says, that he suddenly realised, that he had to choose between drinking and being married.

Now over 5 years later, he has never looked back. He never had any withdrawals and never craved another drink. God set him completely free, just like he said he would.

I look back now and rejoice, that I was broken before my God. I know that it was in that moment of brokenness that he took all my broken pieces and began to put them all back together.

Jesus took all our weaknesses and brokenness to the cross. He paid the price in advance for you and for me. (Isaiah 53 v 4 – Matthew 8 v 17)

You can hold on to your broken pieces or you can give them to Jesus.

There is nothing God cannot do for you, if you allow him to come into your heart, into your life, and your problems.

Things have changed so much in our home, I never have to think about money, my husband looks after all the bills, he is in full charge of our bank accounts and is so thoughtful and gracious, he looks after me so well. I often joke with him that he treats me like a princess.

What a turnaround, more than I could ever have imagined.

I pray this inspires you to look deeper – not into your pain – but into the pain that Jesus suffered for you.

I pray that you will find the healer of the broken hearted and give him all your broken pieces and allow him to make something beautiful of your life.

Psalm 34 v 18 " The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

I'm sure you have probably heard this scripture many times. I have quoted it myself, trying to bring comfort to those who are going through difficult situations, but over the last few years, this whole Psalm has become very real to me, in a very different understanding.

Not just as a comfort but it has become more of a strength and a personal testimony.

I will try to explain as simply as I can.

I know that God is very near to everyone, as many Preachers and Teachers will remind us that He is only a prayer away and that anyone who calls on his name shall be saved.

I believe that when we are heartbroken and going through very difficult times, God's love is so great that he is patiently and lovingly waiting for us to call out to him because he is more willing to help us than we are ready and willing to be helped.

But now, I can see that brokenness is a very powerful and beautiful thing, it is only when we are totally and truly broken before our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that we can begin to experience the true greatness of his strength.

His strength is not just to help us get through the storm but rather, to enable us to come out of the storm a different and stronger person. A person who knows more of the heart of our Heavenly Father and more of his love toward us.

Changed from the inside in a way that we know but can't fully explain.

I have watched and listened over the last year – as many have said to me "It's different for you because" "You have great faith", "You are anointed" or "You have revelation".

These words have only fallen heavy on my heart because, from my point of view, I know that I have been broken in my own strength to the point where I felt totally helpless and useless, and it has felt many times like I have been stripped of everything I thought I knew and loved.

My only help and comfort was in the arms of my Lord and Saviour and my Heavenly Father.

Looking back, I can see that through that time of brokenness, many tears, and pouring out my heart before my Jesus he was healing me and in the same process was strengthening me in his love and his strength as he was being revealed to me more deeply. His Word and His Peace became the anchor in my life, the one thing that could not fail or fade away.

Bit by bit he was teaching me to let go of the pain and hurt of the past while empowering me to rest in his arms.

I cannot tell you how he did it, I just know that He did something deep inside my heart that has changed me, changed how I see everything, and has given me a strength and a joy that I cannot explain.

My identity has changed completely.

My identity is now in Jesus and in what God has said – not what others think of me, or what doctors have said about me.

As others are looking from the outside and can see the victories and peace upon a Child of God, the Child of God only sees the strength of their God as they are hidden in Christ and are covered with His grace and mercy.

Very aware that it is not their strength, they know they can do nothing of true worth without Jesus, and understand that they have become totally dependent upon him.

That is when the scripture in Galatians 2v20 becomes a reality and we can finally enjoy this life that He has given to us –

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Psalm 34, really explains what God wants each of his children to experience, it tells us of a life that is broken before God and how the Father desires to rescue his children.

I want to challenge you today to read this Psalm with an open heart until you can see clearly what is happening in your life. As you seek him and keep your eyes on him, though at times it feels difficult, it is good for you.

Your Heavenly Father is teaching you to let go, to allow him to heal you and guide you into his rest and his peace while revealing to you your new identity in him.

It may not feel comfortable for a time but there is nothing in this world that can compare with what he has in store for you.

Take heart today Child of God that as you let go of what you think you know – he has something more beautiful and precious in store for you.

Psalm 34 (KJV)

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

9 O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

22 The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

The Most Powerful Prayer

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 51 v 17

No matter how difficult or painful the circumstances of life may be, there remains a greater brokenness. Not because of what is happening to us but because we can finally understand the truth about human life.

