

Introduction: God wants to unleash power into your impossible situation.

Five questions about breakthrough:

1. What is a breakthrough?

Three key definitions:

1) "An offensive thrust that penetrates and carries beyond a defensive line in warfare."

- Breakthroughs are not something you sit around and wait for.
- God does it, but I have to take an offensive step forward to **ACT** on what I believe is true and then **TRUST** God is going to supernaturally do the impossible.

2) "An act or instance of breaking through a barrier."

- We get "stuck" –

Relationships	False beliefs
Addictions	Personal history
Lies	Environment

- Jesus promised: "I will be with you always," and "All power is given unto Me." In other words, "You **BELIEVE**, you **TRUST**, and you'll have **BREAKTHROUGH**."

3) "A sudden advance."

"Faith doesn't operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which man can do. Faith begins where man's power ends."

George Mueller



2. Is there a biblical pattern for breakthrough?

Great Need



Great Sin



Great Bondage



God's Compassion



God's Judgment



God Delivers

3. How did Jesus teach His disciples to experience and be agents of breakthrough?

1) Announce the "Good News!" Mark 1

- **REPENT** – have a genuine change of mind about God and about yourself.
- **BELIEVE** the Good News – that God loves you and is FOR you.

This is what God has ALREADY done for you. Receive it; believe it; let it fill you up and then, out of thanksgiving and love, express that same kind of love to others - THAT'S the Good News.

2) Defeat evil

3) Bring healing:

Jesus used His miraculous power for the benefit and good of the people.

4) Lead by example:

- When we draw near to the goodness of God, by faith, supernatural things happen.

Demonstrates the goodness of God.

Jesus said: "Don't be afraid, just believe."

Mark 5:36

- Jesus **EXPECTS** you to do impossible things.

Jesus asked: "What do you HAVE? Bring it to Me. Trust Me.

- God **EXPECTS** to do impossible things in you and through you.

God wants to show up in ways that declare and reveal His glory and His goodness to people who have no idea that He loves them – THAT'S what breakthrough is about.

4. Is there historical precedent that breakthrough can happen in our day?

- The entire book of Acts –

God, through very ordinary people who believed what He said, transformed the entire world.

- List of Church-Age believers:

These are regular, **ORDINARY** people to whom God becomes so real and so **GOOD** that they live out of what He's already done for them and they believe it to the point that they begin to look at other people as objects of God's love and mercy, and they begin to think, and act that way, and live with a joy because they know, by their righteousness in Christ, that they already measure up – THAT'S the gospel.

5. How do you experience the first step of breakthrough?

- 1) **BELIEVE** that God is good.
- 2) **EMBRACE** that it's God's will to do the impossible in you and through you.

Jesus said: "**YOU** feed them."

YOU reach your neighborhood.

YOU be the breakthrough at work.

YOU take the first step in the reconciliation.

YOU break that addiction and bring other people with you.

It's what He expects and all the power is available to do it, through Christ.

Assignment:

Read over Psalm 23, inserting your name in the blanks, at least once each day this week.

