

## More Valuable than the Original

The ancient Japanese art form, Kintsugi, involves taking broken pieces of a pottery piece and putting them back together. Even the small shards from the original are put back in place. Cracks are filled with gold and the entire vessel is coated with lacquer. Instead of hiding the cracks they become the focal point of the restored piece. Because of its new character, the restored piece is considered to be more beautiful than the original. Each restored vessel is a one-of-a-kind, unlike any other piece ever made.

The concept of the art form dates back centuries to when a warlord's favorite cup was broken and then beautifully restored. The tragedy of the broken vessel was converted into a prized treasure, much more valuable than before.



As human beings, we are broken and in need of restoration. We were born as a beautiful creation but sin inherent in this world has turned us into fragmented shards. We are each broken in our own unique way. In the midst of our brokenness, the restoration begins when Jesus Christ enters our lives. God's Grace and Mercy fill the cracks that makes us whole again. We become stronger because of God's strength.

A restored child of God is a thing of beauty, unique in its own design. Once we have personally experienced the love of God, we continue to seek a stronger relationship with God. We leave the old behind and are a new creation. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).* The flaws of our past life, now forgiven, become the foundation of who you are as a Child of God. We are more valuable than the original because we have made the choice to follow Jesus. We follow Jesus in our earthly life and are fully restored with the salvation God offers to believers. *(Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me (Psalm 51:12).* The cracks filled with gold lead us to the streets of pure gold (read Revelation 21:18) in our heavenly destination. Restore us, Lord!

**The Bible Says:** *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:10).*

**Question:** What areas of your life are fragmented and in need of restoration?

**Closing Prayer:** Dear Lord. We live in a broken world, and because of our sin, we are broken, too. Save us, restore us, and lead us to Your eternal home. Amen.

*The idea for this devotion is based on a writing in Our Daily Bread, September 22, 2023.*