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A Message From Kay

Welcome to our July newsletter launch! The monthly publication, *Pursuit by God's Spirit*, reflects the Savior's relentless love that pursues every person. Whether we have known Jesus for years or are early in experiencing Him, the Spirit draws us to "go deeper."

Through the years, I've had the privilege of watching God change impossible situations of women (and men) into blessings. In Christ, seasons of struggle will refine us, through a transformative process, into vessels of honor. This monthly newsletter pays tribute to the Savior who soaks real-life challenges with His grace.

My prayer is to bless you with a topic common to us all: "Seasons of Brokenness: A Journey to Renewal." Please consider forwarding the article to friends, colleagues, or family who come to mind. You can also visit my website (www.kaygardner.com) to learn more of my 'story' and two recently published books. The devotional, *Even So, She Smiles at the Future*, encourages wives enduring spiritually unmatched marriages. The training handbook, *Appointed for His Glory: Sharing the Good News of Christ at the Pregnancy Resource Center* equips the Christian advocate to share the gospel at pregnancy centers and other ministries. After exploring, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. I would love to hear from you. (kay@kaygardner.com)

Wishing you joy for the journey!

Kay

Seasons of Brokenness

A Journey to Renewal

When trials produce seasons of brokenness, our struggles seek fuller understanding of God's purposes. Brokenness is a heavy word, and, on the surface, it may not align easily with thoughts of a loving Father God. Spiritual brokenness begins by yielding our lives to Jesus. As we continue to surrender self-will, we develop resilience within the struggles of marriage, pregnancy issues, bereavement, estrangement with children, career upsets, health problems or other crushing issues. We hear the desperation in a woman's voice that cries out, "I have to grow fast! I can't handle this situation on my own! "Growing faster" is the building of spiritual stamina that begins when we identify (in part) with Jesus's own suffering followed by redemption. A deepening peace of mind settles in when we anchor ourselves in the Word, share our prayer petitions with others, and memorize scriptures to weave through our minds and bring hope to vulnerable feelings.

Author H.R. DeHaan shares a helpful understanding of brokenness:

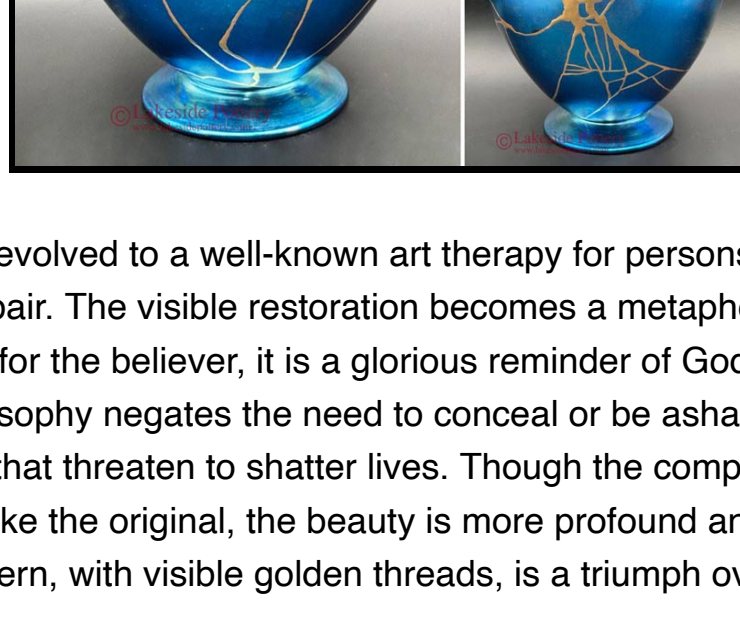
"Before a thing can be made useful, something must be broken. Before the house is built, the tree must be broken down. Before the foundation can be laid, the rocks must be blasted from their quarry bed where they have long lain in peace and quiet. Before the ripe grain can cover the fields, the soil must be completely broken down . . . Before there can be life, there must be death. There is no making without breaking. To the child of God, however, every broken thing is but the assurance that God is making something useful. We cast the broken things aside and call them "junk," but our God casts the unbroken things aside as useless."

When we finally reach the conclusion that we can't mend ourselves, we carry the shattered pieces of our lives to the feet of Jesus. He doesn't cast them aside as worthless. He understands brokenness personally. Jesus voluntarily submitted His body to be broken to offer New Life through forgiveness of sins and the goodness of salvation.

We often view our cracks, scars, and shattered dreams as things to be hidden or quickly patched up. Instead, are not our broken places the very spaces God does His most beautiful work?

Beauty from the Shards

It reminds me of the process of a lovely Japanese art form called kintsugi. This ancient art takes broken pieces of pottery, like a cup or vase, and restores the pieces to the original form—a mending with luxurious liquid gold. Flaws are restored through the process of a redesign as golden threads bind the cracks and create new "scenery" on the pottery's exterior.



Kintsugi has evolved to a well-known art therapy for persons in need of emotional repair. The visible restoration becomes a metaphor for trauma healing. And for the believer, it is a glorious reminder of God's care. The kintsugi philosophy negates the need to conceal or be ashamed of past experiences that threaten to shatter lives. Though the completed pottery will not look like the original, the beauty is more profound and valuable. The new pattern, with visible golden threads, is a triumph over the past.

What about you? Do you believe brokenness is the end of your story? Do you believe another person, your sin, or life-changing situation "gets the privilege" to ruin your life? A resounding no! We are overcomers! God tailors a unique design meant "for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT).

