

Breakthrough

Biblical Principles for Dominion in Difficult Situations

II Samuel 5:17-25

One of the constants of the human condition is that we are going to find ourselves from time to time in circumstances that we need a breakthrough. It can seem like we are just not moving forward, or we cannot get past a particular situation, or discouragement and doubt have become common companions and we just need a breakthrough. It can be a situation in our life or it may be a place in our spiritual growth where we just seem to be stuck, but whatever the cause we still just need a breakthrough. The Word of God has direction in this. As we look at this passage, it is important to remember that faith is required to receive anything from God, and faith needs to have something to attach to. I must have faith in God, I must have faith in His Word, but the highest expression of faith is when it attaches to a Word from God.

2 Samuel 5:17-19...*But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? Wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.*

Note in this passage that the first thing that happens is the enemy hears (or becomes aware) that David has been promoted, ie he was anointed king over Israel. Moreover, that he was anointed means not only that he was promoted by men but that he had been promoted by God and set in the place God had ordained for him, and immediately the enemies of the Lord come to attack. You will find that the devil understands seed time and harvest and *will always come to attack at the seed stage*. He knows that if he can dig up the seed before it has time to germinate, take root, or begin to grow roots, he has a better chance of interrupting the plan and purpose of God. Moreover, as a general principle, any time the plan and purpose of God moves forward, there will be an attack.

Note that David's first response is he *went down to the hold*. David went to the strong hold, a place designed for him to stay during an enemy attack and wait out the attack. The problem with the strong hold is that they never knew how long they were going to have to wait, and while they were waiting they were going to be on hold. While they were in the strong hold, or *on hold*, nothing could come in and nothing could come out of the hold. There was no way to bring in water and provision until the enemy gave up and went away, and no one knew how long that would take. A patient enemy would be able to eventually starve the people out or make them die of thirst, and in any event they were just going to be on hold until the enemy chose to go away. At the very least, it gives the enemy an opportunity to plant fear and to allow it to grow, and that is one of

the most powerful weapons the enemy has in his arsenal. Even if the enemy gave up and went away, the effects of fear were planted and given opportunity to grow, so that the next time the enemy came around, his weapon of fear was already working on his behalf.

That was not and is not God's highest and best response. The people of God were never to be the ones who drew back from the enemy, *we were to engage the enemy and be victorious*. God's intent was never that we stay on hold and wait out the enemy until he chooses to go away, *we were to engage him and be victorious*. We were supposed to be on the attack, not just hoping the enemy would leave us alone. Some how in Christian circles today people have the idea that we are supposed to pray the enemy off of us so he will leave us alone. That was never God's intent. God wanted us to *engage the enemy and be victorious*. Our enemy is under our feet, and we were to trample on him! David realizes this and changes his response.

David's next (and correct) response is to seek a Word from God, and he gets a clear word from the Lord that not only is he to attack, but that he will be victorious. At that point he acts in obedience to the Word from God. Note that he does not consult or seek confirmation from his advisors; neither does he consider the circumstances, what things look like, what he heard on the street, nor the strength of the enemy, or any factor other than the Word from God. His trust and confidence is in the Word of God alone, and he sets it above all other factors, acting only on the Word from God.

David is being tested. He has been promoted to a new level, and there are always tests at promotion. Generally there are tests before promotion (to establish the qualification) and after (to establish ability to function at the new level). However, no matter what the level of promotion or the circumstances we find ourselves in, the proper response to an attack is to seek a Word from God, to get a Word from God, and to act in obedience to the Word from God.

2 Samuel 5:20-22.... *And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim. And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them. And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread them selves in the valley of Rephaim.*

The word "Baal" means god, and the word perazim means breach, so it is god of the breach, or Lord of the Breakthrough. Something powerful has happened here and he memorializes it by naming the place. It is a place where he meets God, both in the realm of the natural *as well as the realm of the spirit and the supernatural*. It is the place where David meets the Lord of the Breakthrough, and David called the name of that place the Lord of the Breakthrough.

Note that as David sought the Word of the Lord, received the Word of the Lord, was obedient to the Word of the Lord, and acted on the Word of the Lord, God performed what He said He would perform. Note also that the enemy did not give up just because he lost a battle. He did not give up, but lined up again for the attack. Part of the strategy of the enemy is going to be to wear you down from the battle. Just because he was defeated in one skirmish does not mean he is going to go away. He will keep coming

until he knows you are fixed in your place and will not give in to fear, discouragement, fatigue or prospect of failure. Many Christians never get to the battle in the first place because they surrender to the enemy when the battle does not end at the first victory. Perseverance has to be a weapon in our arsenal.

As a side note here, you will notice that David is establishing spiritual markers and places of memorial in the spirit. The same thing happened in **Genesis 22:14 ...** And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah – jireh: It was not just a natural or physical place, it was the place where he met that part of the character of God. You see the significance of this in the story of David and Goliath: **1 Samuel 17:34–37** And David said unto Saul, *Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.* He has established a marker and a place of memorial in the spirit. God was with me and empowered me in that place in a supernatural way, He was with me again and empowered me again in the next place in a supernatural way, and if he did it then, he will do it again in current circumstances. We all need to establish spiritual markers and memorials of our own in the spirit realm to give our faith strong places to hold on to. It is how we grow up to become mighty warriors of faith.

2 Samuel 5:23-25...*And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself; for then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. And David did so, as the Lord had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.*

There is a subtle but very significant change by the author here. Note that in **verse 19** we were told “And David inquired”, but now in **verse 23** he says “And when David inquired ...” The first use seems to indicate a choice of alternatives, so David inquires of the Lord. By the time we get to the latter use, things have changed. There is now a clear presumption that David *will* inquire of the Lord. When he inquired of the Lord and the Lord moved supernaturally for him in the situation, he met the Lord of the Breakthrough. Now he is established in engaging the Lord of the Breakthrough before he proceeds, so he *will* inquire of the Lord, and something extraordinary takes place. Now it is the Lord who is going out *before him*, and the nature of the battle has completely changed. The Lord of the Breakthrough has gone before him and *already defeated* the enemy so that the nature of the battle has completely changed.

David has achieved a level of breakthrough he did not envision. God is not just going with him, but God is now going *before* him. God is not just helping him fight the battles, He is fighting the battle for him. David just has to come along behind and clean up the spoils of the war.

There is a picture here God wants us to see, and if we can get it we will meet the Lord of the Breakthrough for ourselves. There is a real enemy, a real devil, and he is going to engage us in battle just because he hates us, but he is going to especially engage us if

we are doing something for God's Kingdom. God's intent for us is not to draw back from the battle with the enemy, or to go on hold until the enemy goes away, but to *engage the enemy and be victorious*. We do that by *inquiring of the Lord*, getting a *Word from God*, and then acting *in obedience to the Word from God*. At that point the Lord will go before us and the battle will be His and not ours, and He will be responsible for the victory over an already defeated foe.