

**“The God of Breakthrough”**  
**2 Samuel 5:1-25**

*Introduction:* Pg. \_\_\_\_

This morning I want to speak to you from God’s Book on the topic of breakthrough. Specifically, we are going to focus on God being the God of breakthrough. What is a breakthrough?

**What is Breakthrough?**

**An act or instance of moving through or beyond an obstacle.**

Scientists know all about the concept of breakthrough. Through research and development, countless discoveries have taken us into new territory.

Who’s thankful for electricity today? If you’ve ever had surgery [or even a filling at the dentist], who’s thankful for anesthetics? Consider our modern conveniences: The breakthrough of the car started with the wheel. The breakthrough of the cell phone started with the telegraph. The breakthrough of the internet started with Al Gore.

Most everything we enjoy is a result of a breakthrough moment where someone moved beyond an obstacle or barrier.

That’s life. What about our lives?

The sermon is hitting the playlist today, because I’m passionate to see God move us beyond the barriers that hold us back and weigh us down! I’m talking about the various physical, emotional, circumstantial, and spiritual barriers that fill our thoughts, discourage us and keep us from experiences God’s best for us, but...

Here’s the encouragement I want to share with you today:

**The Point: In Christ, breakthrough is in front of you.**

I want to show you the God of Breakthrough in... **2 Samuel 5:1-25 (text displayed)**

Here are four truths about the God of Breakthrough. #1

**1. The God of Breakthrough turns opposition into opportunity (5:17-18).**

David, Israel’s newly appointed King, was no stranger to opposition. This chapter highlights several major moments of opposition.

- First, his Rise to the throne.
  - He didn’t seek it. No campaigns. No yard signs throughout Israel. God chose and appointed him.
  - Yet! The previous king, King Saul, attempted to murder David multiple times. Though he did nothing wrong David was constantly running for his life (JESUS!)
- Then to secure his reign throughout land he had to fight the Jebusites, who lived in a well-fortified place called a “stronghold.” To add to their man-made defenses, it was geographically protected on three sides by valleys. This is why the people taunted and mocked David by saying people who could not walk or see could protect the city. {P} But their opposition was an opportunity for God to breakthrough
- Then we read in *verses 17-18*. Translation: “search for David” doesn’t mean they were trying to connect to hang out... David’s rise to power was a sure threat to Philistia. It was a seek to kill mission. The description of them spreading out in the Valley of Rephaim, less than a mile away from Jerusalem communicates both the vast size of their army and their intention to intimidate and eliminate David and his army.

Opposition was a constant companion for David, and I suppose you feel similar in your own life.

What are you up against? What troubles you? What barriers stand in your way?

**Where do you need breakthrough?**

- Physical Health: Sickness, Addiction, Exercise, Eating Habits, Finances, Provision.
- Mental & Emotional Health: Depression, Anxiety, Guilt, Anger, Deep rooted Insecurities. What about the deep, deep longing for approval, just to be enough in the eyes of another?

- Relational Health: Does your marriage, or a friendship, need a breakthrough? Are you experience consistent conflict, unforgiveness, bitterness? Parents, do you long for a breakthrough with your children? Or for your children?
- Spiritual Breakthrough: Do you feel stuck in your prayer life? Are you gripped by fear and unbelief? What about sexual immorality (The porn has to DIE!). Positive... Effectiveness in Ministry, Hearing from God - direction, decisions, Telling others about Jesus...

This doesn't even address praying for breakthrough in our communities...

- City: Opioid Crisis. Food Insecurity. Affordable Housing. OR...
- Church: 50+ saying YES to Jesus over the next year. What about an absolutely full room, Sunday after Sunday. Could this be our breakthrough year?

God wants to take us to new places. We all need breakthrough. If you don't see your need for breakthrough, you're probably not dreaming big enough or longing hard enough.

But it won't be easy! Not only do we live in a fallen world and carry fallen hearts within us, but we have an enemy, who absolutely hates us, who seeks to kill, steal and destroy!

C.S Lewis said: "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." (*Screwtape Letters*)

Here's the problem: I think that's still too much of a Western worldview and not enough of a biblical worldview! (Verse. Ephesians 6:12 & Verse. 1 Peter 5:8)

T: That's why we must fight back, knowing that every opposition presents a moment of opportunity! But here's the secret... our fighting posture is the place of prayer (Knees. Hands. Voices lifted to heaven! Why?

## 2. The God of Breakthrough hears the humble heart (5:19).

We see the posture of David's heart in *verse 19*.

- He does not run ahead of God. He's not presumptuous (Hey, I just ransacked the Jebusites. The Philistines are next!). No, unlike Saul, whose downfall was self-dependence - taking matters into his own hands, David "inquired of the Lord. Should I go? Will you give them into my hand?"
- What if you did not move until God said to move? What if you went to God with your troubles? God, is this the time? (RW)
- Breakthrough power comes when we see that we are powerless. Jehoshaphat (who knows about Jehosh in 2019?): **"For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."** (2 Chronicles 20:12)

The God of Breakthrough is saying... "Hey, look up!! I'm here! I've got you..."

- "Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!" (Psalm 106:4)
- Breakthrough prayer is remembering that Jesus said: ask, seek, knock. Don't give up in prayer. Persist!
- Put a FAST on it.

Do you believe God still breaks through? That he still breaks chains?

We have to fight for vision! It's seeing his heart and hand!

- Heart: He cares. He listens. He LOVES you!
- Hand: He is POWERFUL - ALL-POWERFUL.

