

*A practical guidebook to help us take God at His word
and live lives of freedom and power. —Jennie Allen*

Nicole Unice



The
Struggle
is
Real.

Getting better at life,
stronger in faith,
and free from the stuff
keeping you stuck

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
204 ODESSA AVENUE
PITTSBURG, CA 94565**

Fall Bible Study

**PASTOR HENRY L. PERKINS,
INSTRUCTOR
October 17, 2018**

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MYTHS ABOUT GOD AS I STRUGGLE

1. God doesn't really need me for any big purpose – my life isn't that important.
2. God is distant and doesn't care about me.
3. God hasn't fixed my struggle/hurt/trouble, so I must not be worth it.
4. God is punishing me because I haven't been good enough.
5. I've been hurt in the past and God didn't help, so I'm on my own.
6. Others have it a lot worse than I do, so my problems don't need God's attention.

INTERPRETATION

THE RESULT OF OUR STRUGGLE IS WHEN WE BECOME BROKEN, DESCRIBED AS:

Brokenness: is to be broken, crushed, and torn in spirit over sin.

EVALUATING MY BROKENNESS

1. Describe what it means to be torn in Spirit.
2. What were your feelings as a result of this condition?
3. What action plan did you develop as a result of your feeling broken?

OBJECTIVE:

As I struggle, how do I apply God's wisdom for resistant resolution?

ACTION PLAN:

1. Study the subject
2. Do a word search
3. Find relevant scriptures
4. Peer discussion
5. Resolution recovery
6. Praise God for it

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**UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSE
OF YOUR BROKENNESS**

Satan's goal is to cast **doubt** on God's **intention** and **attack** the core of your **identity & purpose**.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

THE CAUSE OF OUR BROKENNESS

1. Who is the author of our struggle? _____
(Genesis 3:1-3; Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 2:17; 2 Corinthians 11:14)

1. Recognizing our part in the struggle: *"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior."* (Colossians 1:21)

**HOW TO RECOVER & REJOICE
FROM OUR BROKENNESS
(Titus 3:3-7)**

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

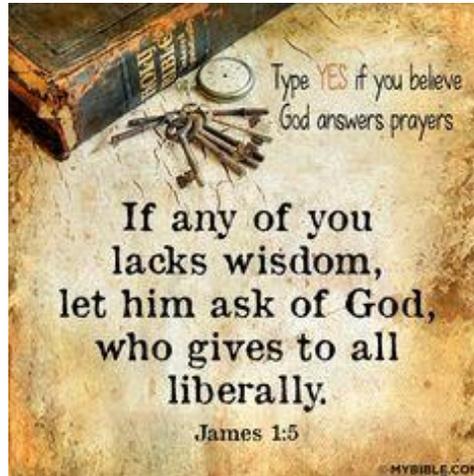
⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

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**HOW TO RECOVER FROM OUR BROKENNESS
(James 1:5)**



RECOVERING FROM OUR BROKENNESS

Based on Titus 3:3-7, what's revealed in the text that allows you to recover?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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RECOVERING FROM OUR BROKENNESS

Based on Titus 3:3-7, what's revealed in the text that allows you to rejoice?

Hidden Jewels:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

**OUR COMMITMENT IN THE STRUGGLE
(Romans 8:35-39)**

Pick out words & develop an action plan to live out your struggle.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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OTHER SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Genesis 3:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

Matthew 4:1-11 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

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⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Genesis 2:17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

2 Corinthians 11:14 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.