

Sermon Series – Winning the Battle

Part 5 – “The Pattern of a Breakthrough”

Pastor Dale Campfield - November 27th, 2011

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Current Sermon Series: Winning the Battle

Theme Text: **2 Cor 10:5** “Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Premise of Series: The fact is, as we go out, walking with faith to love others, the enemy is going to do everything possible to keep us from achieving the goal of making an IMPACT – reaching souls in the path of our lives for the Kingdom of God; Loving, growing and serving; he devil will throw everything he possibly can at you to keep you defeated, depressed and distracted. That is why it is of utmost importance that we bring every thought that we have into captivity in order to walk in obedience to Christ.

Today’s Sermon Title: The Pattern of a Breakthrough

The Lord is known by many names in the Bible and His names reveal His character.

‘Baal- Perazim’ (**2 Samuel 5:17-20**) = ‘Lord of the Breakthroughs’

“17 Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 So David inquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?” And the Lord said to David, “Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand.” 20 So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, “The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water.” Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.” (2 Sam. 5: 17-20).

Vs. 20...So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. "The LORD did it!" David exclaimed. "He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!" So he named that place Baal-perazim (which means "the Lord who bursts through").

- Breakthrough is when God breaks open a new realm in the Spirit and He brings us through.
- True Breakthrough is more than opening the door to the cage in hopes you will find your way out. True Breakthrough is when the cage is destroyed completely! You don't have to find freedom, you are free!

As we battle, moving forward... We must - MASTER THE 4 PHASES OF A BREAKTHROUGH

I Chronicles 14:8-17

Main Ideas:

- Breaking through the status quo barrier is a cyclical process not a onetime event.
- This process consists of 4 distinct but necessary phases God takes us through on the road to the next level in our spiritual lives.

As we read I Chronicles 14:8-17 together, I want you to see if you can notice a pattern floating to the surface of the text.

THE PATTERN OF A BREAKTHROUGH

There is a pattern that emerges here.

It's a pattern with 4 identifiable phases.

I call this the PATTERN OF A BREAKTHROUGH.

I want to walk you through these 4 phases.

PHASE #1: I GO THROUGH A CRISIS.

This is the first phase on the road to reaching the next level in your life.

God allows a crisis to come into your life that pushes up against your belief in God.

Something takes place in your life that puts your back up against a wall.

It's called a crisis.

How many of you have ever experienced a crisis?

I want you to notice David's crisis in verses 8-9.

V.8 – *“Now the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the*

Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went out against them."

V.9 – *"Then the Philistines went out and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim."*

David was anointed king over Israel.

He's promoted and things are going well when all of a sudden a crisis comes into his life.

David's crisis had a name.

It was called the Philistines.

The Philistines are mentioned 286 times in the Old Testament and their land is mentioned 8 times.

What I'm saying is that God gives the Philistines a lot of air time in the Old Testament.

They're mentioned a lot.

And when they are mentioned it is usually because they are opposing something God wants to do.

Here we see them opposing God's leader David.

David's crisis was a military crisis.

Just like a gigantic chess match, the Philistines in verse 8 came up to search for David to kill him.

David countered with his own move in verse 8 by coming out against the Philistine army.

The Philistines, in a strategic and defiant move, raided a valley in Jewish territory, a valley it turns out that was a direct route to the Capital city of Jerusalem, David's stronghold.

David was stunned. David was scared. David was smack dab in the middle of a crisis.

Experiencing a CRISIS, that's the first phase in experiencing a breakthrough in your life.

God allows you to face a challenge or daunting obstacle that pushes up against your belief and faith in God.

Everybody faces different kinds of crisis.

I made a list of crisis that people sometimes face and I want to read them to you and see if you've faced any of these in your life.

COMMON CRISIS PEOPLE OFTEN FACE

1. The loss of a valued relationship...such as breaking up with a boyfriend or girlfriend, or divorce. The dissolving of a longtime business partnership
2. Failing a class in school or failing an entire grade.
3. Losing one's job
4. Bankruptcy

5. Declining health of you or someone you care about. Health issues usually send us into crisis mode.
6. The death of someone close to you

These are just a few but they are some of the more intense kinds of crisis we can face.

QUESTION!

Why does God allow us to go through a crisis in order to break through to the next level?

The reason is because life on the average daily tone is not enough to break us out of our status quo routines, our status quo ruts or our status quo mind-sets.

So God allows us to feel the heat.

THE CRISIS TAKES YOU OFF AUTO-PILOT.

IT WAKES YOU UP...SLAPS OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES BACK TO REALITY.

Sometimes we ask for these things by decisions we make and sometimes we don't ask for them.

I like how one author describes this kind of experience.

He says:

"They are voluntary and involuntary. These proving moments come to us, ready or not. Sometimes we make decisions that invite them; and other times we are surprised by them. It is the difference between starving and fasting. One is voluntary, and the other is involuntary."

David's crisis was involuntary. He'd done nothing to bring this on himself.

It came into his life and David didn't ask for it.

He didn't want it, but one thing is for sure, he had to respond to it.

The most difficult crisis I've ever experienced came about 4 years ago. Outside of our daughter Cali dieing, this was an incredible crisis that Butch and I and our children had to deal with. Many of you know the story, but some of you do not. I'll not get into all of the details now, but will be sharing some of this with you.

Four years ago the following took place, all within a few weeks of each other.

