

A person with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored patterned dress and a dark backpack, is walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The path is flanked by tall grass. In the background, there are rolling hills under a dramatic sky with large, dark clouds and a bright, low sun creating a strong glow and lens flare. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

alive

magazine
NEW YEAR '18

A NEW BEGINNING

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A NEW BEGINNING

By Andrew W Roebert

Life is all about starting over, again and again. I once heard someone say that life is what happens while you are making plans. Our lives may be all neatly organized with everything in its little place, and then something happens and we have to pick up the pieces and build a new life all over again.

Every obstacle in life is the opportunity for a new beginning. Every obstacle can be a stepping-stone to something new and wonderful. The past may have been great, but with God in our lives the future can even be better. In a very real sense the good-old-days are today! How will you live them?

AVOID DISCOURAGEMENT

When things don't go as we had planned to can feel confused, disappointed and discouraged. This is natural and we need to afford ourselves the time to adjust, but there comes a time when we must arise out of these circumstances and situations to a newness of life.

Isaiah 60:1 ARISE [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

My step grandmother was widowed for the second time at a very young age. After many years of living alone she decided to move into a retirement center. It was a beautiful center with great facilities and magnificent gardens. When she got there someone told her that this center was God's waiting room for those on their way to heaven. She became extremely discouraged and two weeks after moving in she just realized that she still had too much life to live and was not ready to sit in a waiting room.

We must avoid discouragement and not allow it to take root in our lives. You may have reason to be discouraged but you have much more reason to look forward to God's goodness in the future.

DON'T LIVE IN THE PAST

I was once talking to my friend who had just been to see his grandmother. She was dying in hospital at the age of 96. She had been in perfect health up until she fell ill shortly before going to hospital. As my friend got chatting to his grandmother, he asked her if she had any regrets. She said she had one. Her husband had died when she was almost 60 years of age. She had felt that the end was near for her as well and so she waited for her time to die. Little did she know that she would have another 36 years of good health and strength. She said to her grandson that if she had known that she had so much time she would have built a new life for herself and she would have enjoyed it!

We must never just settle down to die. The past is a snare. When we start living with 'what ifs', 'if only' or 'it could have been better' we only do ourselves harm.

Isaiah 43:18 – 19 Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

God can take your wasteland and your desert and make a way!

PICK UP THE PIECES

There was another lady that I knew. Her husband dropped dead in his early fifties from a heart attack. Her she found herself widowed at a young age and left feeling like there was no future. At the time they had lived in a very large home and she elected to continue living in this home. But she did not pick up the pieces and move on.

She left all your husbands clothes in his cupboard and did not change anything in the house. When she felt like the wheels were coming off in her life, she would open her husband's cupboard and breathe in. In the process, she would smell the scent of her husband and it would feel like he was close to her. It was then that she decided to pick up the pieces and make a new life for herself. She got out and discovered new places and new people. She developed a business and started all over again. She went on to get married, sold the house and went on to enjoy a new marriage and a new life that has already lasted almost 30 years. You see, when life happens we need to pick up the pieces and believe God for something new.

Romans 6:4 God the Father, with glorious power, brought Him (Jesus) back to life again, you were given His wonderful new life to enjoy.

I have a friend whose child got involved with drugs. It was a devastating thing for them as a family. They felt they would never recover and that nothing in life could make up for this disaster. Even though they had a calling on their lives they felt it was simply not worth it. With God's help they picked up the pieces and tried to make sense of what had happened and in the process they have become an inspiration to other facing similar challenges.

START WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT

When we make a new beginning we must start with what we have got. I was speaking to a lady the other day. Her Mom had just died and she did not feel like living. She told me that her discouragement was affecting her husband and children. I reminded her that she still had a husband and children and they were enough reason to live. Start with what you have got. Perhaps you have overlooked the obvious and have ignored what you still have. My friend whose child had got involved with drugs had to realise that he still had a child. He had become so consumed with the drugs that he almost forgot about the child. Don't take things for granted. Be thankful for the 'small' mercies and start all over again. Take what you have got and build on it.

BUILD A NEW LIFE

This is the challenge that we all face. Things happen in the course of life and with God's help we can pick up the pieces, start with what we have got and build a new life.

Try something new! Make some new friends. Go to places you have not been to before. Simplify your life. Make the necessary adjustments. Start again! This applies to life at every stage and after ever set back we may have experienced. It may be a divorce, a death, a bankruptcy, a failure, a success, a disappointment or a tragedy. God is there to help you and to help you start all over again.

MOVE ON

Moving on into the new things that God has for us, is the most important thing we can do. When we camp at some hurdle in life, that hurdle becomes insurmountable. It is moving on that we discover that God has not abandoned us and in fact he has plans for us and they are good plans.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



DEEPER

By Andrew Roebert

DEEPER WORSHIP

There are so many aspects of God and His love for us to experience. I believe that God wants to take us deeper and deeper. God wants to make His love for us more real to us. God does not desire that our relationship with Him is just head-knowledge. He wants to be known by a heart experience. God wants to give us His presence. So often we settle for less than what God intended for us. Today, you are invited deeper and God is looking for a heart response from us that says: 'Yes Lord I will go deeper'.

ANKLE DEEP

When it comes to the God and the things of God, some people settle for just getting their feet wet. God is inviting us deeper and deeper.