Psalm 51 v 5 holds the key to this brokenness.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

This is something that applies to every single person ever born, yet few ever come to realise how this affects our lives.

Many say things like "I'm only human" or "No one is perfect". But mostly this is only an excuse for our shortcomings and lack of responsibility.

As long as we continue to make excuses or tolerate our 'sinful' nature, we will never be able to experience total freedom.

In truth, we cannot truly look into the face of Jesus without being aware of his majesty.

Within His majesty, there is amazing grace and when we look into this amazing grace, we will be fully aware of our sinfulness.

This is not a subject that people want to hear, but it is vital to receiving and experiencing the true joy of salvation.

We all desire to be free and to live in peace, we all desire to be helped by God, especially in our times of trouble. But few, are willing to come face to face with the reality of our sinful nature.

What I am about to say, you already know, but have you ever stopped to consider what this means in your life?

It is easy to point the finger at another person and judge them for their actions, especially if those actions are directed against us in some way.

The truth is that each person ever born is capable of doing anything.

No one knows what they would do, or how they would react in any situation unless they have been there already.

Under pressure, any man can easily lose his temper, even a quiet and gentle mother will become like a bear to protect her family. A child can suffer terrible abuse and be driven to murder.

Temptation can overcome many a strong person in a moment of weariness or distraction.

When we consider these things, it does not excuse anyone for their hurtful behaviour or wrong choices, but it places everyone on a level playing field.

We dare not judge another. We dare not hold a grudge against another.

This can be difficult to accept. Especially when we have been hurt, abused, or betrayed by another person.

Holding to the anger, disappointment, or hurt caused by another person ONLY serves to continue to destroy our own lives.

When we come face to face with Jesus, there can be nothing or no one stand between us.

When we stand before him, there is no hiding place, there is no alibi or excuse. He sees us as we really are – not just what we have done but what we are also capable of doing.

He sees and knows our hearts more than we can know ourselves.

When we desire to know the heart of the Father, we must come to the Light. When we come to the Light, everything is laid bare and open before him.

True repentance isn't just saying a prayer and hoping that we will get to heaven.

True repentance is acknowledging that we are sinners and that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. That penalty that we could never pay.

Until you and I can make what Christ suffered on the cross personal, we will never be able to experience true freedom from the slavery of sinfulness.

We know that Christ died for the world, and how God gathered up all the sins of the world and laid the penalty for that sin on Jesus Christ his Son, who suffered and died until the price was paid in full.

But have you considered that it was your sin that he suffered?

I remember reading Psalm 103 and the reality of 'my sin and my iniquity' that he suffered for me, pierced my heart.

Take time to read the first few verses of Psalm 103 prayerfully. Make it personal and ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your understanding to see more than you have seen before.

It is difficult to do something that you don't know how to do.

There is great confusion in the world today, especially among God's people. It seems to me that there is a great imbalance in many teachings and beliefs. Either causing people to become extremely 'sin' conscious and to live in fear or extremely dismissive of all personal responsibility and even abusing God's Grace.

But Jesus gave us a clear command "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness".

This is the priority given to each Child of God. We don't have to ask, what we should do, because Jesus has already told us.

**SEEK – FIRST – HIS KINGDOM and HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

The problem is not being able to understand what His Kingdom and His Righteousness really are.

The Gospel is taught mostly as 'Salvation – from hell'.

We are told much about how to receive Jesus as our Saviour, but not much about how to live as a citizen of his kingdom while we are still here on this earth.

An expression I have heard many times over the years is “saved and stuck”.

I have watched many children of God struggle through this life, waiting on Jesus to come again, or just waiting to die.

Something always bothered me about this kind of thinking. I wanted to live and enjoy this life. I desired to experience God's love and life here on this earth.

Could it be that God's plan isn't just about us going to heaven – instead that we bring heaven to the earth?

Jesus himself taught us to pray “Let thy kingdom come and let thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”.

Being involved in counselling and praying with others, I meet so many that are broken-hearted. They are broken over events and traumas in their lives, tormented and haunted by their past experiences – unable to see anything good.

How is it that the bad always seems to outweigh the good?

I have come to the conclusion it is all about 'perception' and 'perspective'.

Mostly, people just need another way of looking at their situation.

But this is easier said than done for most people. Because of years being held captive to one way of thinking, they are unable to see it from any other point of view.

