

Hey guys,

We started a new mini-series today. The responses, both from the people and God, were phenomenal.

Blessings and favor!

Part 5 – Feel the Passion!

Texts:

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

2 Kings 13:15-19 (NKJV) - "And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. [16] Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. [17] And he said, "Open the east window," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them." [18] Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. [19] And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times."

How to Have a Breakthrough in 2014

- A. As a word of explanation for our text, the prophet Elisha was near death and Joash, king of Israel, had come to show his respect.
 1. Having come so close to entering the spirit realm, Elisha felt compelled to deliver a strange command to the king that had no logical explanation.

2. He tells the king to open the window toward the east, place an arrow on his bow, and draw back.
3. The prophet then climbed out of the bed and wrapped his feverish hands around the king's hand. Together, they released an arrow through the open window that faced the east.
4. Each of these movements contained a powerful meaning and significance:
 - a. In the Book of Ezekiel, God's glory approaches the earth from the east.
 - b. The Tabernacle faced the east.
 - c. As lightning shines from the east to the west, Christ will return to earth from the eastern skies.
 - d. The opened window that signified God's window of opportunity could also mean ***your*** time has come!
 - e. The arrow of deliverance signified angelic armies had been positioned to strike on Israel's behalf.
 - f. The prophet's hands covering the hands of the king meant that God was supernaturally empowering Israel's ruler.
5. When the king struck the ground in a half-hearted, lackadaisical way, the prophet became angry!
 - a. **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."

B. Notice the definitions in the dictionary for the noun, "breakthrough":

1. A military movement that advances through and beyond the enemy's front-line defense, such as: the pentagon announces that U.S. forces have broken through enemy lines and captured new territory.
2. An act or instance of removing or surpassing an obstruction or restriction, such as: the President reports a breakthrough in treaty negotiations that has overcome a stalemate.
3. Any significant or sudden advance, development, achievement, or increase in scientific knowledge or diplomacy; or the removal of a barrier to progress, such as: a major breakthrough of jet engines in air transportation.
4. As an adjective, the word could refer to an engineered breakthrough technology, or what critics call a 'breakthrough' film.

C. The Bible is filled with *breakthroughs*. From Genesis to Revelation, incredible stories are recorded of an extraordinary God using ordinary men and women to turn impossible situations into reality.

1. Words of Life are found in scripture. When those words are applied to our lives, we experience God's powerful Word overcoming every situation.
2. Life in the Kingdom is all about breakthroughs. Unfortunately, many believers do not know how to claim their breakthrough, so let me teach you how!
3. As you read God's word, two things are necessary: you must obey and believe.
4. We know that faith without works (or obedience) is dead, but so is obedience without expectancy. As scriptural teachings are applied to your life, you must not only believe, but *expect* to receive His promises.
5. Live with faith in your heart. In a cynical world where promises are easily made and then broken and claims are often proven untrue, remember that God is faithful. He doesn't lie! Speaking of believing....
6. **Joke:** Duke, the Dog That Could Count

Did you hear about Boudreaux and his dog, Duke? Boudreaux claimed Duke was so smart, he could count. Well, his friend Fontenot didn't believe him.

Boudreaux said, "Fontenot, you watch, sha. Ole Duke will prove it." So Boudreaux sent Duke down to the bayou.

A few minutes later, Duke came running back, heeled up real nice, and then barked three times. Boudreaux said, "Fontenot, you go look. You're gonna find three ducks swimming on dat bayou."

Well, no way did Fontenot believe that Duke could count, so he walk down to the bayou and sure enough, there were three mallards sitting in the bayou. Fontenot said, "Sha, dat's jus plain luck. No way can dat dog count them duck."

Boudreaux said, "Okay, tell you what I'm gonna do. I'll send ole Duke over to the cattle pond and see if dere be any duck dere." A few minutes went by and here came Duke. Once again he heeled up and barked, but only once this time.

Fontenot, still doubting, walked down to the pond and sure enough, there it was, a single duck swimming in the middle of the pond.

Boudreaux walked up and said, "Well, Fontenot, what'cha think?"