Ezekiel 47:3-5 Measuring as he went, he took me 1,500 feet east along the stream and told me to go across. At that point the water was up to my ankles. 4He measured off another 1,500 feet and told me to cross again. This time the water was up to my knees. 5Fifteen hundred feet after that it was up to my waist. Another 1,500 feet and it had become a river so deep I wouldn't be able to get across unless I were to swim. It was too deep to cross on foot.

Step into the water and keep moving forward towards the deep waters. God wants us at that point where His river carries us along. Get into the river God wants to take you deeper.

God wants to give us the gift of His presence. In this regard worship plays a vital role. It is as we worship Him that we can press right into the Holy of Holies, where God Himself is.

Psalm 95:6-7 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Psalm 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Luke 4:7 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

DEEPER IN HIS LOVE

God's love is so great that we will never understand it. The only thing is to experience it more and more.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 May the Lord bring you into an ever deeper understanding of the love of God and of the patience that comes from Christ.

Ephesians 3:17-19 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to

experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

The idea here is that we will experience more and more of God's love and in the process we will touch Him and He will touch our lives.

DEEPER IN RELATIONSHIP

God is offering us a relationship that is real and close. God does not want us to feel that He is far away. He wants us to know deep in our own hearts how close He is and how much He desires that we should have contact with Him.

Romans 8:16-17 For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we really are God's children. And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too.

It is a unique relationship where we can experience His heart towards us in an ever-deepening way. Welcome God into your life and give Him first place.

GOD'S PRESENCE

God wants us to know His presence in our lives. We cannot live without His presence. Life is barren without God's presence. Without His presence there will always be a longing and searching within our very being that will never be satisfied. We can try and fill it with many things, only to discover that those things will never satisfy. Only God's presence can fill that longing within our hearts.

Exodus 33:14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

As we experience and enjoy His presence God will touch us and His touch is delightful!

A DEEPER DESIRE

God wants to place within us a deeper desire for Him. A longing that we only be satisfied as we realize that we cannot live without Him and as we begin to want more and more of Him.

Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants for water, so I long for you, O God. 2I thirst for God, the living God.

A greater hunger and thirst for God. A greater desire to see the hand of God move mightily inside of us. A greater desire for the moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our churches and our places of influence.

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

A DEEP DRAWING

God wants to place within us a deep sense of drawing. God wants to give us His presence. As a result He wants to touch us. As this happens we begin to realize just how wonderful His touch is. This creates a desire for more and more and as a result we are drawn to Him. Something happens on the inside, as a result, that moves us towards God.

Psalm 42:7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls.

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.

A DEEP SATISFACTION

As the Holy Spirit makes this all real to us, there will be a level of satisfaction. That God-shaped vacuum within each one of us will know what it was created for.

Isaiah 58:11

*The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your soul in drought, and
strengthen your bones; You shall be
like a watered garden, And like a
spring of water, whose waters do
not fail.*

Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.

Psalm 63:5 At last I shall be fully satisfied.

TAKE MY HAND

I want to move into all that God has for me. I want go deeper and deeper. The longer I walk with God, the greater my desire and longing for more of Him. This is the course that I have decided for my life. Let us walk this road together. Let us take hands and determine, like never before, that we will not settle for anything less. Let's invite the Holy Spirit to make this real to us and let us go deeper. We have only just begun.

Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good.

Health For Our Souls

By Andrew Roebert

It is one thing to have health for our bodies, BUT we also need health for our souls. Our bodies can be alive but we can be dead on the inside. Like a dead man walking - physically alive and spiritually almost dead. We need to be alive on the inside to be fully alive on the outside. To enjoy health we need health in all areas. God has got health for us in every aspect. God has health for our souls in store for us.

THERE ARE THREE AREAS IN WHICH WE NEED HEALTH

In our bodies

This is an important area. God desires that we be in health.

In our minds

This is another important area. If our bodies are in health, but our minds are out of control, we do not enjoy complete health. Issues like, fear, despair, distress, stress and hopelessness are issues of the mind. God desires for us that this area also be in a good state/condition.

In our souls

This is what I was talking about when I used the term, 'Dead man walking'. For our souls to be healthy they need to be alive to God. I am talking about the inner you and your connection with God. God has health for us in all these areas.

HEALTH FOR OUR SOULS

This is my prayer for you.

3 John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.

It is interesting that our inner health or the health of our souls sets the standard for the health in the other areas of our lives, such as physical health and prosperity. This is why it is so important that we should have health for our souls. Let's look at this scripture.

3 JOHN 2

3 John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.

'I WISH' Other translations say 'I PRAY.' A prayer is a Godly wish, Turn your wishes into prayer.

'THAT YOU MAY PROSPER' This is something we can pray, especially for others.

'AND BE IN HEALTH.' What good is prosperity if we don't have the health to enjoy it? God desires this for us.

'EVEN AS YOUR SOUL PROSPERS.' It is vital that on the inside we also prosper. We do not want to be DEAD MEN WALKING. Alive, healthy, prosperous and dead on the inside.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN HEALTH?

Health does not mean we are well physically only. Health is a condition or a state that takes into consideration all aspects. Body, mind, and soul. It is the condition of being sound in body, mind, or spirit.

It does include freedom from physical disease or pain, but it also includes all areas, so that we could be in a flourishing condition in every way. I believe that this is what God has for us.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF OUR SOULS / SPIRITS ARE IN BAD HEALTH?

