

Praying for Breakthrough

Message 01 of the series: "Breakthrough"

A. David loved to pray about everything.

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?' These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." Psalm 42:1-6 (NIV)

Life Application: We should love to pray about everything.

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

B. David prayed for God to break through when he faced a big problem.

Breakthrough = a sudden, dramatic, and important discovery or development that removes a barrier or overcomes a stalemate.

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he went into the stronghold. The Philistines arrived and spread out across the valley of Rephaim. So David asked the LORD, "Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The LORD replied to David, "Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you." 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"). The Philistines had abandoned their idols there, so David and his men confiscated them. But after a while the Philistines returned and again spread out across the valley of Rephaim. And again David asked the LORD what to do. "Do not attack them straight on," the LORD replied. "Instead, circle around behind and attack them near the poplar trees. When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the poplar trees, be on the alert! That will be the signal that the LORD is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistine army." So David did what the LORD commanded, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer. 2 Samuel 5:17-25 (NLT)

1. David asked God how he should respond to his problem.

"He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name." Psalm 23:3 (NLT)

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."

Psalm 32:8 (NIV)

Life Application: We should ask God to help us with our problems.

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

2. David expected God to answer.

"You can be sure of this: The LORD set apart the godly for himself. The LORD will answer when I call to him." Psalm 4:3 (NLT)

"I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray."

Psalm 17:6 (NLT)

Life Application: We can expect God to answer our prayers if we remain in him.

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches... if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!"

John 15:4-7 (NLT)

3. David followed God's instructions.

"I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart." Psalm 40:8 (NLT)

"Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart."

Psalm 119:34 (NLT)

“Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.” Psalm 119:72 (NLT)

Life Application: We should follow God’s instructions.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” James 1:5-7 (NIV)

4. David gave God glory for breakthroughs.

“I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. I will boast only in the LORD; let all who are helpless take heart. Come, let us tell of the LORD’s greatness; let us exalt his name together. I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!” Psalm 34:1-8 (NLT)

Life Application: We should give glory to God for breakthroughs in answer to our prayers.

“Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.”
Psalm 107:2 (NLT)

“And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.” 2 Corinthians 1:11 (NLT)

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Quotations to consider:

“The act of praying is the very highest energy of which the human mind is capable; praying, that is, with the total concentration of the faculties. The great mass of worldly men and of learned men are absolutely incapable of prayer.” Samuel Taylor Coleridge

“If prayer isn’t vital for your church, then your church isn’t vital.”
Francis Chan

“The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoes.”
D.L. Mood

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Share an area in your life where you need God to give you a breakthrough. What barriers do you face?
2. Read Ephesians 6:18-20. How should we pray for breakthrough in our church?
3. Read Psalm 34:1-8. Share a time in your life when God answered a specific prayer request.
4. Read Philippians 4:6-7. How would you describe your prayer life?
5. What are you afraid to ask God? Why?
6. Is there someone you know who needs a breakthrough?
7. Spend some time as a group praying through the 7 Days of Prayer list.

Breakthrough prayer topics

Sunday 01-27-19 Marriott Legends 6:00 – 7:00pm	Goal: Spiritual Awakening Barriers: unbelief, fear, apathy, control, disobedience, pride
Monday 01-28-19 Centerpoint Office 6:15 - 7:00 (am & pm)	Goal: Healthy Relationships Barriers: Unforgiveness, hurt, anger, gossip, betrayal, secrets, cruelty, disappointment.
Tuesday 01-29-19 Centerpoint Office 6:15 - 7:00 (am & pm)	Goal: Purity, holiness Barriers: Sinful habits, Hang-ups, Addictions, Sexual sin, self-righteousness.
Wednesday 01-30-19 Centerpoint Office 6:15 - 7:00 (am & pm)	Goal: Health & Wholeness (physical, emotional & spiritual) Barriers: Sickness, Injury, Trauma, sadness, abuse, emotional wounds, bad thinking.
Thursday 01-31-19 Centerpoint Office 6:15 - 7:00 (am & pm)	Goal: Financial Freedom Barriers: Debt, poor money management skills, greed, immaturity.
Friday 02-01-19 Centerpoint Office 6:15 - 7:00 (am & pm)	Goal: God's direction Barriers: Confusion, indecision, ignorance, fear of missing out, comparison, compromise.
Saturday 02-02-19 Centerpoint Office 6:15 - 7:00 (am & pm)	Goal: Peace and Contentment Barriers: Busy-ness, keeping up with the Jones', Spiritual Orphan mindset, legalism, worry.

- We will be praying for breakthrough in the above areas for ourselves, our families and our friends, our church and our community. These prayer meetings are open to everyone seeking the Lord's help.
- No previous experience in prayer meetings is necessary.
- Childcare for children ages birth through 4 years old will be provided on Sunday, January 27th.
- No childcare will be provided at other meetings.
- All prayer meetings will be available live online via Facebook Live. (click here for link)