

## Breakthrough: How to Face the Challenges of Life

Joshua 1: 1-6

Are you facing a difficult or even an *impossible* situation right now? Perhaps you're facing a major barrier and you feel stuck. It could be a relationship, an addiction, a lie you believe, a painful event, or a difficult work environment. Regardless of what it is, you desperately need God to dramatically intervene in your life. Sound familiar?

What we need to know is that breakthrough is not something we sit around and wait for.

- Breakthrough is God waiting on us to respond in obedience to what He has already commanded and already promised.
- Breakthrough happens when we take the first offensive step against the barriers in our life.
- Breakthrough happens when we say, "I'm going to trust that God is going to supernaturally do the impossible."

It is interesting to look at the word of God and get answers to the issues we all face. Many of us deal with the issue of accepting new challenges and often we find it difficult to move forward or *breakthrough*. We would do well to observe the life of a man who was asked to accept a challenge that would forever change him and the people he was asked to lead.

Thirty-nine years earlier the Children of Israel had an opportunity to experience the fullness of the promise made to their fathers but they failed because of unbelief. It is not coincidental that the one who is now leading them, on the edge of the Promised Land, is the same one who was a part of the reconnaissance party that gathered valuable information to help Israel fulfill God's purpose for them.

God never forgets obedience

By the same token;

God never forgets disobedience

One of the major setbacks to accepting new challenges is fear, a close second is doubt, and bringing up the rear is unbelief; any of these three can have a major impact on your success in life. Joshua was a man who faced the same kinds of challenges we face but he seemed to have the ability to overcome his fears, doubt, and unbelief. Let's look at some of the highlights of Joshua's career that may give us some insight into the life of this great man of God.

## Numbers 26:63-65 (NLT)

63So these are the results of the registration of the people of Israel as conducted by Moses and Eleazar the priest on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho. 64Not one person on this list had been among those listed in the previous registration taken by Moses and Aaron in the wilderness of Sinai. 65For the Lord had said of them, “They will all die in the wilderness.” Not one of them survived except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

1. **Joshua the survivor**—his obedience spared his life when all others fell away.
  - a. Obedience stands the test of time.
  - b. Obedience will make you an exception to the rules.

## Ex.17:9-14 (NLT)

9Moses commanded Joshua, “Choose some men to go out and fight the army of Amalek for us. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill, holding the staff of God in my hand.”

10So Joshua did what Moses had commanded and fought the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of a nearby hill. 11As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the Amalekites gained the advantage. 12Moses’ arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. 13As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.

14After the victory, the Lord instructed Moses, “Write this down on a scroll as a permanent reminder, and read it aloud to Joshua: I will erase the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”

2. **Joshua the soldier**—he follows the orders of his leader.
  - a. Must be ready to fight at a moment’s notice (vs.9)
  - b. Go into battle without murmuring or complaint (vs.10)
  - c. Everyone in battle must assume their role (vs.11)
  - d. Soldiers need support from members of his company to be successful (vs.12)
  - e. Soldiers are rewarded for their faithfulness (vs.14)

## Exodus 24:13-18 (NLT)

13So Moses and his assistant Joshua set out, and Moses climbed up the mountain of God.

14Moses told the elders, “Stay here and wait for us until we come back. Aaron and Hur are here with you. If anyone has a dispute while I am gone, consult with them.”

15Then Moses climbed up the mountain, and the cloud covered it. 16And the glory of the Lord settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from inside the cloud. 17To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the Lord appeared at the summit like a consuming fire. 18Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

3. Joshua the servant—he accompanies Moses while he waits on God
  - a. Joshua serves Moses as Moses serves (waits for) God (vs.13)
  - b. Moses left competent servants to lead in his absence (vs. 14)
  - c. God allows Moses to wait for 6 days (vs.15)
  - d. Moses and Joshua stay in the presence of God for 40 days (vs.18)

#### Conclusion

As we look to reenter a world that has shifted its priorities over the last few years it has become clear that the church has to change its approach to its community. The expectations of the past are not sufficient to meet the demands of a changing world. We must be ready to meet these new challenges head on with confidence and determination as God's adequacy and abundance reconnects people to hope.