1. One of the major indicators is when we become cool towards God. We become lukewarm towards God and the things of God. Unlike our bodies that are sick when they have a high temperature, our souls are sick when we have a low temperature.
2. Another indicator is the hardness of our hearts. This can be towards God or towards those around us.
3. No desire for spiritual food is another sign.
4. No desire to pray. Prayer is the soul what breathing is to the body. How long can the body last without breathing? A couple of minutes. How long can the soul last without prayer? NOT LONG. God wants to bring us healing in every way. He wants us to be totally restored in every way.

HOW CAN WE FIND HEALTH FOR OUR SOULS?

PUT THINGS RIGHT WITH GOD!

1. Get some good spiritual food.
2. Develop a lifestyle that includes prayer
3. Exercise; find something that you can do for the Lord.
4. Watch what you look at and listen to.
5. Live close to God.
6. Let praise and worship become an integral part of your life.

GOD'S DESIRE FOR US

God wants us to be complete individuals. Complete in every area. Enjoying health for our bodies, prosperity in His provision and health for our souls so that we can be alive on the inside.

52 Week Bible Reading Plan

Bible-Reading.com

Week	Epistles (Sunday)	The Law (Monday)	History (Tuesday)	Psalms (Wednesday)	Poetry (Thursday)	Prophecy (Friday)	Gospels (Saturday)
1	☐ Rom 1-2	☐ Gen 1-3	☐ Josh 1-5	☐ Ps 1-2	☐ Job 1-2	☐ Isa 1-6	☐ Matt 1-2
2	☐ Rom 3-4	☐ Gen 4-7	☐ Josh 6-10	☐ Ps 3-5	☐ Job 3-4	☐ Isa 7-11	☐ Matt 3-4
3	☐ Rom 5-6	☐ Gen 8-11	☐ Josh 11-15	☐ Ps 6-8	☐ Job 5-6	☐ Isa 12-17	☐ Matt 5-7
4	☐ Rom 7-8	☐ Gen 12-15	☐ Josh 16-20	☐ Ps 9-11	☐ Job 7-8	☐ Isa 18-22	☐ Matt 8-10
5	☐ Rom 9-10	☐ Gen 16-19	☐ Josh 21-24	☐ Ps 12-14	☐ Job 9-10	☐ Isa 23-28	☐ Matt 11-13
6	☐ Rom 11-12	☐ Gen 20-23	☐ Judg 1-6	☐ Ps 15-17	☐ Job 11-12	☐ Isa 29-33	☐ Matt 14-16
7	☐ Rom 13-14	☐ Gen 24-27	☐ Judg 7-11	☐ Ps 18-20	☐ Job 13-14	☐ Isa 34-39	☐ Matt 17-19
8	☐ Rom 15-16	☐ Gen 28-31	☐ Judg 12-16	☐ Ps 21-23	☐ Job 15-16	☐ Isa 40-44	☐ Matt 20-22
9	☐ 1Cor 1-2	☐ Gen 32-35	☐ Jude 17-21	☐ Ps 24-26	☐ Job 17-18	☐ Isa 45-50	☐ Matt 23-25
10	☐ 1Cor 3-4	☐ Gen 36-39	☐ Ruth	☐ Ps 27-29	☐ Job 19-20	☐ Isa 51-55	☐ Matt 26-28
11	☐ 1Cor 5-6	☐ Gen 40-43	☐ 1Sam 1-5	☐ Ps 30-32	☐ Job 21-22	☐ Isa 56-61	☐ Mark 1-2
12	☐ 1Cor 7-8	☐ Gen 44-47	☐ 1Sam 6-10	☐ Ps 33-35	☐ Job 23-24	☐ Isa 62-66	☐ Mark 3-4
13	☐ 1Cor 9-10	☐ Gen 48-50	☐ 1Sam 11-15	☐ Ps 36-38	☐ Job 25-26	☐ Jer 1-6	☐ Mark 5-6
14	☐ 1Cor 11-12	☐ Ex 1-4	☐ 1Sam 16-20	☐ Ps 39-41	☐ Job 27-28	☐ Jer 7-11	☐ Mark 7-8
15	☐ 1Cor 13-14	☐ Ex 5-8	☐ 1Sam 21-25	☐ Ps 42-44	☐ Job 29-30	☐ Jer 12-16	☐ Mark 9-10
16	☐ 1Cor 15-16	☐ Ex 9-12	☐ 1Sam 26-31	☐ Ps 45-47	☐ Job 31-32	☐ Jer 17-21	☐ Mark 11-12
17	☐ 2Cor 1-3	☐ Ex 13-16	☐ 2Sam 1-4	☐ Ps 48-50	☐ Job 33-34	☐ Jer 22-26	☐ Mark 13-14
18	☐ 2Cor 4-5	☐ Ex 17-20	☐ 2Sam 5-9	☐ Ps 51-53	☐ Job 35-36	☐ Jer 27-31	☐ Mark 15-16
