

Be blessed!

Part 10: Feel the Passion!

Texts:

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (The Message) - "Seize life!"

Hebrews 4:14-16 (KJV) - "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. [15] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Part 6 – How to Have a Breakthrough in 2014

- A. We have been talking about not only having a breakthrough, but how to continue living in a dimension far beyond the limitations and boundaries which most humans experience.
1. Several years ago, I watched a very inspirational movie. Now, let me qualify that statement by saying that most of the movies I watch are on the plane and have been heavily edited. Please don't think that I enjoy the vulgarity and inappropriate language and scenes in many movies today. But this one, entitled "Limitless," starring Robert DeNiro and Bradley Cooper, was very impactful. It has been proven that most people never use all their mental and intellectual abilities. The movie storyline was about the development of a pill that would enable the user to maximize their capacity and potential. Like the movie title, the user's abilities would then become 'limitless.'

While I don't believe such a chemical formula will ever be developed, I do believe that is precisely what the Holy Spirit proposes to do in our lives.

2. I have been using Apostle Paul's reprimand to the church in Corinth for the divisions among them, which caused them to live as 'mere men':
 - a. **1 Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV)** - "Are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?"
 3. Apparently, Paul believed that when we are born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, we do not live with the same restrictions as the unbeliever. In fact, we are no longer *ordinary human beings!*
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)** - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
 - b. Once we are a new creation, Paul taught that we could do much more than those who have never been empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. **Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)** - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
 4. Jesus clearly taught this as well:
 - a. **John 14:12 (NKJV)** - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."
 - b. **Mark 9:23 (NKJV)** - "Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."
 5. Faith taps into the limitless power of an unlimited God. He can perform for the believer what those who do not trust Him could ever experience.
- B. Many today are allowing the negatives in life to prevent them from being all they were meant to be.
1. Instead, they become hurt, bitter, and cynical. Eventually, they stop believing or even trying to move forward.

2. We must learn specific strategies that will turn 'setbacks' into 'setups' for victory!

3. **Joke:** Speaking of strategic approaches . . .

Four people were seated opposite each other on a train: a beautiful young woman traveling with her grandmother and opposite them, a handsome young army lieutenant with his commanding officer.

At one point on the journey, the train passed through a long tunnel, which caused the passenger car to instantly become pitch black.

Suddenly, there was the sound of a kiss, followed by a strong slap. When the train emerged from the tunnel, all four passengers sat stone-faced, as if nothing had happened.

The beautiful young woman thought to herself, "That was a wonderful kiss, but my grandmother must have slapped his face. He probably thinks I did it and won't pay attention to me again."

The grandmother thinks, "That's a fresh thing for that man to kiss my granddaughter. I'm sure glad she stood up for herself. Someone needs to teach him a lesson."

The commanding officer thought, "This is terrible! She must think I was the one who kissed her. Just wait until I get back to the base. I'm really going to give this lieutenant a piece of my mind."

And the handsome young lieutenant thought, "This was my day! I got to kiss a beautiful woman, slap my commanding officer, and got away with both!"

4. The Bible is filled with stories of people who had such passion, they experienced incredible breakthroughs by moving Heaven to act on their behalf.

- a. If we ever become as passionate for God, we too can move Heaven and live in a dimension far beyond that of ordinary men and women.

- b. Through some extraordinary act of love or service, they caused God to perform extraordinary feats for them!
- 5. We've spoken about David moving God with extraordinary spiritual hunger, Abraham and his extraordinary sacrifice, Hannah's extraordinary prayer, and Paul and Silas' extraordinary worship. We continue the study with . . .

C. Key No. 5 - The centurion who moved God with his EXTRAORDINARY FAITH!

1. **Matthew 8:10 (NKJV)** - "When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"
2. Without the benefit of a Bible or associating with people who for centuries had known God or had a relationship with Him, this man had greater faith than the entire nation of Israel.
3. There are basically two kinds of faith: human faith and the 'God-kind' of faith.
 - a. Human faith is what we mortals believe about God. Whether it's weak or strong, this type faith is usually mixed with varying degrees of doubt. The fact that the centurion was a pagan clearly demonstrates that he had human faith.
 - b. This type faith is much like that of the distraught father who pled with Jesus, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!" (**Mark 9:24 NKJV**).
4. Human faith is demonstrated in these three ways:
 - a. Prayer-answering faith
 - b. Saving faith
 - c. Miracle-working faith
 - d. All of the above are given by God. An individual's faith is usually determined by the degree of doubt they also possess.
5. The 'God-kind' of faith Paul referred to is a spiritual gift.
 - a. **Mark 11:22 (NKJV)** - "Have faith in God."

- b. In the original Greek, it reads: "Have the faith of God!"
 - c. The gift of faith is when God gives you **His** faith. It's the ability to believe about God what He believes about Himself.
- 6. The best way I know to describe the 'God-kind' of faith is to relate the story of how six blind men described an elephant.

"Hey, the elephant is a pillar," said the first man who touched his leg.

"Oh, no! it is like a rope," said the second man who touched the tail.

"You're both wrong. It is like a thick branch of a tree," said the third man who touched the elephant's trunk.

"Seems like it's a big hand fan," said the fourth man who touched the ear.

"No, it's more like a huge wall," said the fifth man who touched the belly of the elephant.

"You're all wrong. It's like a solid pipe," said the sixth man who touched the elephant's tusk.

 - a. A person with normal vision would laugh and say that to some degree, all six men were correct—but with very limited descriptions.
 - b. Human faith is also limited. Only by combining the six descriptions could you even **begin** to understand what an elephant is like. But even so, human sight provides another dimension that portrays the elephant in a manner the six blind men could never imagine.
 - c. That's how the spiritual gift of faith works. God lets you "see" Him as: ever faithful, endlessly capable, infinitely willing and always true, to the extent that all doubt is erased.
- 7. 'God's faith' is far superior to any level of human faith. Our faith can be shaken; and as pointed out by the father asking Jesus to deliver his son, it can be mixed with doubt.
- 8. God never doubts Himself. What He believes about Himself never wavers.

9. I've often felt that when the disciples asked Jesus in **Luke 17:5 (KJV)**, "Lord, increase our faith," they were asking for the wrong thing. They should have asked Christ to give them **His** faith.

D. Key No. 6 - Solomon moved God by possessing EXTRAORDINARY HUMILITY!

1. In our day of selfies, Instagram, CrackBook,....(I mean 'Facebook'), and with so many people being totally self-absorbed, humility is an increasingly rare virtue.
2. **2 Chronicles 1:10-12 (NKJV)** - "Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?" Then God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king— wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like."
3. The publican in **Luke 18:11** also possessed extraordinary humility.
4. If given the same opportunity presented to Solomon, most people would have jumped on the offer as their 'key to the candy store' . . . but not Solomon.
 - a. He asked for wisdom to be a better leader! Do you know what that tells me? Solomon wasn't full of himself!
 - b. Those who humble themselves can move God.
5. The king of Nineveh moved God to spare his city by laying aside his royal robes and humbling himself in sackcloth and ashes.
 - a. **Matthew 23:12 (NKJV)** - "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

E. God wants your life to be limitless! If you have not yet received the Holy Spirit, don't wait another day. Be filled now!