

Bardstown Church of God

BREAKTHROUGH 23

Teaching Notes

Pastor Ed Lainhart

December 7, 2022
December 14, 2022
December 28, 2022

Welcome To 'BREAKTHROUGH 23!'

Week 1 (December 7, 2022)

Introduction

Breakthrough is commonly a military term. It means one army will try to weaken the opposing army by bombarding it to the point of collapse! Once the collapse happens the army will invade and take the spoils!

Is this not this the very plan of our enemy, Satan, to bombard our homes, our church, our nation until it collapses? Then invade and take the spoils?

*Here's what we know and sometimes forget:

2 Cor.10: 4 - 6 (AMP)

4 The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 being ready to punish every act of disobedience, when your own obedience [as a church] is complete.

*Know this also . . .

Eph. 6: 10 - 11 (AMP)

10 In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might. 11 Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

*What the enemy is after is the strength of God in your life and mine which is our "union with Him."

If he [the devil] is successful, it's then he goes after the spoils of your family, your church, and your nation.

Teaching 1: How to Receive a Breakthrough

Pray: Repeat after me: God give me divine strategies and insight for my Breakthrough, for our breakthrough. Show me through your Word how to fight against invisible enemies effectively. Empower me by the Holy Spirit! In Jesus name!

*I will now share a total of four ways and not one can be missing for your BREAKTHROUGH 23.

- I. Anticipate Breakthrough 23
 - a. I want you to anticipate breakthrough!
 - b. Our English word anticipate comes from a Latin word anticipate, which means to “take care of ahead of time” or, literally, “taking possession beforehand.”
 - c. Anticipate in our present culture is nothing more than the feeling of expectation. But in reality, it has everything to do with preparation and action. It’s when your anticipation is birthed out of your faith, you’re making room for what you know is yours.
 - d. Anticipation is:
 - i. Illustration 1: Bringing an umbrella to a prayer meeting in the time of a drought preparing for the rain to come.
 - ii. Illustration 2: NCAA MBB Championship Hats and Shirts are made before the Game is played to decide who 2023 Champions will be. (Both teams are planning to win the title and no plan to lose)

II. Faith Intact

Heb.11: 1 (AMP)

1 Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

- a. Faith is like the air we breathe. Just because we can’t see it does not mean it doesn’t exist.
- b. It’s when your faith is expressed in anticipation, you’re making room for what you know is yours.
- c. Ma’am, Sir, Breakthrough is within your reach!
- d. Your faith must be exercised.

Hebrews 11: 6 (KJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

vv.32 - 34 (AMP)

32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, **33** who by faith [that is, with an enduring trust in God and His promises] subdued kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promised blessings, closed the mouths of lions, **34** extinguished the power of [raging] fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became mighty and unbeatable in battle, putting enemy forces to flight.

- e. You will see and seize your Breakthrough in 23 by faith!
- f. Somebody Shout My Breakthrough will advance in 23!

III. In Prayer

- a. We must once again believe that when we pray, we will receive!

Mark 11: 24 (AMP)

24 For this reason I am telling you, whatever things you ask for in prayer [in accordance with God's will], believe [with confident trust] that you have received them, and they will be given to you.

- b. Elijah Prayed,

James 5: 17 - 18

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours [with the same physical, mental, and spiritual limitations and shortcomings], and he prayed [d]intensely for it not to rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. **18** Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain, and the land produced its crops [as usual].

- c. You see Elijah prayed and heard what others could not hear in prayer.

1 Kings 18: 41 - 44 (AMP)

41 Now Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of the roar of an abundance of rain." **42** So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he crouched down to the earth and put his face between his knees, **43** and he said to his servant, "Go up, look toward the sea." So, he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." Elijah said, "Go back" seven times. **44** And at the seventh time the servant said, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is coming up from the sea." And Elijah said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, so that the rain shower does not stop you.'" **45** In a little while the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and there were heavy showers. And Ahab mounted and rode [his chariot] and went [inland] to [e]Jezreel. **46** Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah [giving him supernatural strength]. He [f]girded up his loins and outran Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel [nearly twenty miles].

IV. Fasting

- a. Fasting is mentioned more than 50 times in the Bible.
- b. Fasting is no longer practiced as it once was.
 - i. Fasting simply put is abstaining from food or something else for a period of time to redirect your thoughts toward God. As we fast it's a time for intimacy with God in prayer, meditation, worship, and His Word. And if a breakthrough is needed then fasting is what is needed to bring power to your prayers.

Ezra 8: 22 - 23

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is

against all them that forsake him. 23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

- c. We must get into union with God!
- d. Fasting will be necessary for BREAKTHROUGH 23!

2 Sam.12: 16

16 *David therefore appealed to God for the child [to be healed]; and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.*

Luke 2: 36 - 37

36 *There was a prophetess, Anna, . . . She was very old, . . . 37 . . . She did not leave the [area of the] temple, but was serving and worshiping night and day with fastings and prayers.*

Acts 13: 1 - 3

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets [who spoke a new message of God to the people] and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called [a]Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with [b]Herod [Antipas] the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 *While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the work to which I have called them."* **3** *Then after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them [in approval and dedication] and sent them away [on their first journey].*

- e. There will be no short cuts to BREAKTHROUGH 23.