19	☐ 2Cor 6-8	☐ Ex 21-24	☐ 2Sam 10-14	☐ Ps 54-56	☐ Job 37-38	☐ Jer 32-36	☐ Luke 1-2
20	☐ 2Cor 9-10	☐ Ex 25-28	☐ 2Sam 15-19	☐ Ps 57-59	☐ Job 39-40	☐ Jer 37-41	☐ Luke 3-4
21	☐ 2Cor 11-13	☐ Ex 29-32	☐ 2Sam 20-24	☐ Ps 60-62	☐ Job 41-42	☐ Jer 42-46	☐ Luke 5-6
22	☐ Gal 1-3	☐ Ex 33-36	☐ 1Ki 1-4	☐ Ps 63-65	☐ Prov 1	☐ Jer 47-52	☐ Luke 7-8
23	☐ Gal 4-6	☐ Ex 37-40	☐ 1Ki 5-9	☐ Ps 66-68	☐ Prov 2-3	☐ Lamentations	☐ Luke 9-10
24	☐ Eph 1-3	☐ Lev 1-3	☐ 1Ki 10-13	☐ Ps 69-71	☐ Prov 4	☐ Ezek 1-6	☐ Luke 11-12
25	☐ Eph 4-6	☐ Lev 4-6	☐ 1Ki 14-18	☐ Ps 72-74	☐ Prov 5-6	☐ Ezek 7-12	☐ Luke 13-14
26	☐ Phil 1-2	☐ Lev 7-9	☐ 1Ki 19-22	☐ Ps 75-77	☐ Prov 7	☐ Ezek 13-18	☐ Luke 15-16
27	☐ Phil 3-4	☐ Lev 10-12	☐ 2Ki 1-5	☐ Ps 78-80	☐ Prov 8-9	☐ Ezek 19-24	☐ Luke 17-18
28	☐ Col 1-2	☐ Lev 13-15	☐ 2Ki 6-10	☐ Ps 81-83	☐ Prov 10	☐ Ezek 25-30	☐ Luke 19-20
29	☐ Col 3-4	☐ Lev 16-18	☐ 2Ki 11-15	☐ Ps 84-86	☐ Prov 11-12	☐ Ezek 31-36	☐ Luke 21-22
30	☐ 1Thes 1-3	☐ Lev 19-21	☐ 2Ki 16-20	☐ Ps 87-89	☐ Prov 13	☐ Ezek 37-42	☐ Luke 23-24
31	☐ 1Thes 4-5	☐ Lev 22-24	☐ 2Ki 21-25	☐ Ps 90-92	☐ Prov 14-15	☐ Ezek 43-48	☐ John 1-2
32	☐ 2Thes	☐ Lev 25-27	☐ 1Chr 1-4	☐ Ps 93-95	☐ Prov 16	☐ Dan 1-6	☐ John 3-4
33	☐ 1Tim 1-3	☐ Num 1-4	☐ 1Chr 5-9	☐ Ps 96-98	☐ Prov 17-18	☐ Dan 7-12	☐ John 5-6
34	☐ 1Tim 4-6	☐ Num 5-8	☐ 1Chr 10-14	☐ Ps 99-101	☐ Prov 19	☐ Hosea 1-7	☐ John 7-9
35	☐ 2Tim 1-2	☐ Num 9-12	☐ 1Chr 15-19	☐ Ps 102-104	☐ Prov 20-21	☐ Hosea 8-14	☐ John 10-12
36	☐ 2Tim 3-4	☐ Num 13-16	☐ 1Chr 20-24	☐ Ps 105-107	☐ Prov 22	☐ Joel	☐ John 13-15
37	☐ Titus	☐ Num 17-20	☐ 1Chr 25-29	☐ Ps 108-110	☐ Prov 23-24	☐ Amos 1-4	☐ John 16-18
38	☐ Philemon	☐ Num 21-24	☐ 2Chr 1-5	☐ Ps 111-113	☐ Prov 25	☐ Amos 5-9	☐ John 19-21
39	☐ Heb 1-4	☐ Num 25-28	☐ 2Chr 6-10	☐ Ps 114-116	☐ Prov 26-27	☐ Obadiah	☐ Acts 1-2
40	☐ Heb 5-7	☐ Num 29-32	☐ 2Chr 11-15	☐ Ps 117-118	☐ Prov 28	☐ Jonah	☐ Acts 3-4
41	☐ Heb 8-10	☐ Num 33-36	☐ 2Chr 16-20	☐ Ps 119	☐ Prov 29-30	☐ Micah	☐ Acts 5-6
42	☐ Heb 11-13	☐ Deut 1-3	☐ 2Chr 21-24	☐ Ps 120-121	☐ Prov 31	☐ Nahum	☐ Acts 7-8
43	☐ James 1-3	☐ Deut 4-6	☐ 2Chr 25-28	☐ Ps 122-124	☐ Eccl 1-2	☐ Habakkuk	☐ Acts 9-10
44	☐ James 4-5	☐ Deut 7-9	☐ 2Chr 29-32	☐ Ps 125-127	☐ Eccl 3-4	☐ Zephaniah	☐ Acts 11-12
45	☐ 1Pet 1-3	☐ Deut 10-12	☐ 2Chr 33-36	☐ Ps 128-130	☐ Eccl 5-6	☐ Haggai	☐ Acts 13-14
46	☐ 1Pet 4-5	☐ Deut 13-15	☐ Ezra 1-5	☐ Ps 131-133	☐ Eccl 7-8	☐ Zechariah 1-7	☐ Acts 15-16
47	☐ 2Pet	☐ Deut 16-19	☐ Ezra 6-10	☐ Ps 134-136	☐ Eccl 9-10	☐ Zechariah 8-14	☐ Acts 17-18
48	☐ 1John 1-3	☐ Deut 20-22	☐ Neh 1-4	☐ Ps 137-139	☐ Eccl 11-12	☐ Malachi	☐ Acts 19-20
49	☐ 1John 4-5	☐ Deut 23-25	☐ Neh 5-9	☐ Ps 140-142	☐ Song 1-2	☐ Rev 1-6	☐ Acts 21-22
50	☐ 2John	☐ Deut 26-28	☐ Neh 10-13	☐ Ps 143-145	☐ Song 3-4	☐ Rev 7-11	☐ Acts 23-24
51	☐ 3John	☐ Deut 29-31	☐ Esther 1-5	☐ Ps 146-148	☐ Song 5-6	☐ Rev 12-17	☐ Acts 25-26
52	☐ Jude	☐ Deut 32-34	☐ Esther 6-10	☐ Ps 149-150	☐ Song 7-8	☐ Rev 18-22	☐ Acts 27-28