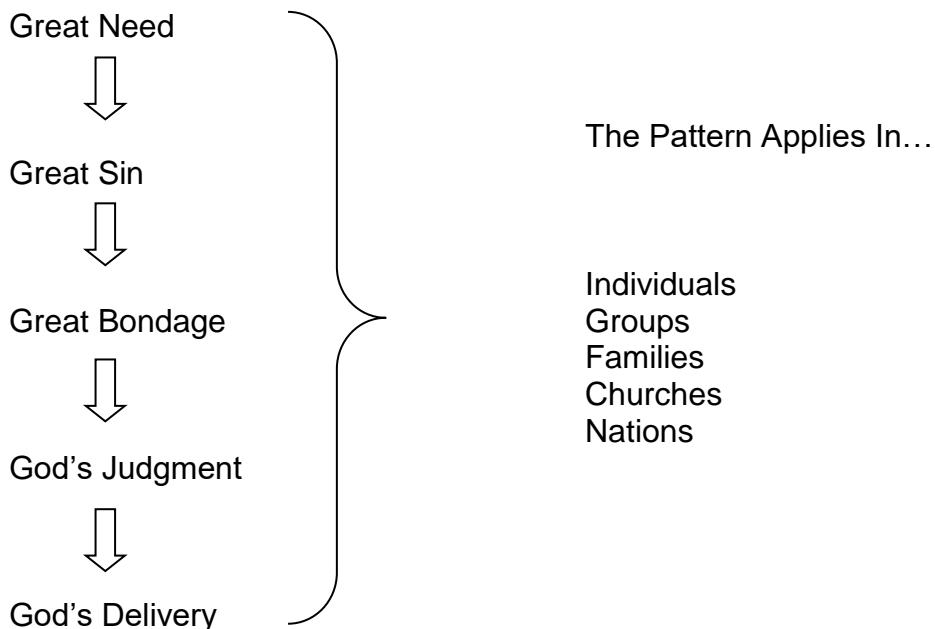
God's Goodness to Me – Psalm 23

The Lord is _____ Shepherd, _____ lacks nothing. He makes _____ lie down in green pastures, He leads _____ beside quiet waters, He refreshes _____ soul. He guides _____ along the right paths for His name's sake. Even though _____ walks through the darkest valley, _____ will fear no evil, for You are with _____; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort _____. You prepare a table before _____ in the presence of _____ enemies. You anoint _____ head with oil; _____ cup overflows. Surely Your goodness and love will follow _____ all the days of _____ life, and _____ will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Introduction: Can you imagine...?

What is breakthrough?

What is the biblical pattern of breakthrough?



God's deliverance comes through a clear, strong vision of God's goodness and mercy, birthed in ordinary people, meeting the "Great Need" by unleashing God's power into impossible situations.

(i.e. – Old Testament, New Testament, Church History)

The Question: How does breakthrough actually happen?

The Answer: The pathway to breakthrough involves....

1. The **SOVEREIGN** work of God in the world. Job 42:2
 - External pressures
 - Internal deterioration
 - Global crisis
2. The **SOVEREIGN** work of God in His people.
 - Individual breakthroughs
 - Church / group breakthroughs
 - Communities impacted
 - City movements birthed
 - Nations transformed
3. The **SOVEREIGN** work of God through His people.
 - Neighbors known and loved
 - Coworkers observe excellence, integrity, and concern
 - Communities deepest needs met
 - Cities see 10% of population converted
 - Educational, governmental, corporate, and entertainment cultures transformed

Your personal pathway to breakthrough

➤ **Action step:** Repent and believe in the “Good News”. Mark 1:15

Truth: God is good! Psalm 23

God wants to bless you and all you do!

Question: From where or from whom do you believe the “good” in life will come?

➤ **Action step:** Make room in your life to receive God’s breakthrough! James 4:7-10

Truth: It is the goodness (kindness, tolerance, and patience) of God that leads us to repentance!

... a change of mind that always leads to a change of behavior. Romans 2:45

Question: How do we repent and “make room”: for God’s supernatural power and blessing?

Answer:

- **SUBMIT** therefore to God. James 4:7a
- **RESIST** and the devil will **FLEE**. James 4:7b
- **DRAW NEAR** to God and He will **DRAW NEAR** to you. James 4:8a
- **WASH** your hands and **PURIFY** your heart. James 4:8b
- **GRIEVE MOURN WAIL** change.... James 4:9
- **HUMBLE** yourself, and He will **EXALT** you. James 4:10

Assignment:

➤ Soak in God's goodness

Prayerfully read through *Psalm 23* each day this week.

➤ Make room for a breakthrough

Discuss and act on the questions below and expect to see God lift you up!

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about how God orchestrates breakthrough in people, groups, and nations that gave you hope?
2. How has God demonstrated His goodness in your life?
List 4-5 specific ways in just the last week or month.
3. If someone videoed your life the last 30 days, what would your lifestyle indicate concerning "from where or from whom you believe the 'good' in life can be found?"
4. As we studied the verbs in *James 4:7-10* and the promises; what do you need to begin doing this week to "make room" for God's supernatural breakthrough and blessings?

Introduction: A brief review

1. We must **BELIEVE** God is good for breakthrough to begin.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Psalm 84:11

- Jesus wants to do the impossible in and through your life.

