

# Living in Brokenness and Venerability

Ezekiel 36

**“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”**

**Ezekiel 36:24-28**

The most specific trajectory of spiritual growth is a movement **from** hard heartedness **toward** tenderness and vulnerability.

It's not that whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger in the way a callous could allow you to endure pain. **But what doesn't kill you may just make you weak enough to unclench our hands from the fruit of knowledge and reclaim the beauty, peace and power that comes with being a human that humbly surrenders to simply being the beloved creature of a holy, mighty, and beautiful God.**

# Explicit vs Implicit

## Trama:

**Explicit Trauma:** Bad things that happened to you that should not have.

**Implicit Trauma:** Good things that should have happened to you, but never did.

# Moving from Hard Heartedness to Venerability:

- **Silence and Solitude**
- **Honesty with self and others**
- **Acknowledging coping mechanisms**

**CHRISTIAN MORALISM IS  
OBSESSED WITH DOING  
GOOD WITHOUT HONEST  
CONVERSATIONAL  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
JESUS.**

**TO LOVE IS TO BE  
VULNERABLE.**

**“They saw just about the worst kind of persecution that anyone can see. And what did they discover? That the strength granted to them by their faith in God gave them the power to stand up to the soldiers and guns and laws of the state. In one of the many books written about Le Chambon, there is an extraordinary line from André Trocmé’s wife, Magda. When the first refugee appeared at her door, in the bleakest part of the war during the long winter of 1941, Magda Trocmé said it never occurred to her to say no: “I did not know that it would be dangerous. Nobody thought of that.”**

**-Malcolm Gladwell**