

## What It Takes to Have a Breakthrough

As we end the Breakthrough Series, I just want to share with you three things you need to know in order to have a breakthrough. There's a few more but I promised that this will be a short message only and that's why there are three. But these three are very important. Keep this in mind and you'll experience God's blessing in your life.

The first one is

1. If you want a breakthrough, you have to pray through.

What do I mean? I mean if you want an answered prayer, you have to pray until something happens. You might call it the PUSH method of praying – Pray Until Something Happens.

This calls for perseverance. This calls for patience. This calls for persistence. You see, in God's economy, nothing happens by accident and nothings comes in an instant. Well, of course, God can answer in an instant like what when Jesus healed the sick instantly when people begged him to heal them. But, in the normal course of things God makes us wait before he answers our prayers. He makes us wait to teach us a lesson. And the lesson mainly is to draw us closer to him. And to learn to trust him.

The problem is we live in an "instant" world that's why we can't wait. Instant coffee, instant message, instant replay, instant delivery. We want instant gratification. We can't wait. Not being able to wait causes stress in our lives.

What's the no. 1 thing at present that plays on our desire for instant gratification? The almighty phone! Sometimes we act like our lives depend on it! We can't leave our homes without our phones. We panic if we forgot our phones at home. At night, we hear "ping" and we get up and check our phone. I must admit that I'm a victim of this, too. When I'm driving and I stop at the traffic light, what's my first instinct? I look at my phone and check. I look at the driver next to me, he's doing the same thing. It's a bad habit and I tell you, I'm disciplining myself to not do it. The modern phone is both a blessing and a curse. It destroys our concentration, our face-to-face communication with others, and our relationships especially with God.

What's the next thing after the phone? Alexa! We want instant answers and instant servants. Alexa, what's the weather today? Alexa, turn on the light. Alexa, lock the doors. Now, I'm not trying to be anti-tech. I'm a tech after all. My point is, our attitude toward God is being influenced by our attitude toward things. We sometimes treat God like a genie or a robot who is at our beck and call.

And it causes frustration in our lives. When it seems like the answer is taking too long, we fret and worry. And we even get angry at God. Let me tell you, God is not deaf and he is certainly not uncaring. He loves you more than you know. He wants to give you the best. But the timing may not be right yet that's why you're not getting it yet. And don't be surprised when you get the answer in a different form because God knows what's best for you.

Let me give you some examples of individuals in the Bible who knew how to pray through.

- **Jacob** – Remember the time he wrestled with God through the night until dawn? Hose records it by writing, “He struggled with the angel and overcame him; **he wept and begged** for his favor.” (Hosea 12:4)
- **Hannah** – she was barren for a long time and in 1 Samuel 1:10, it says, “Hannah was in **deep anguish, crying bitterly** as she prayed to the LORD.” (1 Samuel 1:10) She prayed persistently until the Lord granted her request.
- **Elijah** – He is someone who “prayed fervently” as James 5:17 says. And God worked miracles through him.
- And, of course, the Lord Jesus. In Hebrews 5:7, it says, “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions **with loud cries and tears** to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.”  
And, folks, that’s the key. The last two words – reverent submission. Praying through is a demonstration of your reverent submission to the most high God.

## 2. If you want a breakthrough, you have to follow through.

I’m talking here about the action you must take. You cannot just pray and do nothing. You have to take some steps necessary to achieve a breakthrough. It’s like if you want to pass an exam, you just don’t pray, “Lord, help me to pass the exam” and not study and expect to pass. You have to study if you want to pass. And in the spiritual realm, you just don’t pray, “Lord, please make my Muslim friend become a Christian” and not talk to him about Jesus and expect him to be a Christian. You have to witness to your friend.

We heard Kevin and Tina’s testimony earlier. If they prayed and prayed and did nothing, will they get the car? Highly unlikely. Although God can do that, it’s an exception. As I mentioned before, in the normal course of things, God wants us to follow through our prayers with action on our part.

William Carey, the father of modern missions, lived at a time when much of Europe didn’t care about sending missionaries to other parts of the world. They prayed for the conversion of the pagans in Asia and Africa but that’s it. They reasoned that God would convert them if that was his will. But William Carey followed through. Despite opposition from other top Christian leaders at the time and other obstacles, he went to India and labored there as a missionary. His wife became sick and died, I think his son died as well, but in the end, after seven years, he saw his first Indian convert. Years passed, and he was able to establish a Christian school. Many Indians came to know Jesus as a result of his follow through.

An example of one character in the Bible who prayed and followed through was Nehemiah. Nehemiah was one of the exiles in Babylon who were freed by King Artaxerxes of Persia after conquering Babylon. Nehemiah was the King’s cupbearer. Nehemiah began to have a desire to help in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. He prayed to God about it and asked God to give him success. In Nehemiah 1:4, it says, “For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.” That’s an example of praying through. Then, what did he do next? He went to the King with fear and trembling. Then, he told the king what was troubling him and asked permission for him to lead exiles to Jerusalem which the king granted immediately. Nehemiah prayed through and followed through. And he had a breakthrough.

Finally,

## 3. If you want a breakthrough, don’t force through.

What I mean with this is that you recognize that God is truly in control. If it seems that after all your praying through and following through nothing is happening, don’t take matters in your own hands. Don’t pre-empt God. If you do, you’ll regret it later on.

Friend, God is sovereign. He is in control. There is never a moment when he is not in control. Just think about the billions and billions of stars and planets and galaxies in the entire universe. They're all moving about in their designated orbits. There is order in the universe. If God is not in control, all these cosmic bodies would have clashed with each other a long time ago and the universe would be in total chaos and there wouldn't be life at all. Some scientists claim it is because of certain scientific laws such as gravity, and motion, and thermodynamics. But, who created those laws in the first place? The universe is so complex that there must be a designer, an intelligent designer at that. Even the great scientist, Albert Einstein, although an avowed non-believer in God, said, "Everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that some spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe, one that is vastly superior to that of man."

God is the one who holds things together. God is the almighty being who is above all and controls all. If God controls the universe, he can control your life, too. Meaning, he knows