The reality is that their 'point of view' was formed out of the same painful emotions that keep them trapped.

The KEY – is to change position to see from a different ‘perspective’.

I truly believe that true healing happens from the inside out.

True healing and deliverance happens when we are changed by the Work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

That ‘transformation’ happens when we can look into his face and see his love for us. That perfect love that caused the one who was perfect, the one who knew no pain or sin of his own, but who became sin for us.

He was rejected and despised and suffered beyond what we will ever be able to comprehend. And the only reason was that YOU and I could be set free.

How often have you considered HOW MUCH CHRIST SUFFERED FOR YOU?

The brokenness that brings us to our knees – is NOT what has happened to us BUT what happened to CHRIST JESUS because of us?

THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!!

God is saying to you today –

“Come and look on my face, gaze into my glory until you are transformed. I will give to you new vision, my vision which will create in you true understanding.

When you look through my eyes, the world around you changes.

When you look at the sick – I see them healed. When you see the lost – I see them asleep and ready to be awakened. When you see darkness approaching – I see the enemy as defeated.

When I look at you, I see you complete, whole, beautiful and lacking nothing.

Psalm 108 v 1 (KJV)

**O God, my heart is fixed (FOCUSED), I will
sing and give praise even with my glory.**

F-O-C-U-S

The definition of Focus is:-

- A centre of activity, attraction or attention.
- A point of concentration.
- Directed attention.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF YOUR LIFE?

When the Word of God becomes the centre of our attention and the point of our concentration it opens the door to the revelation of the Love of the Father who sent his Son to suffer and die in our place.

When this door of revelation is opened it will draw us into the Completion of the Cross, meaning that we will grow in the knowledge of what Jesus has bought and paid for and made available to us.

This revelation then leads us to begin to live under the authority of His Kingdom and to ultimately experience the wonderful gift of Salvation to the full.

FOCUS – is not a single event but a daily habit.

F – Fixed on the Word

O – Opens the door to the Father

C – Completion of the cross

U – Under Authority

S – Salvation and all its benefits

When we focus on sickness, disease and pain, fear comes and when fear comes it has torment. When torment and destruction comes, it creates confusion. Confusion begins to twist and distort vision and understanding. When your understanding becomes dark then the enemy is able to steal, kill and destroy.

When our FOCUS is on the wrong things then it looks like this:-

F – Fear (False Evidence Appearing Real)

O– Opens the door for torment

C – Confusion

U – Understanding being darkened

S – Steals, kills and destroys

James 3 v 16

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

1John 4 v 18–21

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment.

He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If any man say, I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.

Colossians 3 v 13-14

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any one of you has a grievance against someone, forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Ephesians 4 v 18

Having the understanding darkened being alienated (separated) from the life of God, because of the ignorance (stubbornness) that is in them, because of the blindness (hardness) of their heart.

When we fix our focus on Jesus, and set ourselves to know him, not just to know about him, it changes everything.

It changes our outlook on life for our future it changes our perception of the past and sets us free to be who God has purposed for us to be.

Can you pray this prayer?

Lord Jesus, I fix my focus on you, you alone are my strength. You bore my sin and forgave me now I give myself to you. I give you all the broken pieces of my life and put them into your hands. Amen.

How to become a Born Again Child of God

If you have not already accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, I want you to know that Jesus loves you, and He is longing for you to call upon His name. He has promised that He will not turn you away.

The Bible says the gift of Salvation is for anyone who will believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that God raised him from the dead.

You can stop right now where you are and pray something like this simple prayer.

“Lord Jesus, I acknowledge you as the Son of God, I believe that you died on the cross for my sin and that God raised you to life again. I repent of my sin and of doing things my own way, come and wash me clean and make me a child of God. Thank you for saving me. Thank you for loving me. Amen.”

The Bible says that “by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2 v8-9.

If you have prayed, believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth, then welcome to the Family of God, you are now a Child of God.

Please contact someone you know who is a Born Again Christian and ask them to help you and pray for you. Or if you don't know anyone please contact us.

(please note, it is not a prayer that saves you but the one you pray to)

For more information and Resources Visit our
Website: www.whispers-of-grace.uk

Other books available

Breaking Free from the Fear of Abandonment

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Compensation is in His Plan First

Things First – How to seek first the Kingdom
of God