Matt.17: 21

21 *"This kind comes only by prayer and fasting."*
**Story of demon possessed boy and disciples' failure*

vv.19 - 21

19 *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked, "Why could we not drive it out?"* **20** *He answered, "Because of your little faith [your lack of trust and confidence in the power of God]; for I assure you and most solemnly say to you, if you have [living] faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and [if it is God's will] it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 [But this kind of demon does not go out except by prayer and fasting.]"*

- f. Fasting will break strongholds, bad habits, ungodly patterns, unhealthy appetites, and bring mental clarity, answered prayers, wisdom, direction, physical cleansing, healing, and wholeness.
- g. Matt.6: 16 - "When you fast, "You're summoning divine, supernatural strength from the Lord!
 - i. Example: Me being desperate for a breakthrough. The fasting at a church for 2 Years and saw results but not at the level or the breakthrough I had fasted for. But then!

- h. Daniel 10 tells us that Daniel fasted for 21 days, and results came later.
- i. Breakthrough is warfare. If you're facing attacks on your family, finances, health, or relationships in ministry, it's time for breakthrough and it will come through prayer and fasting!

We will not fast to manipulate God somehow. We are fasting for Divine intervention!

Conclusion

- 1- BREAKTHROUGH 23
- 2- Habakkuk wrote the vision

Week 2 (December 14, 2022)

Introduction

By reviewing Teaching #1 and it will be serving only as a part of tonight's introduction.

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Is this not the very plan of our enemy, Satan, to bombard our homes, our church, our nation until it collapses? Then invade and take the spoils?

*Here's what we know and sometimes forget:

There is an unseen resistance. We are fighting what we can't see. But we know it exist. because we can feel it.

*Say this with me: I will overcome the plots and hidden plans of the enemy set against me.

*Here's how I know we can all overcome because...

2 Cor.10: 4 - 6 (AMP)

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There will be no short cuts to BREAKTHROUGH 23.

Matt.17: 21

21 *“This kind comes only by prayer and fasting.”*

- II. Four Ways to Your Breakthrough 23
 - a. Anticipate Breakthrough 23
 - b. Faith intact
 - c. In Prayer
 - d. Fasting

I also shared that tonight I would begin sharing different types of fast. (I will do that Wednesday December 28th).

Teaching 2: Fasting and Prayer That Produces Results/Breakthroughs

What is going on when people pray and fast and nothing changes [no results, no breakthroughs]? You must prepare yourself now for the possibility that it can happen to you or to us.

Two Reasons:

- 1. Nothing changing might just be a delay.
 - a. So many have given up during prayer and fasting when they were on the verge of a breakthrough.
- 2. Your prayer and fast is useless (it’s not working, it will not work – and there is a reason for this)

- I. Nothing Changing Might Just Be A Delay

Dan. 10: 2 - 3 (AMP)

2 In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3 I ate no tasty food, nor did any meat or wine enter my mouth; and I did not anoint (refresh, groom) myself at all for the full three weeks.

- a. Daniel is fasting for a Breakthrough. Each day he's believing and nothing changes.
- b. But then Day 21 comes, the BREAKTHROUGH HAPPENS!
- c. There's a reason for the delay Daniel has experienced.

vv. 12 – 13

12 . . . Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. **13** But the [e]prince of the kingdom of Persia was standing in opposition to me for twenty-one days.

* An evil angel representing the interest of Satan in Persia. Apparently, this was a demon of high rank that opposed the answer to prayer. On three occasions, Jesus referred to Satan as the *ruler* or *prince of this world* (John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11).

vv. 13 (cont.)

13 . . . Then, behold, Michael, one of the chief [of the celestial] princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

*Note: Since the angelic victory came pm the 21st day, we can surmise that if Daniel would have stopped praying on the 20th day, the answer may not have come.

- d. Ladies and gentlemen, we might fast and it looks like nothing is changing but it doesn't mean it won't change.
 - i. There's just a delay because of the spiritual battle in heaven.
- e. Don't give up, BREAKTHROUGH will come!
 - i. Delay doesn't mean denial.
- f. You must prepare yourself now for the possibility of it happening to you or us.

Two Reasons:

- 1. It might just be a delay.
- 2. Or your fast is useless (it's not working and it will not work)
- II. Your fast is Useless (it's not working and will not work until)
 - a. Isaiah 58 – Israel appeals to God

v. 3 (MSG)

3 'Why do we fast and you don't look our way? Why do we humble ourselves and you don't even notice?'

- b. Here's why

vv. 3 – 5

"Well, here's why: "The bottom line on your 'fast days' is profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight. You

fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won't get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after: a day to show off humility? To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black? Do you call that fasting, a fast day that I, God, would like?

*Note: God exposes the reality.

