

Hey, everyone! Love and blessings to you all!

Pastor Heard

Part 12 – 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 8 – How to Have a Breakthrough in 2014

- A. As we have been teaching, God wants our lives to reflect His glory. Once He partners with us, He wants us to mirror His glory to the world around us.
1. My reason for teaching this series is to help us move far beyond our human limitations to the supernatural realm where we will be empowered by an all-powerful God.
 2. **Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)** - "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
 3. Things that stop others should never stop us. As Paul wrote to believers in Rome, we are more than conquerors through Christ.

- a. **Romans 8:37 (NKJV)** - "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."
- 4. In his epistle to the Corinthians, Paul actually scolded believers for allowing carnality to reduce them to the state of 'mere men.'
 - a. **Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV)** - "Are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?"
 - b. When considering our human potential and possibilities, this scripture certainly raises the bar. We must never be content to live as we did before we were saved! Those who are 'in Christ' are AMPED UP and AWESOME!

5. **Joke:** "Boudreaux is Missing!"

After Boudreaux had been missing for a couple of days, Clotile suggested to Marie that they go to the sheriff's office to file a missing person report. When they arrived, Deputy Guidry asked Marie for a description of Boudreaux for the report. So she tells him, "Well, he's 25 years old, 6 ft. 3 in., weighs 190 pounds, is very well-built, very handsome, soft-spoken, and treats me like a queen."

With a surprised look, Clotile says, "Marie, . . . Boudreaux is 50 years old, 5 ft. 4 in., weighs 260 pounds, fat as he can be, ugly as sin, loud and obnoxious, and he treats you like terrible!"

Smiling, Marie says, "Yeah, but if dey can find dis one for me, Boudreaux can stay lost!"

- 6. If you understood the life God meant you to have, never again would you want to return to the old one!
- 7. Passion makes that vital difference!

B. In Matthew, chapter 13, the Parable of the Sower is one of Jesus' most important teachings. The seed, which is the Word of God, was sown in four types of ground.

- 1. First was the hard, wayside soil.

- a. The birds, which represent the many distractions that prevent the Word from growing, came and devoured the seed before it had a chance to become productive.
 - b. It is so important to meditate on the meaning of God's Word, both in our personal devotional time and the preaching of the Word in a corporate setting.
2. Next was the stony ground.
 - a. This person's relationship with God has no depth.
 - b. When faced with adversity, persecution, or tribulation—which we all must endure, they stumble and fall.
3. The third type of soil was infested with thorns.
 - a. This person has a problem with their priorities.
 - b. By failing to keep the 'main thing' the 'main thing,' they become distracted by the cares of life and the deceitfulness of riches. As a result, the Word is choked and they die spiritually.
4. The fourth type, which is the good ground, is the one that amazes me!
 - a. Why does the 'good' ground have three levels of productivity—30 fold (or percent), 60 fold, and 100 fold?
 - b. Understand that every believer in the 'good soil' category received the same seed, had the same climate, humidity, fertilizer—and even the same care by the gardener. So, why three different levels of fruitfulness?
 - c. I believe a person's productivity depends upon their passion and how they apply the Word!
5. God's Word teaches that the believer is powerful and can do all things through Christ. However, in this fallen world, seldom—if ever—do we hear such teaching!

- C. The question, then, would be: how can we overcome the many years of negative programming before salvation that says fallen men and women are limited and weak?
1. How can we move into the realm of living according to **His** supernatural power—and not our own?
 2. To answer this question, I've been teaching how we can move, or touch God by tapping into the unlimited resources of His Spirit and abilities.
 3. One principle we have observed is that **great passion** moves God. If you expect Him to do extraordinary things, you must no longer act ordinarily!

Extraordinary Keys to Extraordinary Breakthroughs

- D. **Key No. 9** - Rebecca moved God by giving Him EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE!
1. **Genesis 24:19 (NKJV)** - "And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."
 - a. Think about this: ten thirsty camels could each drink 40 gallons of water. At 8.3 pounds per gallon, that's $10 \times 40 \times 8.3 = 3,320$ pounds of water for one young woman to carry from the well, up the stairs, to the watering troughs.
 - b. And what's more impressive is the fact that she lived in a desert-like area with unusually high temperatures.
 2. Those with a servant's heart must overcome the temptation for their acts of kindness to be seen by others or to earn recognition for themselves. If that is our motive, we will continually be disappointed. An act of service must only be done to please God—not man!
 3. Having a servant's heart reminds me of the two sisters, Martha and Mary. Martha complained because Mary had left her to do all the serving while

she sat and listened to Jesus. But He gently rebuked Martha by saying that Mary had chosen what was more needful.

- a. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have the hands of Martha and the heart of Mary!
 - b. How far could the Kingdom have ever progressed if there were no faithful volunteers to serve as ushers, hostesses, praise singers, or teachers?
 - c. So many today expect to be paid for everything they do, even at church. But if Jesus should ask to be paid for what **He** does, we would all be in big trouble!
4. Jesus demonstrated extraordinary servanthood by washing the disciples' feet.
- a. In our day, the symbolic 'washing of feet' would require two things: we must be in community with others, and we must serve with no expectations of being repaid.
 - b. The happiest people in the world are those who have learned that serving others is the best way to serve God.
 - c. **Colossians 3:22-24 (NKJV)** - "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. [23] And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance."

E. **Key No. 10.** - Daniel and his three Hebrew companions moved God with their EXTRAORDINARY COMMITMENT!

1. **Daniel 3:16-18 (NKJV)** - "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. [17] If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. [18] But if not, let it be known to you,

O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

2. **Daniel 6:10 (NKJV)** - “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”
3. The significance of these two examples is that in each case, they refused to compromise their values or to join the 'politically correct' crowd.
4. Since these young Hebrews were in a different land with many strange customs and culture, it would have been so easy to say, “Let's not make any waves. Things are going so good for us, why jeopardize our future? We might as well leave 'well enough' alone.”
5. Instead, they intentionally declared their beliefs as being non-negotiable. Even if it cost their lives, they would not compromise their values! At times, we must also stand alone!
6. The church must stand for something! Without being disrespectful, I've watched some pastors 'hem' and 'haw' when asked their position on issues our world struggles with today. They refused to take a firm position for fear of being criticized or rejected.
7. I would never advocate rudeness or a lack of diplomacy; we should always respect the rights and feelings of others. But the *Bible* is still the *Bible*, and when asked, we should never be afraid to declare exactly what it teaches!