2. We must "**MAKE ROOM**" for breakthrough by removing the idols in our lives.

Submit therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. ...Humble yourself before the Lord and He will exalt you.

James 4:7-10

- God must work deeply in us before He will work powerfully through us.

The Problem: Fear

The Answer: Courage

The Story: "Get out of the boat"

Matthew 14:22-33

Six barriers to experiencing breakthrough

- Courage “steps out” and overcomes the barriers of...

1. Our **TRADITIONS**. Mark 7:1-23

2. Our **UNWORTHINESS**. Mark 7:24-30

3. Our **DEAFNESS**. Mark 7:31-37

4. Our **LACK OF RESOURCES**. Mark 8:1-21

5. Our **BLINDNESS**. Mark 8:22-26

6. Our **SELF INTEREST**. Mark 8:27-38

- Analysis

1. Who experienced supernatural breakthroughs of God's power? Who didn't?

2. What did each group do?

3. What lessons did Jesus want His disciples (and us) to learn about Him, themselves, and “stepping out?”

How do weak people get great courage?

- **Jesus teaches us that “looking up” is the secret to “stepping out.”**
Mark 8:17 – 9:29
 - The question you must answer Mark 8:27
 - The path you must take Mark 8:34
 - The vision you must acquire Mark 9:2
- **Analysis**
 1. Fear keeps us from “**STEPPING OUT**” to unleash God’s power into impossible situations.
 2. “Stepping out” requires **COURAGE**; the power to act despite our fears.
 3. Courage demands **FAITH** that God will do what He has promised.
 4. Faith is the result of seeing Jesus **UP CLOSE** and for who He is.
 5. Prayer is God’s **INVITATION** to see Jesus “up close” and believe He will do the impossible for you.
 6. Fasting is choosing to remove whatever **DISTRACTS** us from seeing and experiencing Jesus for who He is.

*Jesus’ practices for your study:

Mark 1:35
Mark 3:13
Mark 6:45-46
Mark 9:7
Mark 9:29
Mark 11:23-24
Luke 6:12

Assignment:

- Set aside 5 minutes each day this week for adoration and praise with thanksgiving for who God is and what He has done for you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you sense God is asking you to “step out” and trust His goodness and power?
Personally? In a relationship? In a circumstance?
2. What “fears” are you battling that have been holding you back?
3. What aspect or truth in today’s message helped you the most? Why?
4. What do you need to do to grow in courage? What courageous step do you need to take this week?
5. Who can you ask to help you follow up and follow through on your application and step of faith?

Quick Review: The journey to breakthrough

- We must believe God is good for breakthrough to begin.
- We must “make room” for breakthrough by removing the idols in our lives.
- Fear keeps us from “stepping out” to unleash God’s power into impossible situations.
- “Stepping out” requires courage; the power to act despite our fears.
- Courage demands faith; that God will do what He has promised.
- Faith is the result of seeing Jesus “up close” and for who He is.
- Prayer is God’s invitation to see Jesus “up close” and believe He will do the impossible for you.
- Fasting is choosing to remove whatever distracts us from seeing and experiencing Jesus for who He is.
- Absolutely Small (size absolutely matters) only “in reverse,” to birth and sustain breakthrough.

How Jesus “reached” a city:

- **A lesson for His disciples** John 4

1. Where did the Breakthrough begin?

2. Whom did Jesus choose to use?

3. How did she “make room” for Breakthrough?

4. What “courageous step” did she take?

5. What did Jesus want His disciples to learn...

- about Himself?
- about breakthroughs?

- **Timeless axiom:** Unlikely, supernatural breakthroughs are not dependent on a **FUTURE** work of God, but a **PRESENT** work of “one”.

John 4:34-39



How His followers “reached” the world:

- **A Lesson for Us** Book of Acts

1. Where did breakthrough begin?
2. Whom did Jesus choose to use?
3. How did they “make room” for breakthrough?
4. What “courageous steps” did they take?
5. What was/is the result?
6. What does Jesus want us to learn . . .
 - about Himself?
 - about ourselves?
 - about breakthroughs?

Timeless axiom: Breakthroughs are fueled by **COMPASSION** and birthed in biblical **COMMUNITY**.

