

Great services today! God is good!

Love and blessings always,

Pastor Heard

Part 30: 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."

From our teaching on **Incredible Keys to Incredible Breakthroughs**, today we will continue with:

Four Principles That Can Change the Rest of Your Life!

- A. **You were not meant to be average!** Because you are a child of God and have been filled with His Holy Spirit, the Mighty God of Heaven lives within you!
1. Old things have passed away and all things have become new.
 2. **Philippians 4:13** tells us we can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens us! That is what being a believer is all about!

- a. It's not about adding rules and restrictions that will limit you, as the enemy and those who do not understand the Gospel would have you believe.
 - b. The churches in which many of us grew up were more concerned about 'going to heaven' than living successfully here on earth.
3. The new birth was meant to free you, empower you, and remove all those limitations that keep you from moving forward.
4. Having said that, we must acknowledge that every successful endeavor will also have its boundaries. Everything is not a 'heaven or hell' issue. To ensure your success, some things will have to be released. This is why top athletes enforce such strict disciplines upon themselves that the rest of us do not observe.
5. In areas where the unbeliever and all humans struggle—believers can excel because of the supernatural power within us.
6. The 'God-factor' is an amazing empowerment for success. When you connect with God, He begins the process of elevation in your life. Never will He leave you in the same condition that He found you.
 - a. **Psalm 113:7-8 (NKJV)** - "He raises the poor out of the dust, And lifts the needy out of the ash heap, [8] That He may seat him with princes—With the princes of His people."
7. **Joke:** "Now, That's What I Call Faith!"

A Catholic nun ran out of gas one block from the nearest gas station. To her disappointment, the clerk said that the store was out of gas cans. Then she remembered the bed pan in the trunk of her car and filled it with gas. Boudreaux and Thibedoux were passing by as the nun poured the contents of the bed pan into the gas tank, not knowing it was gas. Boudreaux turned to Thibedoux and said, "Now dat's what I call faith! If dat car starts, I'm going to church every Sunday from here on out!"
8. Unfortunately, success requires more than God alone working for you. If that statement seems startling or sacrilegious, let me explain. You can't

just sit and wait for destiny, thinking God will do it all for you. Failing to understand this principle prevents many believers from fulfilling the purpose for which they were created.

B. Four principles can forever change your life! In addition to the God-factor, three others will determine just how far you will go.

1. **You must develop the potential God placed within you.**

- a. It's so important to know that even though we've been born again, **we** must develop our potential. Think of the untapped potential all around us, in every life!
- b. In **Luke 13:6-9 (NIV)**, the vineyard dresser asked the master to give him just one more year to prune, water, fertilize, and care for an unproductive fig tree, hoping it would become fruitful. And you must do the same thing. To succeed, certain things must be pruned or cut away. Other areas must be fertilized, watered, or developed.
- c. Notice that it wasn't the master who committed himself to care for the fig tree. We can't expect God to do what we must do ourselves.
- d. God's gifts are always in seed form. Nothing is given to us fully matured and developed. We must help it grow.
- e. Many believers complain that others experience breakthroughs and prosperity while nothing seems to change for them. There are two reasons for this. Perhaps they are not obediently following God's principles for a blessed life. Or they fail to attend church faithfully or read God's Word and pray. Perhaps they aren't tithing regularly.
- f. The second group says, "I tithe, go to church regularly, read the Bible and pray. Why doesn't anything special happen for me? It always seems to happen to someone else." And it's true. They **do** tithe, go to church, read the Bible, and pray. The problem is that they have no plan for personal growth, nor do they increase their

potential for success by developing their present gifts or growing new talents and skill sets.

- g. They haven't enrolled in any classes or learned new skills that would enable God to elevate their lives. Even if God allowed an opportunity to fall into their lap, they haven't gained the knowledge to recognize it if it should come their way.
- h. In 1859, the first oil well in the United States was drilled in Titusville, Pennsylvania, on the property of a man who had become discouraged with farming. A film appeared on the surface of the stream running through his farm that made the livestock sick. Finally, he sold the farm and moved to Canada to study—you guessed it . . . oil. And the film on the surface of the water? Yes, again . . . oil was seeping from the ground into the water.