- The reality was that His people didn't **fast** with the right heart and did it only as an empty ritual.
 - They fasted but they didn't enter into it to have a change of heart.
 - They remained mean-spirited, doing people wrong, bickering and fighting.
- c. Though their prayer was accompanied with fasting, it was still a selfish, even wicked prayer. So, God would not answer because this isn't the kind of fast He wants.
- d. Actually, God calls their actions through the prophet Isaiah. Telling him to:

v. 1

1 *"Shout! A full-throated shout! Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout! Tell my people what's wrong with their lives, face my family Jacob with their sins!"*

III. Fasting and Praying That Produces BREAKTHROUGH!

vv. 9 – 12

Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.' If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

*Note:

Our world is broken. We look and see the ruins of broken homes, churches, and our nation. How there needs to be a rebuilding work today! So many broken hearts because that what once was sacred, has become wasteland. We used to have a carefully guarded fence around the sanctity of our family life, sex life, and the right to personal privacy. The wall of protection is in ruins, and life has lost all its meaning for many.

Week 3 (December 28, 2022)

Introduction

John Piper's book, 'A Hunger For God,' says:

"Fasting test where the heart is. And when it reveals that the heart is with God and not the world, a mighty blow is struck against Satan. For then Satan does not have the foothold he would of our heart we're in love with earthly things like bread."

Fasting in scripture is associated with a heart of repentance.

Jonah 3: 5

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

a. Isaiah 58: 3 – 7

- a. However, God exposes the reality of His peoples fast in this passage.
- b. The reality was that His people didn't **fast** with the right heart and did it only as an empty ritual. They fasted but they didn't enter into it to have a change of heart.
- c. They remained mean-spirited, doing people wrong, bickering and fighting.

Teaching 3: Four Ways to Fast

I. Four Types of Fasts

1. The Regular Fast

- i. Accomplished by abstaining from all food and liquids, except water
- ii. Ezra 8: 21
 - a. We discussed in our first teaching the reason for this fast.

Ezra 8: 21 – 23

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. **22** For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. **23** So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

*Note: We must get into union with God, depending on Him!

- iii. The Regular Fast is found in 2 Chron. 20: 1 – 29 (we will go to this narrative later and explain what this fast produced for God's people.

2. Absolute Fast or a Full Fast (means no food or water)

- i. Examples:

- a. Moses: 40 days

Deut. 9: 9

9 *When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:*

- b. Elijah: 40 days

1 Kings 19: 8 (AMP)

8 *So he got up and ate and drank, and with the strength of that food he traveled forty days and nights to Horeb (Sinai), the mountain of God*

3. Partial Fast

- i. Some would call this a Daniel Fast

Daniel 10: 2 – 3

2 *In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3 I ate no tasty food, nor did any meat or wine enter my mouth; and I did not [a]noint (refresh, groom) myself at all for the full three weeks.*

v. 3 (NLT)

3 *All that time I had eaten no rich food. No meat or wine crossed my lips, and I used no fragrant lotions until those three weeks had passed.*

Resulted in...

4. Fasting from Other Substances

- i. As Daniel fasted from lotions, some people fast from things they enjoy such as entertainment. Some fast from sleep to spend more time in prayer and worship (fasting social media like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.).

1 Cor. 7: 5 (KJV)

5 *Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer.*

*** The implication is: Paul encouraged couples to fast from intimacy for a limited time and in agreement.

*** How you choose to fast will be your decision. But it's important that you do fast.

Matt. 6: 16

16 *Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*

II. A Winning Fast (Breakthrough is a Military Term)

a. A fast is proclaimed in all of Judah.

2 Chron. 20: 1 – 3

*1 It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.
2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*

b. Fasting with Purpose

v. 4

4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

* The purpose of the fast was to seek the Lord. They came together to do so.

c. Jehoshaphat and Judah know God is greater than their problem

vv. 5 – 6

*5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court,
6 And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?*

* We must fast knowing God is greater than any power or might.

d. Jehoshaphat and Judah know God is greater because God has done it before.

v. 7

7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

e. The Place (geographically) of Prayer and Fasting

vv. 8 – 9

*8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,
9 If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.*

*** Ladies and Gentlemen, we are going to be fasting and praying. But we have plans on doing it in God's house!

- f. The enemy's motive or desire is to move them from Judah's inheritance, their possession take away what God has given them.

vv. 11 – 12 (a - b)

11 Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. 12 (a-b) O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us;

- g. Judah's mindset in turning to God is we don't know what to do. So our eyes are on you.

v. 12c

12c . . . neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

h. Overview these verses

a. vv. 14 – 26

- i. Because of fasting, they received instruction on how to win the battle.
- ii. The instruction was to Praise the Lord!
- iii. Victory came!

*** I believe in our prayer and fasting, we will receive instruction and victory!

Conclusion

- After victory they returned to Jerusalem with joy and more praise!
- Joy is accompanied with music!

vv. 27 – 30

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies. 28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the Lord. 29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

We will return after the battle with Praise and music in the house of the Lord.