Action steps:

1. **PRAY** fervently and desperately.
2. **EXTEND** God's compassion to someone or a group in need this week.
3. **JOIN** or **START** a small group to pursue breakthrough "in" you and then "through" you.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was your biggest "take away" from this lesson? Why?
2. How does the kind of people Jesus used to reach a city give you hope? confidence? courage?
3. How does knowing God "has been" and "is" working in the lives of your family, friends, neighbors, fellow students, and co-workers empower you to share Jesus' love in word and action?
4. What are you going to do to fuel your breakthrough and sustain its power?

Introduction:

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

- David – An unlikely choice 1 Samuel 16
- David – Does the impossible 1 Samuel 17
- David – His life after breakthrough 1 Samuel 18 – 2 Samuel
 - The Good
 - The Bad
 - The Ugly
- David – His legacy of breakthrough 1 Chronicles 29:10-13
Acts 13:22

How did David habitually unleash God's power into impossible situations?

- A peek into David's journal: Psalm 27

1. He is a **BOLD** risk-taker:

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

Psalm 27:1-3

2. He is a **PASSIONATE** worshiper:

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.

For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling;

He will hide me in the shelter of His sacred tent

and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

at His sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Psalm 27:4-6

3. He is a **WOUNDED** healer:

*Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.
My heart says of You, "Seek His face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek.
Do not hide Your face from me,
do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.
Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.*

Psalm 27:7-10

4. He is a **FIERCE** warrior:

*Teach me Your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.
Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.*

Psalm 27:11-12

5. He is a **FAITHFUL** servant:

*I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.*

Psalm 27:13-14

David understood the “Joseph Journey”

Discussion Questions:

1. What aspect of David's life most encouraged you? Why?
2. Why do you think God is so willing to use unlikely people? People who fail?
3. What was it about David's private life with God that spoke to you? What aspect of David's life do you need to emulate in this season of your life?
4. What can we EXPECT when God does impossible things through us? Why is it critical to remember the "Joseph Journey"?
5. How does 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 shape your view of how supernatural power is released in us and through us?

Helpful Resources on "Breakthrough":

Culture Making by Andy Crouch
Gospel by J. D. Greear
Gods at War by Kyle Idleman
Good to Great in God's Eyes by Chip Ingram
Magnificent Prayer by Nick Harrison



Introduction:

“It is the most desolate word in all human language. It is capable of hurling the heaviest weights the heart can endure. It plays no favorites... yields no mercy, refuses all bargains... Crowds only make it worse, activity simply drives it deeper... Tears fall from our eyes as groans fall from our lips- but loneliness, that uninvited guest of the soul, arrives at dusk and stays for dinner.”

- Chuck Swindoll

Until Loneliness is Understood, it Overwhelms -

- Loneliness is **MORE** than being alone.
- Loneliness **WEARS** many masks.
- Loneliness is not a unique malady, but a **UNIVERSAL REALITY**.

Resource: *Changes that Heal* by Henry Cloud

You don't have to be lonely, because...

- God **CARES** about your loneliness.

“The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’”

Genesis 2:18

- Jesus **UNDERSTANDS** your loneliness.

“And the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, Iama sabachthani?’ – which means, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Mark 15:34

- Jesus **INVITES** you into a relationship with Him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

Revelation 3:20

- A relationship with Jesus means you **ALWAYS** belong to His family.

“...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Romans 12:5
See also - 1 John 1:1-4

**How can you experience authentic love and connection
in God's family?**

- **By rethinking your view of the CHURCH.**
 - An institution vs. a community
 - An event to attend vs. a family in which to belong
 - See Acts 2:42-47
- **By revising your approach to RELATIONSHIPS.**
 1. Realize your NEED.
 2. Move toward OTHERS.
 3. Be VULNERABLE.
 4. Challenge distorted THINKING.
 5. Take RISKS.
 6. Be EMPATHETIC -- listen, listen, listen!
 7. Trust GOD -- pray, pray, pray!

Summary: To “lick loneliness,” you gotta **BELONG!**

Informal steps + formal strategies = A “connected” community of love.

Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how “connected” do you feel with those in your world?
2. When do you struggle the most with loneliness?
3. What aspect or truth from this message holds the most promise for helping you with your loneliness?
4. What specific step/action could you take to cooperate with God’s plan to connect you with His love and His family?



Introduction: Life Is Dynamic!

All living things are either growing or dying.

- Growth is exciting!
- Growth comes from God!
- Growth is not automatic!
- Growth is difficult!
- Growth can be stymied, thwarted, stagnated, and retarded!

How Are You Growing Today?

7 Keys to Personal Growth:

People Who Grow . . .

1. Live daily with the END IN VIEW.

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5:48

"...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Ephesians 4:13
See also - Romans 8:29



2. Make a PERSONAL COMMITMENT to grow.

"Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

Luke 9:23-25

"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

1 Timothy 4:7-8

3. Value PROCESS more than event.

"We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

Hebrews 5:11-14

THE SECRET TO YOUR FUTURE IS HIDDEN IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINES!

4. Cultivate stimulating RELATIONSHIPS.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

Proverbs 13:20

5. Choose to become progressive RISK-TAKERS.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:6

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

6. Leverage life's HARDSHIP.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

James 1:2-4

7. Make time for SOLITUDE and SILENCE.

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."

Mark 1:35

Developing a Plan for Your Personal Growth:

1. Make a commitment to grow **TODAY**!

2. **PRIORITIZE** the area of your growth!

3. Take one specific step this **WEEK**!

Discussion Questions:

1. Share an area of your life where you are growing. How do you feel about that progress?

2. What is the goal of growth according to the Scriptures?

3. Which of the “7 Keys to Growth” are you presently practicing? Which of the “7 Keys” might help you grow the most? Why?

4. What specific, practical step can you take this week toward maturity?

Introduction: Mirror Madness!

1. When you look into the mirror, what do you see?

2. When you look into the mirror, what do you say?

3. When you walk in the world, what do you think?

Distorted mirrors – destroy our lives:

- The **Appearance** Mirror – My value depends on how I **LOOK!**
- The **Performance** Mirror – My value depends on what I can **DO!**
- The **Status** Mirror – My value depends on what others **THINK** of me!

Thesis - Until we see ourselves as God sees us, we are destined to **FEEL INFERIOR**.

3 keys to a Biblical self-image:

1. Get God's View of You = KNOWLEDGE

You are significant because . . .

- You are **UNIQUE** Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-14
- You are **LOVED** 1 Samuel 16:7, Jeremiah 31:3
- You are **VALUABLE** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- You are **SECURE** Ephesians 1:13
- You are **INDISPENSIBLE** Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:15-16

2. Believe God's View is True = FAITH

- Faith is built on God's Word Romans 10:17
- Faith grows through mind renewal Romans 12:2
- Develop a plan to remove the distorted mirrors of the world with the mirror of God's Word James 1:22-24

3. Discover the “You” that’s True = EXPERIENCE

How? – Luke 6:38

- Unwrap your **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12
- Unleash your **SPIRITUAL PASSION** Psalm 37:4
- Use your God-given **TALENTS** Exodus 31:3
- Embrace your God-given **PERSONALITY** 1 Corinthians 2:11
- Leverage your past **EXPERIENCE** Romans 8:28

Ministry is how God makes what's true “of” us, true “in” us. Sometimes it's only in the act of “loving others: that we can fathom that we ourselves are loved!

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

GALLUP SURVEY: Only 10% of all laymen are active in a ministry. An additional 50% have no interest at all. BUT, 40% said they'd like to be involved but have never been asked or they don't know how.

Discussion Questions:

1. How big a problem do you think feelings of inferiority are for most people?
2. Which “distorted mirrors” have made you feel less worthy or valuable than God’s evaluation?
3. What are you presently doing to gain God’s perspective of who you are? Any new ideas that might help?
4. What happens when we get our focus off ourselves and serve others? What and how might that look in your life?

Introduction: “Empty Buckets”

- **Futility** – Webster’s – lit. “that which easily pours out,” hence untrustworthy; that which fails completely of the desired end, or incapable of producing any result; trifling, unimportant. **Syn:** vain, fruitless, ineffective, useless
- **Fruitful** – Webster’s – Latin “fructus” – enjoyment, means of enjoyment, profitable, productive, producing results and/or desired ends.

