

3 BREAKTHROUGHS FOR THE BROKEN

Start the Conversation

Read This Story, and Then Join in With Your Own ...

We moved our family across the country when my husband was invited to pastor a church in the Midwest. The congregation was excited and welcomed us with enthusiasm. We had high hopes and believed we shared the same vision. On several different occasions, they told us they were behind us and that they were committed to the ministry. But not long into our time there, the venture showed signs of instability. Soon, people started huddling up in groups in corners of the church building, talking in low voices and then looking away when we came into view. It wasn't long before people started leaving the church and saying ugly things on their way out.

We were all scarred by the time it was over. Scars that ran deep and cut across many layers. Some hurts take years to heal, and sometimes you never fully recover. You just end up walking with a limp.

In my case, I got used to the limp. I started to think that I'd been born with it; that it was part of who I would be forever. I started to think that I'd always have an ache inside.

Talk It Out

Don't Hide What's Inside—Open Up!

- What hurts do you carry with you that you don't think can ever be healed?
- What was it like before you were injured?
- What would have to happen for you to be free of that old hurt?

Engage God's Word

Read Malachi 4:1-3

- What will happen to those who do evil things?
- What will be left?
- Who will make this happen?

Discover Real Change

Consider How You Can Apply God's Word

The word *frolic* means merriment, fun, or a party (dictionary.com). In the early days of our painful experience at the Midwest church, I could only think about the people and the situation with pain and anger. A party was the furthest thing from my mind. If you had told me I'd be able to look back on those days and find anything good in them, I would have sincerely doubted you.

But nothing gets past God. Over time, I was able to let go of the hurt, and the desire for revenge. God does not intend for us to walk around with a spiritual limp. He wants us to be healed from painful hurts that threaten to cripple us. When we surrender those hurts to Him, God can make us whole.

- Do you think God is able to destroy any root of hate, anger, or lack of forgiveness that you've been carrying around?
- What would it be like to be free of that hurt?
- What will you do to celebrate?

Go Deeper

Read These Passages on Your Own

- Psalm 147:2-4
- John 5:1-8