IT IS TIME FOR BREAKTHROUGH

BY ANDREW ROEBERT

We all long to experience a breakthrough in some area of our lives. I can almost guarantee that right now there is some area in which you would love to experience a breakthrough. Breakthrough is part of God's plan for you. No matter how long you have been trusting God, it is not the time to get discouraged and give up. Now is the time to trust God and to hold on to what He has said and to believe Him with expectant hearts. God is able to turn any situation around and He is able to make a way where there seems to be no way



GOD'S PLAN

God's plan is that we should experience breakthrough.

Here is the definition of breakthrough:

1. The dictionary tells us that a breakthrough is a 'major advance'.
2. An instance of breaking through an obstruction.
3. A sudden advance.

Perhaps you have been battling in some area or another and God wants to step in and bring a MAJOR ADVANCE. Breakthrough means a major step forward from where you are. It includes release, liberation and freedom. Nothing is hard for God! Nothing you are facing, experiencing or trusting God for, is He unable to perform!

Jeremiah 32:27 I am the Lord, the God of all mankind; is there anything too hard for me?

Jeremiah 32:15 O Lord God! You have made the heavens and earth by your great power; nothing is too hard for you!

YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS AWAITING YOU

I believe that God has got breakthrough for each of us. If we give up and throw in the towel, we will miss the breakthrough that God has for us. It is only as we continue to hold onto God that the possibility of breakthrough can become a reality. With God anything can happen! We must not limit God in any way. Your breakthrough is waiting for you. Hold on and keep on holding on!

STOP THE ROT!

We must fight against those things, which would undermine our trust and expectation in what God can do. Rot sets in when we begin to DOUBT. Doubt in turn lead to disbelief and this in turn lead to a feeling that nothing can change. In the process, we begin to feel that God has forgotten about us or that He is unaware of our situation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Don't allow this kind of rot to take root in your heart! Deal ruthlessly with things that would cause you to doubt.

THE ROLE OF ATTITUDE

Our attitudes play a major role in realizing the breakthrough that we are trusting for. In aircraft there is an instrument called the ATTITUDE meter. The attitude meter measures the position of the nose of the plane. The nose position is very important. NOSE UP and we are making progress. NOSE DOWN and we are in decline/decent. We need to constantly evaluate our attitude and ensure that we are 'nose up' with hope and expectation in God.

WATCH YOUR CONFESSION

Watching our confession is another important aspect. We can undermine our trust and expectation when we begin to say negative things or begin to think negative thoughts. We must watch our confession.

Romans 4:17 God, who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Begin to confess your victory. Begin to confess your answer to prayer. Begin to confess your breakthrough. If your heart is full of expectation, then your mouth will speak about it!

EXPECT YOUR BREAKTHROUGH

Expectation is a very important aspect. Expectation is a form of faith. Faith is the thing that moves God. There needs to be an expectation in our heart regarding the breakthrough that we are anticipating! Years ago we used to sing: 'Expect a miracle everyday; expect a miracle when you pray. If you believe it God will make a way to perform a miracle for you each day'. The issue is do we live with expectation? I want to challenge you and encourage at the same time to begin to allow an expectation to arise in your heart!

1 John 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world.

SUDDENLY

Remember our definition: Breakthrough is a sudden advance. With God anything can happen at any time. God is the God of the suddenlies.

Matthew 9:29-30 Then He touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith it will happen." And suddenly they could see!

Mark 1:31 He went to her bedside, and as he took her by the hand and helped her to sit up, the fever suddenly left, and she got up and prepared dinner for them!

Acts 16:26 suddenly there was a great earthquake; the prison was shaken to its foundations, all the doors flew open—and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Never forget that God is still in control. Nothing is too hard for Him and no situation or circumstance is beyond His reach. Breakthrough is part of God's very nature. God is the one who is in the business of making a way where there seems to be no way. He can take impossibility and make it happen. Don't limit God. Expect your breakthrough. It is closer than you think!

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Let's keep on trusting God

By Andrew Roebert

I have been trusting God I am sure many of you have also been trusting God for something or another. We have trusted God in the past. Let's keep on trusting Him, NOW and in the Future. God has helped us in many things, He has answered many prayers and fulfilled many promises, but there is much more! So let's keep on trusting Him. Don't give up!

HOLD ONTO YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

Hebrews 10:35 Do not let this happy trust in the Lord die away, no matter what happens. (Living Translation)

Our trust in God should be a happy one, like a child who has a happy confidence in its parents. This trust in the Lord can die away and be lost. We must not allow this - no matter what happens.

Hebrews 10:35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. (NIV)

This version says it even more pointedly. DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE! Hold on to your confidence in the Lord.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

This is the great fact that we can rejoice in - God is faithful to us. We have placed our confidence in the Lord before and it is time to do that again. For our country and our region. For our economy. For our families and for our own lives.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess.

I love this phrase 'HOLD UNSWERVINGLY.' Hold with no intention of changing direction.