“He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliot – Martyred 1956

How can we avoid futility in our lives?

- **Refuse to Confuse Success With SIGNIFICANCE!**

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

Luke 9:25-26

“God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them.”

- Augustine

- **SUCCESS IS . . .**
 - about productivity
 - “climbing the ladder”
 - about what you do
 - about applause
 - leaving an impression
 - about stuff
 - about “taking off”
 - about now
- **SIGNIFICANCE IS . . .**
 - about satisfaction
 - “on which wall”
 - who you are
 - about peace
 - leaving a legacy
 - about people
 - about “landing well”
 - about forever

Further Resource: Halftime by Bob Buford
Paradox of Success by John O'Neil

How can we move from success to significance?

- **Clarify your MISSION! Why are you here?**
 - Two things last forever: God's Word & people's souls
 - Matthew 28:19-20
 - To know CHRIST and make Him KNOWN!

Experience Breakthrough (Part 9)

Unleashing God's Power into Impossible Situations

How to Overcome Feelings of Futility

- Embrace your **MISSION FIELD!** Where are your greatest spheres of influence?

- Your home
- Your work
- Your network

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Colossians 3:22-25

Colossians 4:5-6

- Engage in the Harvesting Process

NETWORK	BEFRIEND	IDENTIFY	SHARE	INVITE	HARVEST
Goal: Make contact with unchurched.	Goal: Build trusting friendships.	Goal: Look for felt need.	Goal: Share your story.	Goal: Expose to Gospel.	Goal: Encourage commitment to Christ. Assimilate into church.
Action: Establish visibility in community. Identify, pray for and contact personal and social networks.	Action: Build bridges socially. Show love and care. Look for divine appointments.	Action: Listen attentively. Show concern for felt needs.	Action: Look for receptivity. Sensitively share your story.	Action: Bring your unbelieving friend or contact to a weekend service, small group, or special event.	Action: Persuade through presentation of Gospel at celebration service or personal witness. Invite to church introductory session and growth group.



- “Sharpen your tools for impact!”
 - Learn spiritual “door openers”
 - Learn your evangelistic style –
 - Not Beyond Reach by Aaron Pierce

Application: Into which “bucket” are you pouring your life?

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you think about when you heard the illustration about “empty buckets?” Why?
2. What is the difference between success and significance?
3. What mission field has God called you to? Where do you need help to be more effective there?
4. What step of faith would God have you take in response to His message to you? What will that look like this week?

Introduction: “I was looking for life in all the wrong places.”

- **What is boredom?**

“The condition of becoming weary by dull, uninteresting, or monotonous activity or focus.”

- Webster's Dictionary

- **Why are we bored?**

- **Why do “the blues” and boredom go hand-in-hand?**

- **Could “boredom” be a gift in disguise?**

God's answer to boredom = Authentic worship



What is Authentic Worship?

- **Definition** – Worship is our **response to God** for who He is and what He has done.

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, {which is} your spiritual service of worship."

Romans 12:1

- **Summary** – Worship is the complete and total giving of ourselves for that which we believe has **ULTIMATE PURPOSE** and will provide the **GREATEST REWARD**.

How are we to worship authentically?

"Jesus declared, 'Believe Me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.'"

John 4:21-24

3 Principles for authentic worship:

1. Authentic worship can happen **ANYWHERE**. John 4:21-22

2. Authentic worship flows from the **HEART**. John 4:23

3. Authentic worship is rooted in an **ACCURATE** view of God and of ourselves.

John 4: 24

How can you experience greater intimacy in worship?

- Private worship = A.C.T.S.
- Public worship = The 3 “P’s”

Conclusion:

Worship is not a service you come to or an activity you practice; worship is a life-focus, an expression of your deepest longings, passions, and devotion to whom or what you love the most.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does boredom tell us about our lives?

2. Why do "the blues" follow boredom or even success so often?

3. What did you learn about worship that was new or a great reminder to you?

4. Which of Jesus' principles on worship made the deepest impact on you?

5. How will you seek to be a more authentic worshipper this week?