- The birds in our home all died. Replaced the, and they died.
- Butch's cousin, Big John, committed suicide.
- I lost my job, after 20 years of ministry, in a ten minute conversation.
- My son Max almost died with Tracheitis, collapsed pneumonia and a collapsed lung.
- My bride became dreadfully sick.
- We lost our home due to mold spores.

Time out from the story for a moment.

This was my crisis.

I didn't ask for it. Didn't want it. But there was definitely no ignoring it.

I'll come back to my story in a minute.

Let's go back to David's story.

And allow me to share with you the next phase of the breakthrough pattern.

PHASE #2: I GO TO GOD.

FIRST I GO THROUGH A CRISIS.

THEN I GO TO GOD.

Notice **verse 10** with me:

"And David inquired of God, saying, 'Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand?' The Lord said, 'Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand.'"

The way that you and I respond when we're in a crisis is important to God.

Our response often determines whether we go up or whether we give up.

How we respond determines whether we'll be able to break the status quo in our life.

Dr. John Maxwell says:

"These experiences are like tea in hot water: They bring out the true colors inside."

A crisis simply reveals what is on the inside of you.

This crisis that David went through revealed a dependence on God.

This crisis motivated David to call on God for Divine assistance.

Now, not everyone responds this way to a crisis.

Some people just get angry at others or at God when a crisis comes into their lives.

But not David, at least not on this occasion.

This time, he simply prayed.

I can tell you that when we went through that season, we had no choice but to go to God. We had no choice because we knew that God was our only source.

I prayed and asked God for help.

What else could I do? I was in a crisis and I had nowhere else to turn.

So, I cried out to God in my heart and begged for his help.

Have you ever been there? Have you ever been at that point in your life?

I've been there.

David was there.

Now, let me share with you phase 3.

After you go through a crisis and go to God...

PHASE #3: I GO ON FAITH.

God answered David in **verse 10** and said to him:

"Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand."

God answers David's prayer.

God speaks into David's life loud and clear.

There's no question that it is God who has spoken and there's no question about what God has promised.

God has promised David victory.

Now, at this point, David has a choice.

Will I believe what God has said, or will I go with my gut?

Will David go on faith or go on his feelings?

Dr. Henry Blackaby, co-author of the book *Experiencing God*, describes David's crisis this way:

"David was a faithful servant of the Lord's. David refused to rely on human wisdom for guidance. He asked for God's direction. Was this a crisis of belief since God said he would give David victory over the Philistines? Yes! David still had to decide what he believed about God. He had to trust God to do what he said he would do."

What did David do? How did he respond to God?

Look at the end of **verse 10**.

It says:

"The Lord said to him, 'Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand'."

And notice what David did in **verse 11**:

"So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there..."

God said "Go up."

David said, "I will."

David obeyed the Lord and did exactly what God told him to do.

David was going on faith.

During that season in our lives, we made the decision to follow God. We made the decision to go up and onward with God.

I was going through a crisis.

I was going to God.

And now, like David before me, I needed to go on faith, trusting God to do what he knew would be best.

Right then and there we made a decision.

Our prayer went something like this:

"God, our lives have fallen apart, we have nowhere to turn. But right now, we trust you Lord."

Some things in life you can't talk your way out of.
Some things in life you can't work your way out of.
Some things in life you can't buy your way out of.
Some things in life you can only trust your way out of.

Some of you are going through a crisis today and you have a decision to make.

In fact, the word crisis comes from a Greek word that means decision.

That same Greek word sometimes gets translated judgment.

A crisis is a turning point, a moment of truth in our lives when we make a concrete decision to follow God and trust Him or not to trust God and walk away from Him.

Now, let me share with you the 4th phase in this breakthrough process.

PHASE #4: I GO UP.

I go up to the next level.

I breakthrough into a new realm; a higher dimension of living.

I BREAK THE STATUS QUO BARRIER.

I graduate from one grade to another.

After David went through the first 3 phases of the process and had come to Phase 3 and decided he was going to go on faith, look what happened to David in **verse 11**:

"Then David said, 'God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water.'"

David experienced his much needed breakthrough.

After we made the decision to trust God, it wasn't long after that that God showed up, gave us a better home, a church family of true freedom, health to my son, etc. Yes, we're still

fighting the battle for my wife's health; but we are believing God for Breakthrough!

Just like David we had gone through all 4 phases.

Time out! So my bride isn't healed yet...?

Look with me at **verse 13**:

"Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley."

Wait a minute I thought David had just defeated them?

He had. But they reared their ugly head again.

Problems often do that.

Have you ever faced the same problem more than once?

Do you know anybody that has ever gotten more than one speeding ticket?

Do you know anybody that has had more than one DUI? I do.

Sometimes we face the same crisis more than once.

The first time David faced this crisis, he was inexperienced.

The second time, he was a veteran.

He knew what to do.

Verse 14 tells us:

"Therefore David inquired of God..."

I go through a crisis, I go to God, I go on faith and I go up.

It's a pattern you'll see repeated all throughout your life as a Christian.

It's just the way God works.

I go through a crisis, I go to God, I go on faith, I go up...

I go through a crisis, I go to God, I go on faith, I go up...

RAWHIDE!!!!

I fully expect my bride to be healed – and we not stop praying and believing!

What are you going through today?

Have you made a decision to trust God with it?

Conclusion:

Next week we are going to shout; declaring Breakthrough in our lives.

But don't wait until then; begin walking the life of a Breakthrough Believer now!

And as you do... You watch, You wait, You'll see!