Do you see that?

- If he cares, I can pour my heart out before him!
- If he's strong, I can believe he'll move!

T: Don't stop praying, don't stop praising God before your breakthrough! It will raise your faith in...

## 3. The God of Breakthrough fights our battles (5:20).

Breakthroughs in the Story (Look at each verse)

- God chose (2)

- “For the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.” (10)
  - The LORD - YHWH
  - God of hosts. - Angel Armies
  - WITH HIM - Presence
- God establishes and exalts (11-12)
- Verse 20: And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, “The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood.” Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim.
  - Baal-perazim (you may have a footnote - check those out when you read!) means “Lord of Breaking Through”
  - This is what the victory looked like! God brings the victory - the break through - like powerful FLOOD WATERS taking out objects and obstacles in their path. That’s what our God does. Nothing can stand against God, when he arises and moves in POWER!
  - Jehovah-Jireh (Genesis 22:14), Jehovah-Nissi (Exodus 17:15)

In every one of these cases, we learn a simple truth: **“For the battle is the Lord’s...” (1 Samuel 17:47)**

Write this down, speak it to yourself, pray it, preach it to one another, plaster it all over your house.

But we need to understand that breakthrough comes in different ways!

Sometimes suddenly!

- Flood waters... Flash flood... God can bring breakthrough in a moment’s time!
- God shows up in unmistakable power. The good news catches you by surprise! The WOW moments! Who’s had some WOW moments in life?!
- God provides. He breaks through with healing: physically, spiritually, or emotionally. That prayer you kept asking, seeking and knocking for - all of the sudden, comes in the mail or shows up at work, and you are brought into a new place of freedom!

Sometimes in seasons!

- Sometimes we just keep chipping away and chipping away, and then you look back and realize, God brought you into a new season, but you endured a really long season to get there!
- Listen to what one person who saw breakthrough in their struggle with depression said: “[Sometimes God will heal in an instant.] Most often God will use the unheralded means of adequate sleep, exercise, a reasonable diet, regular worship and fellowship, Bible reading, good books, time outdoors, faithfulness in our responsibilities, and profitable ministry to pull us out of the throes of spiritual depression.” (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/a-few-lessons-learned-from-a-long-battle-with-spiritual-depression/>)”

What’s the lesson? Breakthrough comes in all shapes and sizes. There’s no breakthrough equation... It does not always come in the same way. Look at verses 23-24.

Stories... Personally - RI. Spiritual — Marsha - 2019. Vocational

Let me ask you this: how will you respond if breakthrough is slow or *seems* to never come?

- Will you conclude that God doesn’t love you? (He could never love you more than he loves you right now!)
- Will you conclude that God has forsaken you?
  - What if God is accomplishing a greater goal than you imagined?
  - Your sanctification. Romans 5 - Sanctification - Image of Christ;
  - His power and glory. 2 Cor 12:9 - Flexing his power in your weakness.

This protects us from two dangers: one is of the head, the other is the heart!

1. HEAD
  - Expose some dangerous theology. HEALING ALWAYS NOW...
  - I’m not promising total freedom now... Paul’s Thorn. Jesus’ Cross.
2. HEART:
  - We really have to examine our motives. (James 4:2-3)
  - We can so easily focus only on a breakthrough in our circumstances but never a breakthrough in us! Or breakthrough can become a selfish pursuit distracting us from our main pursuit, God himself!

When someone lives with a thorn and bears their cross and stays faithful, they are shouting to the world: My God is every moment good. My God is better than my breakthrough!

Where do you need breakthrough? “The battle is the Lord’s!”

T: God gives supernatural power beyond us, but he also wants to show his supernatural power in us.

#### 4. The God of Breakthrough will use you in the victory (5:20-21).

- Verse 20-21
- Verse 25 “And David did as the Lord commanded him.”
  - In language reflecting descriptions of the obedient heroes of the Torah (e.g., Noah, Gen 7:9, 16; Abraham, Gen 21:4; and Moses, Exod 7:6), “David did as the Lord commanded him” (v. 25)
- Think about all the times the Bible tells us to be steadfast, persevere, keep running
  - Hebrews 12:1-2
  - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- As you’re praying for breakthrough, don’t forget to look in the mirror. Most often, when God brings breakthrough, he will use YOU in the process!
- It’s that principle we keep preaching. You step out. He’ll show up!

But we do so in the grace and power he provides.

- Listen, when Satan sees you and me, he laughs! Listen, we’re not that intimidating!
- When he sees Christ in you me, he runs!
- {P} Bring the flags!!
- This is why we don’t back down! “You’re RUNNING INTO DANGER!”

#### Conclusion:

Our confidence in that breakthrough is coming is in Christ! For battle after battle after battle. It’s not breakthrough. It’s breakthroughs! Verses 22-25

Again? Opposition. Barriers. Enemies.

Again. David inquired (23)

Again! The Battle is the Lord’s (24)

Again. But we walk it out! (25)

Again. Victory! (25)

- Here’s the good news of gospel, and the larger story of all of Scripture. Sometimes it’s sudden, Oftentimes it will be gradual, but IN CHRIST, your breakthrough is CERTAIN. Look at the cross. Look at that empty tomb!
- Complete and final breakthrough is ours IN CHRIST! This is why we can say... “In Christ, breakthrough is in front of you.”
- **“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)**

Have you experienced the Breakthrough of all breakthroughs from the God of Breakthrough?

PRAYER TEAM