

BACK TO THE BASICS OF FAITH

Strike A Mighty Blow!

Has anyone ever told you that before your breakthrough happens things just go haywire...that crazy stuff pops up all over the place? Well I've heard this for years, and for just as long—people have questioned me saying *"Things got crazier and crazier, and I didn't think I'd make it through. Everything around me got so buck-wild in fact, that I just knew I was on the verge of something over-the-top fantastic, but it never came my way! What happened?"*

Well, there's a few things that folks never tell you about this craziness, and one of them is the fact that there's a method behind the mayhem. The enemy sends this stuff our way to keep us distracted from the opportunity that's in our mist. And without realizing it, in many cases we become so focused on what's happening around us that the opportunity slips right on by.

I can hear sistas now saying *"ah huh! What God has for you is for YOU!!!"* I can get with that, but if we were able to hang on to everything that God has for us, you wouldn't see so many divorces. You wouldn't hear of a foreclosure, and there would be no need for the repo-man. The truth of the matter is that God has designed everything in the earth to be FOR US. Are there blessings with your name on them? I'm banking on it, but it doesn't exclude you from the requirements of helping those blessing to come your way.

It takes the power-ingredients of dedication, desire, focus, and hard work to take hold of a next level blessing. This is why we have to be fully aware when we use this term *"breakthrough"*. #1, we have to know exactly what it is we expect to break and #2) we must be able to recognize the cracks that the breakthrough will most assuredly cause.

A breakthrough implies that you've overcome something or you've penetrated an obstacle to the point of getting past it. To a whole lot of folks, this doesn't sound exciting enough. They want to witness a flat out, over the top, grand-style blessing that's going to transfer them to the next

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level of spiritual growth and abundance. Well a breakthrough can very definitely fit the bill, but only if we're sharp enough to steady ourselves through the process.

Imagine someone breaking through a literal glass ceiling that has limited their opportunities to expand, succeed, and grow for decades. Now visualize this person's fist, covered by protective gear of course, striking a mighty blow and finally bursting through that glass ceiling. Can't you just see the glass cracking, disbursting into tiny shards, and then falling to the ground. Visualizing this helps you to see the breakthrough as a process doesn't it, because that is exactly what it is.

Next level craziness can potentially knock us off the mark. It can cause us to take our eyes off the prize, something we can never afford to do. So here's a spoon full of wisdom that my spiritual elders would say "*What the devil meant for bad, the Lord will use it for your good.*" I like that, and let me tell you why. It's a flip switch. It takes your mind off the dart that's coming your way and places it back on the impenetrable spiritual armor that you've been given through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:10 KJV

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

God didn't give you His strength through Jesus Christ for nothing. He gave it to you so that you could do what Ephesians 6:10 commands. He said "**BE STRONG in the LORD and in the POWER of HIS might.**" A breakthrough requires you to put on what God has given you so that you are equipped to strike that mighty blow. He's going to work through you...empower you...to break that ceiling into tiny little pieces.

And when it breaks, there's some stuff that you've been holding on to for years that will break with it. Oh yeah, moving up always requires you to give up something to acquire something better. But you see, the problem with us is—when our old stuff falls to the ground, along with those shards of glass, we look down and try to pick up the pieces. That's when we get cut, then

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the enemy knows he has us. Instead of keeping our eyes on things above, we're trying to pick up the pieces of our old life, the one that kept us from hearing God's call to step up years ago.

We need to understand once and for all that the accoutrement of Jesus Christ is no joke. It gives us everything we need to stand with faith, strength, love, and power. Colossians 2:10 KJV very clearly tells us that we are "*complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*" We are filled to the top, packed to capacity, and oozing over with good stuff—all courtesy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Whether or not you want to admit it, God holds us personally responsible for living up to all that potential, because we don't have any excuses not to.

You have to trust 1John 4:4 KJV, that "*greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" What you have on the inside is greater than any dart the enemy whirled your way.

Your dream, your goal, your ambition is never too big for God. He dreams a better dream for us than we dream for ourselves. Remember, He specializes in the "*exceeding abundantly*". He's King of grand high-tech effects. He knows how to WOW us, but we needn't think that we can escape the cracks in our circumstances. Absolutely not! They'll break away and fall to the ground to make room for the breakthrough. So you have to recognize that those cracks and all the mayhem that comes with them, symbolize a falling away of the stuff that has kept you from bursting through way before now.

Look at all the notable victories and milestones that one achieves in life, such as graduating from high-school or college, getting married, or landing the job of a lifetime. It wouldn't occur to you to describe these accomplishments as breakthroughs. You would attribute them to a person's tenacious blend of the power-ingredients...dedication, desire, focus, and hard work. Having some idea of what it takes to stick to these assignments and see them through to the end, you would gladly offer your heartfelt congratulations to anyone who achieves them.

You also know that the enemy works just as hard to try to keep folks from accomplishing the positive things mentioned previously as he does with any other thing in life. Yet, we sometimes

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cling to the notion that a breakthrough will occur without the same dedication, desire, focus, and hard work that it takes to accomplish anything else; it won't. A breakthrough requires us to put on the mind of Jesus Christ so that when stuff gets crazy we're unmovable and steady.

In Matthew 4, we find that Jesus fasted 40 days and nights in the wilderness, and the scriptures tell us that after doing so, he was hungry. He was as human as we all are, so you can probably imagine that he was more than just a little hungry, perhaps even ravenous and physically vulnerable. It was at this time, at probably his weakest point, that he was tempted of the devil. Did he cave? Absolutely not!!! He hit the devil with a mighty blow time and time again with "IT IS WRITTEN... IT IS WRITTEN... !!!!

This must be our mindset! The Word of God is the protective gear that shields us from all fall-out...be it glass, stones, jobs, material things, or relationships...it doesn't matter, because ultimately it will all work out for our good.

Is your breakthrough going to come? You betcha, but you have got to be ready to stand like never before. For as Ephesians 6:11 (The Message) tells us *"God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way.*

¹³⁻¹⁷Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon."

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