

# Experiencing Breakthrough

**Open Bibles/Apps | Welcome | Intro.**

**Matthew 17:14-21 NKJV** - *And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting.*

- It's All Spiritual - We tend to always focus on how to solve our problems in the physical realm. What can we do to make a difference. We often exhaust all of our "human" measures before turning to God to solve our problems.

We tend to try and solve all problems in the natural realm, but the solution always starts in the spiritual realm. This is why Prayer often becomes a formality. We do it because we know we should, not because we feel like we are unleashing heaven on earth. But that is exactly what we are doing. We are loosing heaven onto earth and asking God to intervene in our daily dilemmas.

- Instead our perspective often becomes - "Well I've tried everything else, so I might as well pray"

- **Natural vs. SUPER-Natural** - For something to be natural means that something was part of creation. Natural is what is our nature. If someone is a natural baseball player than it means they were created with that ability. And the bible says it is our nature to sin and the biblical word for a sinful man is a 'natural' man.
- But the Creator is greater than nature (Super-Natural) and has the power to change it. The word super literally means greater than. So Super Man is greater than regular man.
- The Christian life should be one of power...supernatural power...this only comes from the Holy Spirit
- It's natural to view things through the natural lens
- We need a perspective change when dealing with problems

**We all face OBSTACLES in life. We often call them** Roadblocks / Trials/Tribulations / Storms / Issues / Wife/Husband

## **4 Types of Obstacles people face**

1. Wilderness/Forest - An obstacle of confusion
2. Deserts - An obstacle of drought
3. Waters - An obstacle of fear
4. Mountains - An obstacle of ability

*So, what is it going to take for you to Breakthrough a Big Obstacle in your life?*

## **1. BREAKING THROUGH BIG OBSTACLES IN OUR LIVES REQUIRES: Bringing our problems to Jesus**

- In our text for today in **Matthew 17:14-15** - *"a man came up to him (Jesus) and, kneeling before him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water."*

One of the most important lessons that we learn here in this text is that the first thing this father did was to bring his big obstacle, which was his son's sickness, into the presence of Jesus.

- So let me ask you, ***"When difficulty or tragedy strikes in your life or in your family what do you do first?"***

Can you imagine the anguish this man had been going through watching his son uncontrollably seizure to the point where he would throw himself into fire. And just imagine the countless injuries and the emotional trauma this man and his son had experienced.

- Yet he didn't use this as an excuse to run away from God as many typically do, he instead chose to bring his problem to God.
- Jesus cannot touch a problem you don't give him access to.
- **1 Peter 5:6-7** - *So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

**Question:** *What areas of your life have you been keeping from Jesus?*

## 2. **BREAKING THROUGH BIG OBSTACLES IN OUR LIVES**

### **REQUIRES:** Identifying the Source of the Problem

- **Matthew 17:15** - *"for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water."*
- Often physical problems are a manifestation of a spiritual problem in a person's life. This isn't always the case as evidenced by John 9 (whose sin caused this? neither Jesus responded). But we do see a scriptural basis for physical problems being manifestations of spiritual bondage, unforgiveness, and disobedience.
- Often times people assume that physical problems are always rooted in physical problems, but we know from

many passages of scripture that physical problems can often be God's attempt to get us to pay attention to spiritual inconsistencies in our lives.

## 3. **BREAKING THROUGH BIG OBSTACLES IN OUR LIVES**

### **REQUIRES:** Addressing our Problems with Spiritual Solutions

- **Matthew 17:15-17** - *"or often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me."*

Many people attempt to use Physical solutions to Spiritual problems. I'm amazed at how many people think that understanding your spouse is the key to a successful marriage, or how many people think that there is some good advice that's gonna give them a shortcut, or how many people think that they can pay to get right with God. Now understanding your spouse, and getting wise advice and giving to the work of the Lord are all good things, but none of them have the power to break a spiritual stronghold and give you victory over a spiritual struggle.

- The only way to breakthrough spiritual strongholds and struggles is by fighting the battle with spiritual disciplines.
- **Ephesians 6:12** - *12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
- **Important Spiritual Disciplines include**
  - **Prayer / Fasting / Corporate & Private Worship**
  - **Giving to the Lord & Others \ Bible Study**
  - **Sabbath** – a day of rest (I'm bad but working on it.)
  - **Service** – in the church & in the community

- **Witnessing** – Sharing what God has done in your life. F.R.A.N.S. (Frds/Relat./Assoc./Nbors/Strang.)

**Question:** *What are some spiritual disciplines that you need to be practicing more often in 2013?*

#### 4. **BREAKING THROUGH BIG OBSTACLES IN OUR LIVES** **REQUIRES:** Trusting God when we face Problems

- **Matthew 17:19-20** - *“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”*

Now we already know that the Bible clearly teaches that nothing is impossible for God.

- **Matthew 19:23-26** - *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”*
- But we also know that when we have great faith, then nothing is impossible for us as well.
  - **Philippians 4:13** - *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*
- So many people think that they are in some kind of impossible situation. A relationship that can’t change, a financial position that can’t change, a family that can’t

change, an offense that can’t be forgiven, a health situation they are stuck with or a sin they just can’t get past.

- The Bible clearly teaches there is nothing that we can’t get past if we will just have faith. How important is faith.
  - **Hebrews 11:6** - *6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*
- **Question:** *In what areas of my life do I need to ask God for more faith?*

#### **Conclusion:**

##### **Sizing up your Mountain – Mountains are...**

- Big
- Steep
- Time Consuming
- Overwhelming
- Mountains always seem like they are too much!

*So the question you need to ask yourself is...*

**What is the mountain that you are currently facing? Where in your life are you really needing to experience the supernatural power of God at work?**

#### **Here’s the Gameplan**

- Prayer and Fasting
- We are going to work on our problems from the SUPER-Natural angle

**All-powerful God + Steadfast Faith = Supernatural Success**