

Seeking a Breakthrough...

Welcome to our new bible series entitled, *Inspiring Bible Characters*. Our goal for the next eight weeks is to gain inspiration from several men and women who we meet in scripture. To set up this series of lessons, I want us to first examine our own lives.

While we have much to be thankful for, most of us are still grappling with things that cause us unrest. For our first lesson, I want to study what it means to arrive at a place of being at peace about whatever has been distressing you. Overcoming that personal distress is commonly referred to as having a *breakthrough*.

I truly hope that as you identify the changes you want to make in your life that you will then be inspired by our bible characters; and ultimately have a *breakthrough* of your own this year.

Have you been dealing with a particular situation that has caused you unrest for a long period of time?

What are some of the issues that we deal with on a long-term basis?

*Some of the Things that Cause You **Unrest...***

- Financial problems
- Marital problems
- Lack of progress in one's life (stuck in a rut)
- Family issues
- Stress on the job
- Issues with Self
- Relationship issues
- Past Hurts
- Grieving
- Physical health
- Emotional health
- Living in Sin
- An unmet desire or need



You're tired of dealing with the situation and you need relief soon...

Hopefully, you've decided that this will be the year that you seriously address that which is worrying you or that which stands in your way of being all that you can be...

Dealing with something difficult
and you need relief? If so, *you
are seeking a breakthrough...*

A *breakthrough* is an act of overcoming
or penetrating an obstacle or restriction

To *breakthrough* means to advance or
make progress

Ever heard of a scientific breakthrough? In science and technology, a *breakthrough* usually means a new discovery.





Did you know that sometimes the answer to our problem exists, but like in science, we just haven't discovered it yet...

Some of our problems are complex and difficult for us to solve, but in Christ, we have the answer...

Bible Characters and their Breakthroughs...

Read each of the following passages. What message does the Word of God give us as we examine each character?

- Luke 18: 35-42
 - Blind *receives sight*
- Luke 19: 1-9
 - Evil ways *changed to a repentant heart*
- Luke 13: 10-17
 - Crippling disease *is cured*
- John 5: 1-15
 - Disabled man is *now able to walk*

What we can learn from our bible characters...

- The Lord is willing and able to give us that which we have been seeking
- He is merciful and does not want His people to suffer
- If you really want change in your life, you must do the work it takes— even if its difficult
- Having faith is important if you want the Lord to bless you
- Sometimes, we simply stay in a situation or condition too long. If you really want things to get better, you must have the courage to “Get up!”

Your breakthrough could be a change in your perspective...

Not all prayers are answered in the time or in the way that we want them to be. When your situation doesn't change, maybe you should ask God for help in how you view the issue you are dealing with. I know first-hand how a breakthrough can occur even when there is no change to the actual situation.

Most men who desire children would like to have a son and I was no exception. I prayed that God would give me a son. It was something I really wanted badly. My first child was a beautiful girl. My second child was a gorgeous girl... Two kids were enough for me and my wife...I love my girls dearly, but I didn't get that son that I wanted so badly. My situation didn't change, but the Lord worked with me, and about a year after my second daughter was born, I was so happy being a father of two girls that my desire for a son completely went away. I, honestly, felt that God had perfectly blessed me with the kids that I was supposed to raise in this world. I wouldn't trade my two daughters anything, including two sons! I believe God helped me change my perspective. My change in attitude was my breakthrough!

Maybe your situation won't change either...but the way you handle it, the way you think about it, the way you cope with it, can change! That change can be your personal breakthrough.

What is it that you need resolved in your life in 2009? When will you begin praying for and working towards your breakthrough?