

*James Crawford – “The Father Gradually Fixes You”  
Sunday Sermon- Preached on 6-18-23*

## **“The Father Gradually Fixes You”**

### **Introduction:**

We humans think we are so tough, but God knows better. Our Heavenly Father considers us frail and only dust according to the Bible. This is why He fixes our brokenness very gradually and delicately. We all still have areas of brokenness and yes, the Father is intent on fixing them. Our understanding of how gentle the Father is with us as He conforms us is crucial to our overall restoration process. Join us this Sunday on Zoom to learn more! We would love to see you!

For He knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust...

Psalm 103:14

### **1. We Are All Broken and Wretched**

Notice here that Paul the Apostle called himself wretched. Another word for wretched is broken. If Paul was broken so are we.

Romans 7:14 - 8:1

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do,

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that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**24 O wretched man that I am!** Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Free from Indwelling Sin

8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus**, who do not **walk according to the flesh**, but **according to the Spirit**.

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## **2. What is Brokenness?**

Our brokenness manifests in our family problems, bad-habits, illnesses, poverty, sins, attitudes, abuses, trauma, shame, deception, rejection, divorce, broken relationships, disappointment, and fear.

### **3. I Am Not as Patient with People as the Father Is**

I want to be more like my father in heaven, don't you?

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you.

2 Peter 3:9

What promise is Peter talking about here? God has promised to judge the earth with fire, just as He once judged the earth with water.

He's writing to Christian believers. God is not slow in keeping His promise (of judgment). He is patient with you. Why has Christ not yet come? God held back His judgment long enough to bring you into His kingdom. That is the love of God for you in Jesus Christ.

Peter says "God is patient with you..." (3:9). If one day with the Lord is

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like a thousand years, then God has indeed been very patient with all of us. Our sins have gone on a long time according to heaven’s clock.

Day by day we cast ourselves on His mercy, trusting the cleansing power of the blood of Christ, and Peter says, “He is patient with you...” Don’t you find it amazing that God does not look down at you and say, “I’m done with him!” or “I’m done with her!”?

Since God has shown you this kind of patience on heaven’s timescale, you can be patient in real time with that unbelieving loved one, or that hard-hearted cynic at the office.

Who does God want you to show His patience to today?

Early this week the Lord said to me, “Slowly conform My people to the rules of My Word. Let them come near to hear My Word and deliver them of their false mindsets very slowly.”

#### 4. **Our Church Vision Is to Help God Fix His Beloved Children**

1 Peter 5:1-14

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **shepherd the flock of God** that is among you, **exercising oversight, not under compulsion**, but willingly, as God

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would have you; **not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering** over those in your charge, **but being examples** to the flock. And **when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**

#### 5. **We Are Beautiful in Brokenness**

Song of Solomon 1:5

I am dark, but lovely...

#### 6. **God is Conforming Us into His Son’s Image**

Colossians 3:10

And have put on the new self, **which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

Romans 8

**28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,** to those who are called according to His purpose.

**29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...**

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He

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called, **these He also justified;** and **whom He justified, these He also glorified.** 31 What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

God is for us during the process of sanctification.

## 7. **Eternal Rewards for Yielding**

The sanctification process tries us as God refines and conforms into the image of Christ, the Father’s servant. We receive amazing eternal rewards for saying “yes” to God in this process.

This is when we begin to close the door to the sin in our lives, say yes to serving in the body of Christ and seek the Father intimately as Jesus modeled on the earth.

Mark 10:45

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

Matthew 19

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” 28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will

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also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

## **8. The Separation of the Tares and Wheat**

The Spirit does the conforming and we must learn to flow and partner with Him. We do not want to get ahead of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For **this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**