

## TRAINED BY GOD

Sanctification is a Christian word that simply means “brokenness.” It’s like the best trainer you ever saw breaking and training a horse so that the horse could be its best. God loves us the way we are, but He wants us to be the best we can be. Cowboys and cowgirls like to be the boss, and it takes a huge lump of humility and understanding for us to realize we have to willingly let God break and train and discipline us. We gotta get that thing in our brain we can’t put in a horse. That “try” component that will make mediocre horses into great talents. They have a lot of heart! They don’t cheat and aren’t distracted.

Our church has a ‘slide show’ before the Sunday service. On one slide was this quote from J. H. Jowett “God doesn’t give us comfort to make us comfortable but to make us comforters.” Cowboy talk, God didn’t create us to be pasture ornaments. God created us to have fellowship with Him; that fellowship is a bit like running your favorite barrel horse: the timing and connection are so cool. The horse hears, sees and feels every cue you give—it’s great.

Before we can have that super cool run and be of great use to our owner, we gotta go through the breaking—the round pen, and all. If we’re hard-headed, we get our head tied to our tail. We may be saddled for a couple of days to get our head right. Everything God does to us in this sanctification process is necessary.

Now, everything that’s hard in our lives isn’t of God, but God allows it. You see, we’re different from a horse; we can run away from the ranch. We have free will and can make our own choices. Some of the thumping on our head is because we put ourselves in the wrong hands, into Satan’s hands. We put ourselves into the hands of the harshest, meanest trainer you’ve ever seen. All he cares about is hurting us in order to get back at God. But the good news is, we can run away from the mean trainer and into God’s arms whenever we want.

If we’ve put ourselves under the mean trainer, we’ve had our heads thrashed on a few times. When we come to God, it may take some time to forget the beatings we got, but God can do anything in us. He’s the God of the impossible. Will you let the God of the impossible be your trainer and make you of great use to Him and His kingdom?

So, sanctification is the Christian giving himself up to God to let Him do His work in us. We must trust His lessons are for our own good. We gotta try and never cheat Him.



**PSALM 25:4-5**

**SHOW ME THE RIGHT PATH,  
O LORD; POINT OUT THE ROAD  
FOR ME TO FOLLOW.  
LEAD ME BY YOUR TRUTH AND  
TEACH ME,  
FOR YOU ARE THE GOD  
WHO SAVES ME.  
ALL DAY LONG,  
I PUT MY HOPE IN YOU.**

# Prayer

*Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and He will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. Acts 3:19-20 (NLT)*

## DIVINE DIRECTION

### HOSEA 14:8-9

God, our Creator and Father,

Help me to realize that it is You who answers all of my prayers.

Forgive me for forgetting that you care for me and for my family.

Forgive me for thinking when good things happen it is a coincidence, my intelligence or my hard work. It is You, always You. Every good and perfect gift comes from You. You, Oh Mighty God, shower us with good things. This world is under your divine direction.

Thank you Lord, that even though I often ignore You, You always desire to draw near to us. Thank you that you are always there to guide us away from evil and the evil temptations that surround us.

Thank you Lord, that everything good that comes from my life is because of You.

O Lord help us to stay away from idols. You are the one who answers our prayers and cares for us. God, you are like a tree that is always green; and everything good that comes in my life is because of your blessings. Lord, make your cowboys wise that they might understand these things. Lord, may your discerning cowboys listen carefully.

God's paths are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But the sinners stumble and fall in those paths. Help us to remember that we will stumble and fall if we are not living your way in your power.

We can't be good or right without You, O Heavenly Father. By the power of your Holy Spirit strengthen us to run from all forms of idol worship. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we produce the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness and perseverance. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we become wise and discerning.

Give us grateful hearts for all that You are and all that You have done for us.

In the mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen