

Great services today! Please remember to pray for the Thampy family from India. Mission giving in U.S. churches has decreased so dramatically, at the age of 73 and in bad health, Pastor Thampy is trying to raise monthly support. Last month, their ministry income declined to \$900. Let's support and pray for these worthy people! Many blessings!

Pastor Heard

Part 6 – 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."

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 2 - How to Have a Breakthrough in 2014!

A. Last week, we shared four Kingdom Principles that will position you to experience a breakthrough that could forever change your life.

1. I truly believe God is most pleased when His people find their greatest delight in passionately knowing and loving Him. That's the plan He designed for us.
2. When we are free, delivered, and growing in the grace and love of our Lord, we feel the most satisfied. God delights in that! Breakthroughs should be a natural part of our relationship with Him.
3. In this fallen world, situations are sure to arise where we desperately need God's help.
 - a. **Psalm 34:19 (NKJV)** - "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all."
4. When those who passionately seek Christ experience an awesome breakthrough, it's possible for others with little or no passion to observe what's happening and design their own formula for breakthrough.
5. For that reason, I will not provide a formula for passion. Rather, my goal is to disclose how much God truly desires for you to be complete in Him and to walk in your full destiny.
6. Hunger for God ALWAYS leads to fullness and satisfaction!
7. We talked about King Joash's incredible opportunity to see his enemies forever destroyed, only to have the offer diminished by his lack of passion. So, when your time comes, please respond properly!
8. **Joke:** "Tie Me Up"
A man came home from work one day and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy night gown. "Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything you want."
So he tied her up and went golfing.

B. In our last session, we spoke about important Kingdom Principles that will produce a breakthrough:

1. God is in control.
2. You can move God to act on your behalf.
3. Incredible things happen when you touch God.

C. The fourth Kingdom Principle from last week is: If you want extraordinary things from God, do not act ordinarily. Only extraordinary acts of devotion will move Him extraordinarily!

1. This does not mean that we can earn or merit divine intervention. That is always an act of God's grace. My point is: if you do what you have always done, you can only expect the same results.
2. Isn't it amazing how many still believe that by continuing to wait, something wonderful is sure to happen that will change everything. If you want a different result, in most cases, you must do something different.
3. To illustrate this point, a wise teacher cracked a joke and everyone laughed like crazy! After a few moments, he told the same joke again. This time, fewer people laughed. When he told the same joke a third time, there was even less laughter. But when he told it a fourth time, no one laughed. He then explained, "You can't laugh at the same joke over and over again, can you? So why would you keep crying about the same things over and over again? Something has got to **change!**"
4. **Isaiah 53:12 (NKJV)** - "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, (WHY?) BECAUSE He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."
5. God was extremely moved by the extraordinary manner in which Jesus suffered for mankind and the incredible price He was willing to pay for our salvation.

6. When Elisha urged King Joash to shoot an arrow through the open window, it meant God had opened a window of opportunity for Israel. The arrow symbolized His zeal to fight for Israel.
7. When the king only struck the ground three times, Elisha couldn't believe it! Having been given such a tremendous opportunity, how could he act so halfhearted and disinterested? Why didn't King Joash beat the ground numerous times with all his might?

D. Notice this fifth Kingdom Principle: Breakthroughs do not come merely to fill a need.

1. **Luke 4:25-27 (NKJV)** - "But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."
2. In John, chapter 5, Jesus walked among a multitude of sick and afflicted people at the Pool of Bethesda. Each of them had a need, but He only healed one man who had been lame for 38 years. Then turning, He left the premises without healing another person.
3. **Ecclesiastes 9:11 (NKJV)** - "I returned and saw under the sun that— The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all."
4. Would you really want to wait 38 years for your request to be granted?

E. People often wonder how a loving God could allow so many terrible things to happen in our world.

1. They fail to realize that even though God had given Adam and Eve authority to rule the world, they forfeited this privilege by giving it to their enemy.
2. For example, if a son or daughter lost their home in a scam that had been given to them by their father, the father could not file a lawsuit to reclaim the home. Instead, the one who had been given ownership and authority must take the scam artist to court.
3. That's exactly what happened with our world. After God had given the man and woman full authority, they forfeited their rights to the enemy who deceived them. To be returned, they must take legal action. This is why Jesus came as the "Son of Man" to show us how to fight!

F. In response to why God allows tragedies to occur in our world—especially in America, this commentary should cause us all to stop and think.

1. But first, may I remind that our nation's faith in God has been heavily attacked as never before. While many blame the current administration for this failure, it began before Mr. Obama took office.
2. In 2005, during President George W. Bush's administration, Ben Stein recited this statement on "CBS Sunday Morning" following a decision by the White House to use the term "Holiday Tree" rather than "Christmas Tree." (See photo - http://animaniacs.wikia.com/wiki/Ben_Stein).

"My confession:

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees, Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas trees.

"It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters

celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a crib, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

"I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

"Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

"In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

"Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her: "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

"In light of recent events... terrorists attacks, school shootings, etc., I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said okay. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said okay.

"Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said okay. Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

"Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with, "we reap what we sow."

"Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

"Are you laughing yet?

"Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

"Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

"Pass it on if you think it has merit. If not, then just discard it.... no one will know you did. But if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in.

My Best Regards,
Honestly and respectfully,
Ben Stein"

G. Sixth Kingdom Principle: You can have a breakthrough if you learn what moves God—and then do it. We have a High Priest who can be ***touched*** by the feelings of our infirmities! It's amazing to know that ***we can move God!***

1. The shocking truth is this: because God never changes, once you learn how to move Him, you can experience continual breakthroughs the rest of your life!
2. **Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)** - "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."
3. Remember: need alone does not move God. While some who had needs DID move God, their need did not initiate the breakthrough.
4. **Joke:** "Know How to Assess and Solve a Problem."
 - a. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
 - b. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
 - c. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
 - d. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
 - e. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausage and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

f. CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

H. In the Bible, why did people experience breakthroughs? It was their passion!

That brings us to the seventh Kingdom Principle.

1. Had King Joash understood and acted with passion, God would have awarded extraordinary victory over Israel's enemies.
2. Because he struck the ground only three times, he won three victories. Imagine! God had just opened a huge window of opportunity, the arrow of victory had already been released, armies of angels were standing at attention ready for battle, but suddenly, they were forced to relax!
3. I can almost hear the angelic groaning: "What? He only struck the ground THREE times? That's ALL?"
4. Had Joash been motivated to act with great passion, God would have absolutely destroyed that enemy nation and given him a permanent victory!
5. Seventh Kingdom Principle: Passion compels ordinary people to do extraordinary things that catch God's attention. That's when they receive extraordinary breakthroughs!
6. **Mark 11:24 (KJV)** - "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."
7. Next week: Extraordinary Keys to Extraordinary Breakthroughs!