

God's Plan to Advance you and Never Look Back

Romans 6:1-14; 7:14-25; Luke 9:18-20; Heb.4:12

A breakthrough is an important discovery that happens after trying for a long time to understand or explain something. **Something that changes the course of your life going forward and ensures that things will never be the same for you again.** Most of what a breakthrough requires is for you to have the courage and the bravery to stop settling for second best.

*As followers of Jesus, we must look beyond people, things, and circumstances to meet our needs. All of these are unstable and inadequate, and if we depend on them, we will fail. Moving in the direction of the flesh will not meet our needs; at best it can only provide a deceptive facade of security and significance. Instead, we must dare to believe that if everything else is taken away, our God is enough. Why then do so many believers continue to act as nonbelievers when it comes to the quest for security, meaning, and fulfillment in life? The answer lies in the fact that we are opposed by three powerful forces: the flesh, the World, and the devil (**Kenneth Boa, Conformed to His Image**).*

- The flesh is the power or "law of sin" which is in our members (Roman 7:14-25).
 - We are encased in the same old body with its physical needs and cravings.
 - Our soul or personality (mind, emotions, and will) was not instantly transformed.
 - Old attitudes, values, habits, and actions were not eradicated but continue to surface.
- The world is largely responsible for programming our thinking so that we believe our identity is based on what others think or what we think about ourselves rather than what God thinks about us.
 - Our circumstances are so overwhelmingly real that we lose sight of who we are in Christ.
 - Even though Scripture tells us that we are pilgrims and strangers on earth and that our citizenship is in heaven, we are prone to live as though this physical existence is the supreme reality.
 - Unless we habitually reprogram our minds with the truths of Scripture, we will be profoundly influenced by a culture that tells us to find meaning in hedonism and materialism.
- The devil or Satan and his minions utilize the world and the flesh to accomplish their purpose of defeating the lives of Christians and rendering them ineffective.
 - Satan can oppress us only while we are controlled by the flesh. He cannot defeat the life of Christ in us.

God has three-fold answer for the system that has been set up for our failure. Paul describes this process (Rom.6:3-12) that moves from the inner to the outer person and aligns the believer with spiritual truth as; Knowing ones identity in Christ (6:3-10), reckoning or considering these truths to be so (6:11) and climaxing with yielding or presenting oneself to God (6:12-14)

1. Knowing--many Christians do not know or have forgotten who they are in Christ. Here is a way to test our identity Luke 9:18-20.
 - a. Who do you say that you are?
 - b. Who do people say that you are?
 - c. Who does God say that you are?

2. Reckoning--Paul moves us from knowing the truth to believing the truth.
 - a. When truth is united by faith in those who hear (Heb.4:2), believers can enjoy God's rest.
 - b. Believers typically have to come to the end of their resources in order to have a co-crucifixion with Christ.

3. Yielding--knowing and believing must produce a presentation of what we believe.
 - a. When we are progressively transformed by the truth we can present ourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead.
 - b. Our true identity is not our "outer man" but in our "inner man" (2Cor.4:16)
 - c. We are spiritual beings who are temporarily clothed with the perishable and mortal (1Cor.15:53)