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES

This is another great fact: God's promises can be fully relied upon. We can have confidence in them and God is faithful to His promises.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

There is no longer any room for doubt, so keep on expecting and keep on trusting in God. What can we trust Him for:

1. To bring real unity in our country
2. To turn the economic tide
3. To help us reach the city
4. For our families and our own lives

WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR TRUST WITH ENDURANCE AND OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

Endurance is an important quality. Endurance is the power to last or the power to stand. We should not lose hope. As we are trusting God we need to have this stick-ability.

Obedience is another important quality. As we are trusting God we need to obey anything He tells us to do. So there are three steps

1. Trusting with endurance.
2. Doing what we feel God tells us to do - obedience.
3. And then receiving the promises.

We need to add a little endurance and obedience to your trusting in God.

GOD WANTS TO COME THROUGH FOR US

This is God's intention - to come through for us - to fulfil His promises and make good on His word.

Hebrews 10:36 For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay.

Sometimes we may feel that there is a contradiction between the phrase: 'In just a little while' and the phrase: 'Will not delay.' I believe that this shows us God's heart - He wants to come through for us.

TRUSTING GOD SHOULD BE OUR LIFESTYLE

This is the way we should live, continually trusting God. When we do this we are pleasing God. I want to please God each and every day.

Hebrews 10:37 And those whose faith has made them good in God's sight must live by faith, trusting him in everything. Otherwise, if they shrink back, God will have no pleasure in them.

We need to be trusting God in everything. When we stop trusting God we have already lost the battle. So make it a lifestyle. An on-going life experience of trusting God.

REAL PEOPLE OF FAITH NEVER STOP TRUSTING GOD

They never quit! They hang in and press through. They never draw back. They hold on to God and His promises. They do not allow hope to drain from their hearts.

Hebrews 10:39
But we are not of those
who shrink back and are destroyed,
but of those who believe
and are saved.

When we stop trusting God we open the door for destruction to come into our lives. 'those who shrink back and are destroyed.' That is not an alternative, but we want to be those who have believed and have seen God come through for them. The dictionary definition of believe is to have faith. Keep on trusting God.





LIVING SUCCESSFUL LIVES

God wants us to know success in the different aspects of life. God's plan for us is that we would have success in every area of our living. Naturally we all desire to succeed. The question is just HOW? If this is what God plans for us, then I want more of this successful living. How about you?

GODS PLAN

What is God's plan for those who are following Him? There is a clear answer to this question.

Psalm 1:1-3 Oh, the joys of those who do not follow evil men's advice, who do not hang around with sinners, scoffing at the things of God. But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on His laws and thinking about ways to follow Him more closely. They are like trees along a riverbank bearing luscious fruit each season without fail. Their leaves shall never wither, and all they do shall prosper.

The possibility of success is also found in the story of Joshua.

Joshua 1:8 Then you will be prosperous and successful.

It is part of God's plan for us that we should know success in our lives. The question again is HOW?

GODS WORD

The role of the word of God (The Bible) in our lives is a key to enjoying the success that God has in store for each one of us.

Psalm 1:2 But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on his laws and thinking about ways to follow him more closely.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

One of the devil's tactics is to get our minds filled with everything but the word of God. Our thinking is overcome by what we are being told and not by what the word of God says. We are receiving the wrong programming. God's word should be the thing according to which we are programmed.

HOW OUR MINDS ARE POLLUTED

Every day we are exposed to so much information that undermines our confidence in God and His plan for us. This happens in the following ways:

1. The media are constantly placing the emphasis on the negative or focusing our attention on any 'BAD' thing that may be taking place.
2. Products that could potentially destroy us are advertised in the most seductive way.
3. TV and the films we watch offer an alternative way of living, undermining what is right and good.
4. Unacceptable ways of living and conducting ourselves are presented as completely legitimate.

This is how our minds are polluted!

RETURNING TO THE IMPORTANT THINGS

We need to once again allow God's word to become the standard in our lives. We once again need to allow His word to infiltrate our lives and become part of what we believe, think and say.

As we meditate on what God has said He will do, faith is generated in us and then we are able to believe God for what He has promised. This calls for real quality decisions on our part. Let's make the main thing the main thing. Let us fill our minds with the wonderful word of God. The result will be success.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD

Our mouths always speak what our hearts are full of. You can judge what people are thinking about by what comes out of their mouths. Rubbish in – rubbish out! But if we will allow our hearts and minds to be filled with God's word then something changes and we begin to speak about what God has said He will do.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

We must speak about what God has said. We can speak to ourselves, speak to our families, speak to our friends and we can speak to those we come into, contact with.

DOING WHAT GOD SAYS

Once we have made the decision to allow God's word to be the thing that programs our hearts and minds, and then as we begin to speak about it, it is time to do what it

says. It is important to obey God's word if we want to enjoy the success that God offers us.

Joshua 1:8 Constantly remind the people about these laws, and you yourself must think about them every day and every night so that you will be sure to obey all of them. For only then will you succeed. (Living Bible)

Notice the phrase: 'be sure to obey all'. It speaks of determination and conviction. We must become determined that we will obey.

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Here are a summary of the various keys mentioned above:

1. MEDITATE on God's word.
2. SPEAK God's word.
3. DO God's word.

It is put pretty simply but it is actually a lifestyle that we need to develop.

THE REWARD

The reward is the promise of success.

Joshua 1:8 For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Notice that as we take these steps we will be instrumental in making our own way prosper and have success.

Psalm 1:2-3

But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on his laws and thinking about ways to follow him more closely. They are like trees along a riverbank bearing luscious fruit each season without fail. Their leaves shall never wither, and all they do shall prosper.

