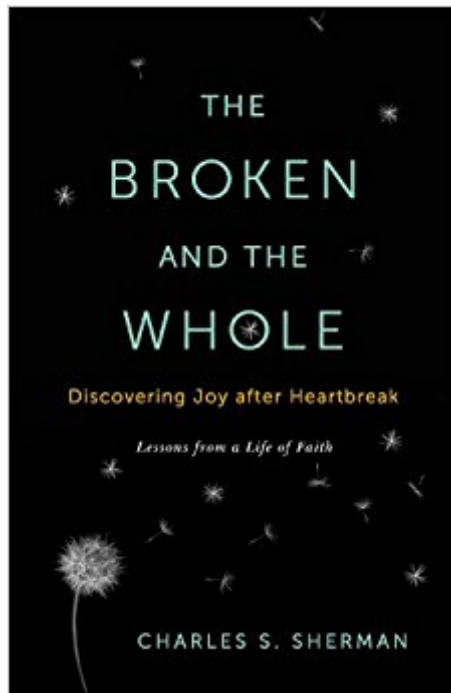


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# The Broken And The Whole: Discovering Joy After Heartbreak



## Synopsis

A powerful, inspiring memoir in the vein of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* about the wisdom a rabbi gained after his young son suffered a catastrophic brain stem stroke that left him quadriplegic and dependent on a ventilator for each breath.> As a young, ambitious rabbi at one of New York's largest synagogues, Charles Sherman had high expectations for what his future would hold—a happy and healthy family, professional success, and recognition. Then, early one morning in 1986, everything changed. His son Eyal spiked a fever and was soon in serious respiratory distress. Doctors discovered a lesion on the four-year-old's brain stem. Following high-risk surgery, Eyal suffered a stroke. Sherman and his wife later learned that their son would never walk, talk, feed himself, or breathe on his own again—yet his mind was entirely intact. He was still the curious, intelligent boy they had always known. The ground had shifted beneath the Sherman family's feet, yet over the next thirty years, they were able to find comfort, pleasure, and courage in one another, their community, their faith, and in the love they shared. The experience pointed Rabbi Sherman toward the answers to some of life's biggest questions: To what lengths should parents go to protect their children? How can we maintain faith in God when tragedy occurs? Is it possible to experience joy alongside continuing heartbreak? Now, with deep insight, refreshing honesty, humor, and intelligence, Charles Sherman reflects back on his life and describes his struggle to address and ultimately answer these questions. > is a moving, affecting, and inspiring meditation on what it means to embrace life after everything you've known has been shattered to pieces.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a religious experience. A beautiful story of a happy family hit hard by an illness that would destroy most families and how they turned it into a path of faith. Whatever your religion you will find a pathway to the Lord when you read this book. I suggest reading it twice. So much in the book it cannot be adsorbed in one reading!

I cannot recommend this book more highly. It is a story that needed to be told, and is told in a way that no person couldn't identify with. Inspirational and clearly faith based, yet not in the least amount preachy, there is a lesson here for all of us. Whatever your lot in life, and whatever you perceive to be others circumstances, it is incumbent upon us all to never presume to know what others are going through, or to claim to feel their pain. I take this lesson from this book and encourage every person reading my review to read this book! We all think our problems are bad. Whenever I find myself feeling sorry for myself, I plan to re-read this book. Even if I don't feel sorry for myself, I plan to re-read this book.

What a wonderful and inspiring book. This book is not only very well written, it's great the way so much is explained, bible stories, Jewish history and traditions, personal and religious beliefs, etc. I would strongly recommend this book to EVERYONE!!

The book arrived on time. It is riveting. Two of my friends and I have all had the same experience of having difficulty putting it down. Rabbi Sherman is most inspiring and encouraging, not only for those who have a child with a disability but for anyone who has experienced loss or tragedy or know someone who has. Two of us who have read it are Catholics, the other an agnostic. We've all loved it and recommend it highly.

each chapter of this thoughtful book gives you so much to think about and realize its significance to everyone's life. The book is well written, and will appeal to all ages- although the focus is on Jewish stories and traditions, it will be memorable to all.

The book jumped around a lot. From past to present to a little more past to a bit less future. etc. After meeting the author at a talk, I realized that he's still very high on himself even though he said

this turn of events made him more humble.

This book should be read by everyone to show them that in the dark there will be light. I thank Chuckie for sharing this story with the world. He and Leah are wonderful role models in times of darkness they saw the light. It takes a couple with so much devotion to their faith and themselves to prove to the world that Yes, I Can and Will!

This book was a great read from a man who is respected by so many who have seen him, most of the time in a specific role, however this book shows him in a unique and unusual way. Just the he writes, it's more like a journal of how he and his family have carried on through what could have been a disastrous situation for someone else, but he has shown a wonderful transforming of a family in a difficult situation. I 'enjoyed' this book - - as it was so well written, about the trial he and his family have emerged with greater love and understanding for others, who can go to him for help, support and resources.

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