

**SERIES: THE PROCESS OF BREAKTHROUGH
PART 6: TACKLE THE ROOT ISSUES**

We all have hurts that we either deny we have, or we struggle to break through them. We all have hang-ups that seem to haunt us the years of our lives. We all have habits that too often get the best of us. We're in a series entitled, The Process of Breakthrough, and today we're going to look at **Step 6**, which I call the **Transformation Step**. It's the T in the acronym **B.R.E.A.K.T.H.R.O.U.G.H.**

Become Clear: I'm not God which means I'm not all powerful, all knowing and ever present. My life is out of control.

Realize God is God. I believe that Jesus Christ is all powerful and He can restore me to wholeness and the breakthroughs I desire and need.

Embrace His will. I make a decision to surrender my will to Father God's care.

Acknowledge my wrong and confess my faults to myself, to God and to someone I trust.

Knock on someone's door. How to find a safe person to confess my faults, failures, flaws and sins.

Tackle the roots of the issues you struggle with by willingly presenting yourself to God and asking Him to heal and restore the broken and damaged areas of your personality.

This step is based on **Romans 12:1-2**. Please read these two verses with me out loud. **“And so dear brothers and sister, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice--the kind He will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? ²Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.”** Transform, change of your mind. The way we are transformed is by having our minds changed.

This morning I simply want to do two things: Talk about, where do my character defects come from, and why is it so hard to get rid of them. Next week we will look at step 7 H in the breakthrough process which stands for **HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD**. In this step we look at how humility is the key to cooperating with God's change process so we can experience how God can give us His power to break through the barriers, blockades and bondage that have messed up our lives for way too long.

I. Where do my character flaws come from?

Because you're complex, they come from three sources: biological source, sociological source, theological source. My chromosomes, my circumstances, and the choices. That's where your flaws come from.

A. My chromosomes. Genetics explains predisposition but doesn't excuse sin!

That's your chromosomes. Both your mother and your father contributed to you 23,000 chromosomes each. And so you inherited some of their weaknesses. You inherited some physical defects from your parents, and you inherited some emotional imperfections from your parents. This explains your predisposition towards certain problems. But it doesn't excuse a sin. For instance, because of my parents, I may have a tendency to get angry, but that doesn't excuse me to go out and murder somebody. I may have a tendency to be lazy, but that doesn't excuse me from doing nothing with my life and just being a bum. I may have a tendency, genetically, to be given toward certain addictions, but that doesn't excuse me to go out and make the choice to become addicted. My genes, genetics, my nature is one source.

B. My circumstances. Character flaws are often attempts to fill unmet needs

(Kathe – please come up now)

You were raised a certain way, and you learned a lot of your ways of relating, your patterns, and your habits. You learned from your parents and you learned from other people. You

learned to respond to your own needs in certain ways and how to cover for yourself, how to handle hurt and rejection. **A lot of your flaws are simply self-defeating attempts to meet unmet needs.** You have a legitimate need for respect. But if you didn't get respect early in life, you settle for attention and figured out a way to get attention in many various ways. You have a legitimate need for love, but if you didn't get love, you may have settled for cheap sex, multiple sex partners, to try to get some emotional closeness. You have a need for security, but if you didn't get it, you may have tried to cover yourself with materialism and possessions to show “I'm secure.”

KATHE: BREAKTHROUGH TESTIMONY

C. My choices. Character flaws are often positive qualities being misused

Loved ones, the thoughts you allow into your mind, will and spirit are more powerful than you will ever know. Look at this powerful quote I came across over 40 years ago and it still leaves me speechless today.

**Sow a thought reap an act,
Sow an act reap a habit,
Sow a habit reap a character,
Sow a character reap a destiny.**

Paul drives this point home in Galatians 6:7-9, **“Don’t be misled. Remember that you can’t ignore God and get**

away with it. You will always reap what you sow. ⁸Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful desires will harvest the consequences of decay and death. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. ⁹Do not get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time." Once it becomes a habit, you're stuck until you choose to go to God and break through those barriers, blockages and bondages you never intended to develop in your life but developed because you chose to do a certain thing that became a habit.

Why does it take so long to get rid of these things? Why is it so difficult? How many of us have tried fads, therapies, books and seminars?

II. Why is it so hard to change the flaws in my life?

A. Because I've had them so long

You didn't get them overnight. It took years, and you're not going to lose them overnight. Many of the habits—the patterns—you have developed in childhood, and they may not be comfortable, and they may even be self-defeating, but at least they are familiar. It's like an old pair of shoes. Maybe they're not the best for running, but they're comfortable. So a lot of your imperfections you just simply say, "That's just the way I am." Because you've had them for so long, it's hard to let go of them.

B. Because I identify with them

We confuse our identity and identify with those things. I don't know why, but we often confuse our identity with our flaws. We say, "That's just the way I am." You don't have to be that way. You can change. When you say, "That's just the way I am," you're identifying your identity with your defeats. Complete this sentence (in your mind) "It's just like me to be _____," a workaholic, overweight, anxious, passive and let people run over me, fearful, to lose my temper. What you're doing is setting yourself up to identifying your flaws, and it then becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. You say, "I'm always nervous when I get on planes." What's going to happen the next time you get on a plane? You're going to be nervous. You set yourself up by saying, "That's who I am." What happens is that unconsciously, one of the reasons you can't change, is because you're afraid: "If I really let go of this flaw or imperfection, will I still be me? This has been a part of me. I've always been this way. If I let go of it, will I still be me?"

C. Because they have a reward

Every flaw has a reward. It may mask my pain. It may give me an excuse to fail. It may allow me to compensate for guilt in my life. It may get me attention. My flaw may allow me to control other people. Any time a negative behavior is repeated in you, yourself, your kids, anybody, even though it's self-destructive, there's always a reward.

We don't do things that don't get rewarded. You may have never thought about it that way, but there's a reward. You may just be getting attention by your flaw. You may be getting to control somebody by your flaw. So there's a reward, and you don't want to let go of that reward unconsciously. Mother says to the kids, “Kids, come down to dinner.” And they don't come. So she yells, “Kids come down to dinner.” They come. We set up our mothers to yell. She figures out yelling works. There's a reward. You have to be aware of that.

D. Because satan discourages me

He's constantly suggesting negative thoughts. He's the accuser. He says, “This will never work, you can't do it, you can't change.” Some of you have been coming to this breakthrough series and thinking, “This is good. I'd really like to break through this habit. I'd like to stop hating that person, I'd like to stop hurting from that past experience, years ago, that happened out on the school yard, I'd love to change.” Then you get outside and satan starts: “Who do you think you are? You think you're going to change, forget it! Other people can change, but not you. You're stuck. It's hopeless. Don't even think about changing.” He's always saying these negative thoughts to you. Worse than that he says, “If you try to get rid of this, you'll go crazy. If you try to get rid of this, you'll self-destruct, something bad will happen to you.” The Bible says satan is a liar. He's a liar. Jesus calls him “the father of lies.” The Bible says the Truth is Jesus Who sets us free.

After David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, and then she conceived, and David tried to cover it up by murdering one of his most trusted soldiers and leaders. When David is finally confronted by the prophet Nathan, David finally comes to grips with his flaws and defects by tackling the root issues in his life. Psalm 51:1-10, **“Have mercy on me, O God, because of Your unfailing love. Because of Your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ²Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴Against You, and You alone have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what You say, and Your judgment against me is just. ⁵for I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. ⁶But You desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. ⁷Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Oh, give me back my joy again; You have broken me—now let me rejoice. ⁹Don’t keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.”** Notice how David models for us how to tackle the root issues in our lives. V. 2 David asks God to wash him clean from his guilt. Purify me from my sin. Notice in v. 3. “For I recognize my rebellion.” V.4 “It is against You, and You alone have I sinned. I have done what is evil in your sight.”

As we close this morning (afternoon) I want to close in prayer with you and ask you if there is anyone here today that

you would say on this Mother's Day, you realize that there are roots that you need to deal with and that is what is at the core of your own sins, faults, flaws and imperfections. Today you can do so by asking Jesus to take over the rulership of your life, and you repent and surrender your life to Him. Let's pray.