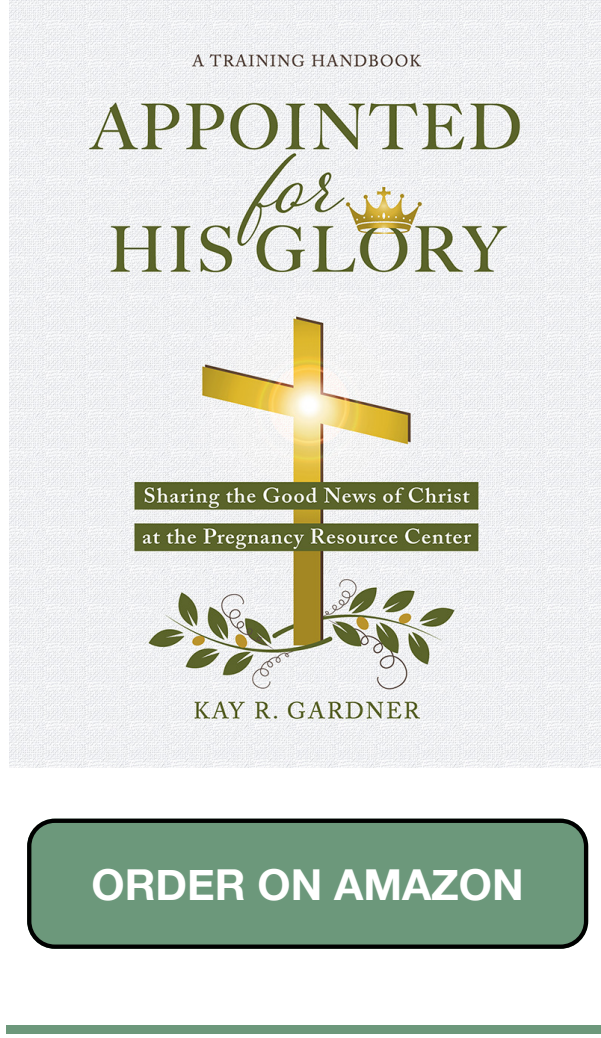
Whatever silent weight you carry, may you allow this quiet reading moment to become a gentle space to rethink what God may be restoring in your life. Let go of control and invite God's guidance to plumb the depths of His grace.

Thank you for joining our new circle of friends today. Together we seek God's *spiritual kintsugi* where brokenness transcends to beautiful.

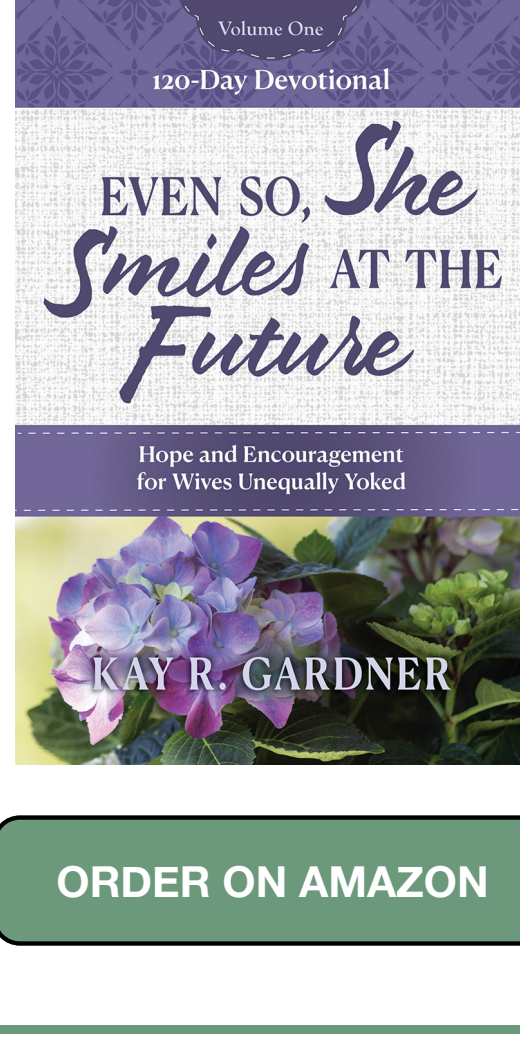
Reflection: How do you relate to the scripture in 1 Peter 5:10? "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you."

Prayer: Instill our lives with confidence, Lord, to exchange our plans for yours. Show us "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6 NIV). In Jesus's Name, Amen.

*H.R. deHaan, *Broken Things* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1982), reproduced in H.R. deHaan, "Why Must we Suffer?," *Christian Living*, accessed June 28, 2026, Christian Living Archive.



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Learn More About Kay

Kay R. Gardner is a Christian leader and speaker who saw God's plan unfold through her unequally yoked marriage and a cry to Jesus for help. Now, she mentors women in similar situations. Serving as a pregnancy resource center director for decades, Kay has witnessed how new life in Christ impacts the choice to sustain life in the womb.

Over the years, Kay has developed training materials that offer support to advocates for sharing personal testimonies and the Good News of Christ's message. She has also taught gospel-centered workshops through Care Net and Heartbeat International, and spoken at pro-life conferences and meetings in Romania, China, and Russia.

In 2024 KK Christian Press published the first of Kay's three-volume series "Even So, She Smiles at the Future", a 120-day devotional that brings hope and encouragement for wives unequally yoked. Kay's second book was released in 2026. "Appointed for His Glory" is a training handbook, focused on sharing the Good News of Christ at the Pregnancy Resource Center.



Have a comment or question for Kay?

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