Let's believe God for this in our lives!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Andrew Roebert

We all want to make a difference! We all want to play a role in life in which we can have an effect and especially a positive effect on those around us and within our circle of influence.

However, we often end up having to deal with or face problems and then we look for solutions and we think that in this way we can have an effect. I believe that God is calling us back to His simple principles that will allow us to have an effect and make a difference in our world. We will not only be reactionary but we will become proactive in bringing change and making a difference.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD

The area in which we stand to make the greatest difference is in 'OUR' world. This is the area in which you are involved and in which you live. Often we want to make a great difference in some other dimension, when God has placed us right in the center of the area in which He wants us to have an effect.

We can play a role in shaping our environment and in this way begin to have an effect on our environment. Often we see problems and then we respond or react to problems. God is looking for a proactive attitude that is doing the right thing so that we can be effective when issues arise. This may sound very complicated and sophisticated but it is far simpler than we can imagine. It includes how we treat others and the attitudes that dominate our lives.

HOW WE TREAT OTHERS

Can it be that something as simple as this can have such a profound effect?

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you!

Most of us would like others to apply this principle to us. When we live like this barriers are broken down and relationships are built up and things change. As a result, God's love becomes a reality and this brings joy and peace.

The interesting thing is that this is the very opposite of what happens in society. In society selfishness is the order of the day. People live their entire lives in a self-orientated manner and then we wonder why things get worse. We can make a difference with this simple instruction that Jesus gives to us.

DO

Matthew 7:12 DO to others what you would have them do to you!

Notice the main word in this scripture – DO! Doing involves action! In most cases actions speak louder than words. True Christianity is not a matter of words but of actions. Primarily this includes our actions towards others.

You see you cannot control others actions towards you, but you can control your actions towards others. The question is will we respond in a reactionary fashion, as we are entitled to, or will we respond with a different spirit and as a result become a catalyst for change and begin to make a difference?

There is something you can do that will make a difference in the lives of others. If we will each find this 'something' then together we can have an effect and bring about change to areas we had thought would never be able to change.

OTHERS

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to OTHERS what you would have them do to you!

There is one thing in life that we cannot get away from and that is others! Others surround us every day of our lives and it is people who make a difference.

We often feel the government must make a difference or some or other institution must make the changes, but it starts with each one of us. We all live together in homes, flats, cities, towns or communities. We study together and we work together. None of us live in isolation.

These are the areas in which we can make a difference. The focus of this scripture is not selfish. The focus is on others. When we begin to have an outward focus we can have an effect.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO TREAT YOU?

This is the starting point.

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you!

You need to ask yourself this important question: how would you like others to treat you? Think for a moment of your husband or your wife. Perhaps your children or your parents even your boss, your friends or the people you work with. It even includes people of cultures other than your own and people of other religious persuasions. How would you like them to treat you and are you treating them in this way?

I have seen families literally 'blow-up' because family members can't talk nicely to each other. When we apply this principle to our lives it brings dignity, care, consideration and understanding and these things are the fertilizer of change.

ATTITUDES

Attitudes are the things that can block us and stop us from seeing the answer to the problems we, and those around us may be facing. Attitudes make or break our lives. In the circumstances that you are facing, you may well have no control over the situation. However one thing that we always have control over is our attitude. Our attitudes determine the flow of blessing in our lives.

I have seen people with bad attitudes and how others avoid them as a result. When we have positive and right attitudes things can begin to change and we can make a difference. If you hold onto your right to have a bad attitude, that attitude will eventually rob you of what God has in store.

ATTITUDES AND INFLUENCE

When attitudes are right, the next dynamic comes into play: INFLUENCE!

With the right attitude we can influence our family, our friends, our colleagues and those around us. We become like salt and light. These are little things that make a big difference.

SALT

*Matthew 5:13
You are the salt of the earth.*

Salt preserves and salt adds flavour.

LIGHT

*Matthew 5:14
You are the light of the world.*

Light brings vision and direction and is also a source of life.

God is looking for those people who will lift up their eyes above their own troubles and see what is around them and make a difference. Trust God to give you creative and new ways of having this effect. Start by thinking about how you would like to be treated and what attitudes affect you positively and do something that can bring about change and make a difference.



10 THINGS EVERY PARENT SHOULD TELL THEIR KIDS (AND THEMSELVES)

SeedTime.com

These are 10 important things we should be telling our children - and even ourselves... We often focus our attention on attaining success in life – having a good job, saving up plenty of money, and having a nice house, car and other possessions. The world indoctrinates us in this path from an early age. If you have children, you should be aware that the world is already training up your children in the same way. But is this how we should live? Is this how our children should live?...We often focus our attention on attaining success in life – having a good job, saving up plenty of money, and having a nice house, car and other possessions.

The world indoctrinates us in this path from an early age.

If you have children, you should be aware that the world is already training up your children in the same way.

But is this how we should live? Is this how our children should live?

There's a world of difference between success – which is often an external definition of our lives for public consumption – and happiness – which is more about how we truly feel on the inside.

Because the world encourages us to seek success so diligently, we almost need to have an entirely different mindset in order to find happiness.

Along that line, here are several things every parent should tell their kids – and themselves – about how to find true happiness in life – even if financial success never comes your way.

1 GOD LOVES YOU MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW

You must understand and embrace this fact, no matter how you feel about yourself or how some others may feel about you. And your children must know it too.