2. **Gain wisdom—not just knowledge.**

- a. The currency of the Kingdom is wisdom, not money. Those who have wisdom can acquire money.
- b. **Proverbs 4:7-9 (NKJV)** - "Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. [8] Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. [9] She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."
- c. The difference between wisdom and knowledge is this: knowledge deals with information, facts, data and procedures; wisdom is knowing when and how to strategically apply that knowledge.
- d. The church has failed its people by not challenging them to master more than the Word of God. Our children must be taught about the seven spheres of culture: business, government, media, arts and entertainment, education, the family, and religion.
- e. Unfortunately, the church has declared that these areas of culture are carnal. But the truth is, God never made a distinction between

what is sacred and what is secular. In fact, the Hebrew word 'avodah' is the root word for *work* and *worship*. He sees our work as worship!

- f. The church's failure to engage in these areas was actually predicted by John in Revelation 17:9. The great harlot who seduced the world away from God was sitting in a position of dominance upon seven mountains. To prophetically 'sit on a mountain' indicated a position of authority and leadership, with 'mountain' referring to forces that shape or mold culture and humanity.
- g. Knowing when and how to use knowledge is the result of applying the knowledge gained from completing a process. To truly learn and master a subject, you must first do it.
- h. A few days ago, Geri was hit from behind while waiting for a red light. After the car was repaired, we saw that they had failed to adjust the headrest. In an impact, the headrest normally opens to avoid whiplash injuries, but we were told that it would take another \$500 and three weeks to schedule this repair. It didn't look too difficult to me, but I couldn't get it back in place. So, you know what I did? I googled the procedure for resetting the headrest—and there it was, on the Internet! With Andrew in the backseat pulling on the part that had popped out, all I had to do was push down, and it instantly clicked into place. In less than two seconds, I saved \$500.
- i. Just knowing what to do wasn't enough. To receive any benefit from knowledge, you must first know how to use what you've learned and then apply it. The problem is, if you never increase your knowledge, how can you ever hope to gain wisdom?

3. Controlling your thoughts will help you control your emotions.

- a. Emotions make life worth living! Who would want to live in a world without emotions? . . . without love? Who wants to be such a

zombie, nothing would ever upset or disappoint you? That would also mean that you have no goals or standards that matter. We aren't supposed to live and act as if we've had a lobotomy. The problem arises when people become a **slave** to their emotions.

- b. I'm reminded of the Shunamite woman who moved God in a time of crisis by demonstrating **extraordinary emotional stability in a crisis!** She refused to allow her emotions to rule her life.
- c. **2 Kings 4:26 (NKJV)** - "Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, 'It is well.'
- d. Her answer is amazing! The truth was, she was **extremely** upset. Unable to have children, this child was a gift from God! Now the enemy has tried to steal his life and his destiny. But she refused to allow her emotions to overwhelm her! Instead, her thoughts were, "I can't give in to cheap histrionics. I must maintain my faith in God during this crisis." And she let the peace of God rule in her heart.
- e. **Philippians 4:7 (NKJV)** - "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
- f. That's hard to do when your son is lying on a bed at home—dead. But even a situation is beyond our capability, it's not beyond God's!
- g. Important truth: **everyone** must deal with crises. **Everyone!** By watching people, you will soon observe that some will enter a crisis and feel shocked and upset like the rest of us. Then they make a decision to trust God and believe in His faithfulness. Others who face a similar crisis will become angry and begin to panic. They allow their emotions to take control. So, what causes one to trust, another to panic and yet another to become angry? It's all determined by the thoughts they think.

- h. You see, you will either rule your emotions or your emotions will rule you. When your emotions are out of control and you feel yourself spiraling into deep despair, your faith will be negatively affected.
 - i. The word 'worry' comes from the Old English *wrygan*, meaning 'to strangle.' When we worry, we strangle our ability to think and perform effectively. Worry literally strangles our faith!
 - j. **Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)** - "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."
 - k. We must learn to respond according to God's instructions to Moses in **Exodus 14:13** and to Jehoshaphat in **2 Chronicles 20:17**:
"Stand still and see the salvation of The Lord!"
 - l. From the natural perspective, on both occasions, absolutely terrifying things were happening.
 - m. In **Exodus 14:13**, Pharaoh's army had pursued and overtaken Israel after they had left Egypt and camped beside the Red Sea. Hemmed in by the sea before them, the mountains on either side and Pharaoh's army behind, intending to slaughter them the next day.
 - n. In 2 Chronicles, when the mighty armies of the Moabites, the Ammonites and the people of Mount Aesir had joined forces to destroy Judah, the Lord told Jehoshaphat to stand still and see the Lord's salvation.
 - o. On both occasions, humanly speaking, the situation looked hopeless. But God instructed that if they would not be afraid and trust Him, they would see His salvation. ***And they did!***
4. The fourth principle is simply: **Never give up!**