Fontenot just shook his head.

Boudreaux said, "Look at him, Duke, he still done doubting you. How bout you run over past dem woods to the rice fields and tell us if dere be any geese over dere."

Now this was a little distance. It took Duke ten minutes to come back and when he did, Ole Duke was running around all crazy-like, shaking a small stick he had found. Fontenot said, "See I told you dat dog couldn't count. Look at 'em shaking dat stick and running all round. Something's wrong wit dat dog!"

Boudreaux was puzzled. He had spent all this time working with Duke and had never seen him do this.

Just about that time, Boudreaux's son, Boudreaux de 2nd, came running by and he stopped and looked at his daddy Boudreaux and his friend Fontenot and said, "Y'all need to hurry up and get your guns. I came in past dat rice field and there are more geese over dere dan you can't shake a stick at."

Just then, ole Duke dropped his stick and heeled right up to Boudreaux and grinned, and started shaking his head up and down!

D. First Kingdom Principle: God is in control.

1. There is no situation or time when He is not in control!
2. **Nahum 1:3-4 (NKJV)** - "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet."

E. Second Kingdom Principle: We can move God to act on our behalf. By stirring Him to change our situation, we can experience a breakthrough.

1. You don't have to change every situation yourself. Just do your best.
2. But at times, the solution isn't horizontal, it's vertical.

F. Incredible things happen when we touch God. Our human abilities and responses are always limited, but never is God!

1. **Hebrews 4:15** employs a unique Hebraic linguistic, or literary device. To emphasize a point, Jewish people will use a double negative. English grammar considers double negatives improper.
2. The above verse states, "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." Notice that? We have not,... which cannot...
3. God, the ultimate Communicator, Living Word, Voice that spoke the world into existence and that spoke to Moses from a burning bush, purposely phrased it that way.

4. While this is a common literary device in the Hebrew culture and language, if the Greek was translated into proper, correct English grammar, it would have simply read: "We have a high priest who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." The translators purposely left it like this to emphasize the writer's point.
5. In the Old Testament, no one was permitted to touch the High Priest's garments. To do so would have made the High Priest ceremonially unclean and unfit to complete his religious duties for the nation.
6. This is why Jesus paused after being touched by the woman with an issue of blood and asked, "Who touched Me? Virtue has gone from Me." The flow of blood had made the woman ceremonially unclean and touching Jesus would have done the same to Him.
7. For this same reason, Mary was not permitted to touch Jesus after the resurrection (John 20:17). As our High Priest, He was on a mission to Heaven's Mercy Seat to offer the blood He had shed at Calvary as the sacrificial Lamb of God. To fulfill the righteousness of the Law, He had to be ceremonially pure and untouched.

G. The benefits of 'touching' God are so life-altering, it could very well change everything about your situation:

1. Touching God can change you personally
2. It can change your circumstances.
3. It can cancel the enemy's assignments against you.
4. Miracles can occur that otherwise would never happen.
5. It can accomplish promotion and elevation.
6. Blessings too numerous to enumerate can be released.
7. Destiny and divine purposes can be achieved.
8. By observing God's power and faithfulness, your faith will automatically be increased.

H. Another Important Kingdom Principle: If you want God to do something extraordinary, do not act ordinarily! Our extraordinary acts of devotion can move God extraordinarily!

1. In our text, King Joash should have struck the ground until the prophet said, "Alright. That's enough!"
2. He should have imitated Trini Lopez' song from long ago, "If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning, I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land!"
3. The king's problem was his lack of passion. Consequently, he hindered the whole nation from receiving what God had intended to accomplish.
4. God had opened a window of opportunity, His glory was proceeding from the east, angelic armies were preparing for battle, and the arrow of God's deliverance had been released. But the king's lack of passion limited the level of breakthrough the nation would enjoy.
5. God's plan was to deliver Israel from Syria once and for all. He wanted to grant such a breakthrough, they would never again face this particular problem!
6. Go for it! God created you for this time and season. You have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this. So, strike the ground until your enemy is subdued for good!
7. Your passion will determine the level of your breakthrough!