What it means is that you are never unloved. Quite the opposite – you are dearly loved by the Creator of the universe. You must believe this.

The Apostle Paul confirmed this when he wrote:

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:37-39 NIV

2 FAILING DOESN'T MAKE YOU A FAILURE

Failing is a necessary step on the way to success – and that's how you need to view it. Very few people are successful right out of the starting gate in any venture. In fact, the path to success is usually marked by a series of failures. As long as you learn something from your failures, they are almost always a step in the right direction.

It's equally important to understand that defeat isn't permanent. Never believe that you're a failure simply because your most recent goal didn't materialize. It may simply be that it was never meant to be. That being the case, get busy on the next venture. Success is assured as long as you don't quit.

3 "DO FOR OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO FOR YOU"

That's actually a paraphrase from Matthew 7:12. Most of us expect people to treat us better than they often do. But do we hold ourselves to the same standard?

If you want to be treated better, start treating other people better. People tend to respond to the way you deal with them, and if you find yourself being mistreated too often, it may have something to do with your own behaviour. If you don't like the way people are interacting with you, it's entirely possible that they're simply responding to how you're treating them.

This is especially true when you're dealing with someone in a tense situation. Before reacting, ask yourself, "How would I want someone to treat me if the shoe were on the other foot?"

4 CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS CAREFULLY

It's often said that you are the average of your five closest friends. And there's a lot of truth to that saying. As human beings, we tend to reflect and to imitate the behavior of the people closest to us.

This makes a strong case for being careful to choose friends who represent your beliefs, values, goals, and preferences in life. Are your friends the kind of people you respect and look up to? Are they the kind of people you would go to if you have a problem? Can you rely on them if you are in trouble? Do they reflect the kind of person who you would like to be?

Friends aren't just people who we hang out with. They're people who shape who we are – that means that you need to choose them wisely.

5 THE ROAD TO RUIN IS PAVED WITH DEBT

Regrettably, we live in a culture and economy that encourages debt. The economy is largely built on people buying things that they can't afford and making up the difference through loans.

A loan here and there – for example a car loan, and certainly a mortgage – are sometimes necessary. But if you find yourself borrowing money on credit cards to pay for clothing, restaurant meals, vacations, and various toys – or even borrowing too much to buy a house or a car – you are likely setting yourself up for an eventual disaster.

Most people don't realize that they are in trouble with debt until they are already in trouble with it. Easy payment plans make it easy to ignore the true impact of debt, especially when you're early in the process.

Becoming debt free – or close to it – enables you to keep your financial options open, and that puts you in a better position to achieve some measure of financial independence.

6 PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN STUFF

Materialism is another societal norm. It's as if the person with the most stuff is the happiest. But don't believe it.

People often substitute stuff for a lack of real connection with other people. But stuff can never give us what we can get from other people. God created us to rely on one another, and build each other up during times of distress. You can't get those benefits from stuff, so it's best to learn early in the game that people should always be more important than the possessions that you have.

7 FORGIVE OTHERS – FORGIVE YOURSELF

In the Lord's Prayer, it says, "*. . . and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.*" (Matthew 6:12 NIV) Take that to heart! We will be forgiven by God in the measure that we forgive others. And when you're tempted to withhold mercy from someone else, never forget that the day will come when you will need mercy from others.

You also need to forgive yourself. Guilt is a trap, and it can destroy your life if you allow it to. You will make mistakes, and at times you may even be the devil in someone else's life. But when that happens, recognize your failure, seek forgiveness – then get on with your life.

8 MAKE A PROVISION FOR THE FUTURE – BUT LIVE FOR TODAY

This is one of the real balancing acts in our culture, particularly if you are a Christian. We should be making a provision for the future so that we are in a position to deal with the uncertainties of life. But when this becomes the priority, we're at risk of going in the wrong direction.

If your orientation toward the future is too great, you may be inviting the following risks:

- You're so focused on your own future survival, that you may miss the needs of people close by.
- You may miss the simple pleasures of today, while you are busy preparing for tomorrow.
- You may not live long enough to enjoy your provision (Scriptural reference: Luke 12:16-21 – The Parable of the Rich Fool).
- Your emphasis on building your own provisions could blind you to the reality and necessity of God's provision

Make a provision for the future, but live for today. Never be so obsessed with the future that the blessings, revelations, and opportunities of today are no longer relevant.

9 IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT YOU – OR ME

We share the world with more than seven billion people. Each has their share of victories, and more than enough defeats. Neither your triumphs nor your tragedies are more important than those of other people around you.

Be prepared to genuinely celebrate the success of others. Also be prepared to help others in the face of their own tragedies. We all want others to celebrate our triumphs, and be there to pick up the pieces when we're suffering. But we have no right to expect unless we first do the same for others.

This is also how you develop humility, and humility is the foundation better relationships with other people, and with our Heavenly Father. True happiness and success in life aren't possible without it.

10 LIFE IS A GIFT – CELEBRATE EACH DAY

None of us have any idea how much time we have in this life, or even what the quality of that time will be. Embrace the fact that life truly is a gift, and resolve to celebrate each day.

Avoid the tendency to believe that bad things have control over your life. They may have an undue influence at the moment, but that doesn't mean that your life is ruined forever.

Each day has its own troubles, but it also has its own virtues. Do what you can to minimize your troubles, and then to embrace the goodness that's around us every day if only we look for it. It's just a better way to live, and a better way to be a witness to other believers and especially to non-believers.

After all, how we live – and what our attitudes are toward life – are our greatest witness to the world.

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