

## “BROKENNESS - A KEY TO KINGDOM FRUITFULNESS”

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**INTRO:** As followers of Jesus, what is our potential to live a fruitful life? To what degree are you living up to your kingdom potential? Why are we not living up to our kingdom potential and what can we do about it?

### I. WHAT IS OUR KINGDOM POTENTIAL?

- A. To live as more than a conqueror (Rom. 8:37; 1Jn. 4:4).
- B. To bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- C. To move in the gifts of the Spirit (1Cor. 12:1, 7-11; Matt. 10:7-8).
- D. To do the impossible (Matt. 10:7-8; 17:20; Mk. 9:23; Phil. 4:13).

•**The example of Stephen (Acts 6:6, 8, 10, 15).**

### II. WHY ARE WE NOT LIVING UP TO OUR KINGDOM POTENTIAL (Jn. 12:24-25)?

•***One of the primary reasons we are not living up to our kingdom potential is because of not being sufficiently broken!***

- A. The grain of wheat must die in order to produce an abundant harvest (Jn. 12:24-25).
  - 1. A grain of wheat represents the sons of the kingdom (Matt. 13:25, 29-30, 38; 3:12; Lk. 3:17).
  - 2. The grain of wheat's hard outer shell must be broken in order for the reproductive life inside the grain to be released so that it can bear a harvest.
    - a. Our hard outer shell of the soul and flesh must be broken in order for the inward life of Christ and the Spirit to flow out of us!
  - 3. If the grain of wheat doesn't die, it remains alone – unproductive (Jn. 12:24-25).
    - a. As God's wheat, we must humble ourselves, fall into the ground and die to self or we will remain alone – unable to bear kingdom fruit.
    - b. The Greek word for “life” in v. 25 is “*psychē*” which can be translated as “soul.”
  - 4. If we love our outward man too much to let it die to self, we will live an unproductive life, but if we're willing to humble ourselves and die to self, we can live an incredibly fruitful life (Gal. 2:20; 5:24; 1Cor. 15:31)!
- B. The part of the wheat that must die is the outer shell/outward man (1Thess. 5:23; 2Cor. 4:16).
  - 1. We are a spirit; we have a soul and live in a body.
    - a. Our spirit is our inward man.
    - b. Our soul [mind, will & emotions] is our outer man.
    - c. Our body [5 senses] is our outermost man.
  - 2. At salvation the Holy Spirit washes and regenerates our human spirit, and we become one spirit with Christ (Titus 3:5; 1Cor. 6:17).
  - 3. Our body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 6:19-20).
- C. When the outward man is sufficiently broken, the Spirit comes forth (Jn. 6:36; 7:37-39; Rom. 8:10; 2Cor. 3:6)!

•**Baby chick hatching example: the shell must be broken for the chicken to come forth and reproduce!**

**CONCLUSION:** To what degree is your outer man broken so your inward man can bear much fruit?