

~ 3 Stages of Breaking a Horse ~

- I. Setting foundation – **Baby Christian**
- II. Using jobs to build foundation – **Growing Christian**
- III. Using foundation to do a job – **Mature Christian**

- **Neglecting the foundation to get a job done is the cause of many problems.**
- The job becomes more important (sorting cows, loping circles, opening a gate) than building the foundation. They complete the job, but at the expense of weakening the foundation.
- By thinking only about the job, negative patterns are set, and the horse learns to operate through unwilling submission.
- **An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Do not let negative patterns form.**

If good communication, willing submission, solid foundation of maneuvers, and a balanced life to direction ratio have been established, the person is on the right path for perfection. Most of the problems we have with our horse result from a lack of confidence in one of these areas. All hope of perfection leaves when willing submission is lost. Once the person tries to force the horse into operating through unwilling submission, the perfection that was previously established slowly starts to diminish.

I have never achieved total perfection in any of my horses. However, there have been times when I have felt perfection while I was riding. It is by “feeling” these times of perfection and multiplying them, that I believe perfection is attainable. I don’t know if I will ever attain total perfection with my horses, but I know that it is attainable. I think the amount of perfection that can be experienced is entirely up to the person and how much time they are willing to work on it. Perfection does certainly not need to be attained to enjoy riding a horse. However, for me the more times of perfection I have when I am riding, the more enjoyment I receive. My livelihood revolves around horses, and if I am not improving I get bored and riding colts becomes work. The times I have improved the most with my horses have been when I have been aware of the times of perfection during a ride and tried to multiply them.

This is true for my life as well. The best times of my life have been when I have been in God’s perfect will, regardless of the circumstances. There are some people that say that perfection is unattainable. If someone wants to believe that, that is fine. However, I am going to believe my Bible and strive for perfection in Christ Jesus. I would rather be an optimist and run the risk of failure, than a pessimist and run the risk of being right. I would rather strive for perfection and end up mediocre, than try to be mediocre and end up worthless. We are already perfect in Christ Jesus; it is just a matter of staying in Him. Just like when working with our horse, we just need to multiple the times of perfection, from seconds, to minutes, to days, to weeks etc. Whenever perfection is lost and we fall out of the perfect will of God, we just need to regroup and start over, starting over in God’s perfect will.