



Positioning For Breakthrough

- The Ten Virgins ~ Matt 25:1–13 NLT-SE

¹ “The Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, ⁴ but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. ⁵ When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’

⁷ “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. ⁸ Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’

⁹ “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. ¹¹ Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

¹² “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’

¹³ “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

- What does personal Spiritual Breakthrough look like?

- **Intensified, focused, expectant prayer...** “The testimony of Scripture and church history is that great, Spirit-empowered, Great Commission-fulfilling works of God are preceded, carried, and prolonged by the fervent, persistent, prevailing prayers of the saints. When prayer dissipates, spiritual power dissipates.” ~ Jon Bloom, *Desiring God*
- **Hunger for the Word and thirst for his presence...** When you have a renewed hunger for the things of God, much like the deer that pants for water as the psalmist writes, “As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?” (Psalm 42:1).
- **Noticeable and increasing sensitivity to sin...** Now that we know none of us is sinless, it doesn’t excuse us from sinning, less! In other words, we’re still not sinless, but we should be sinning less, over time. We ought to look

back at our life just a few months or years ago and see how we have forsaken one sin after another, even though we're still not sinless, but now that we've been born again (1st John 3:6), sin doesn't have dominion over us like it used to (Rom 6:1-14). **If you find that you're sinning less, that my friend is truly a spiritual breakthrough.**

- **Closer relationships...**If we love Christ, we will love those He died for. How can we say we love God but not love His children (1 John 3:15)? When you discover that you and your church are **growing closer together, whether through prayer, Bible study, or crisis** (or all three), you might be preparing to see a spiritual breakthrough.
 - **Remarkable joy, especially in the midst of difficulties...**The Apostle Paul who said "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content" (Phil 4:11), and how did he learn contentment? Lots of practice in misery, as he was beaten, stoned, flogged, whipped, and Imprisoned and suffered from hunger, thirst, and every kind of deprivation... yet, he wrote the Book of Philippians while in such settings. James's way of looking at difficult times was to "count it all joy." (James 1:2)
 - **Change in job or schedule...**When you change jobs or have a schedule change, it can be quite challenging, but that might be an **open door for a spiritual breakthrough**. God may be tempering your faith with the trials of life to ensure its strong enough for the next flight of faith or spiritual breakthrough.
 - **Birthing of fresh ministry...**When we finally, by accident, started a nursing home ministry, we finally were practicing what James called, "pure religion" (James 1:27). That was a spiritual breakthrough for us and now, we can tell others how they can do the very same thing in their community. We're so excited about it that we're ready to share any information with you to help you or your church start your own ministry for the orphans and widows in their affliction (James 1:27).
 - **THE GREATEST BREAKTHROUGH EVER...**Remember, the most important breakthrough we will ever experience is when we call on the name of Jesus, he sets us free and we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The **gift of salvation** is a personal breakthrough like no other and it can come to anyone at any time!
- **Positioning Yourself for Personal Spiritual Breakthrough**

"No man ever steps in the same river twice,
for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."

Heraclitus

First-century Greek philosopher in Ephesus

- **Many times we forget that it's a "move of God," not a move of man. Being positioned well is often more critical than what we do once we're positioned...**You will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the LORD's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the LORD is with you!" (2 Chr. 20:17 NLT-SE)
- **Part of being positioned well is getting rid of the things that will tend to distract us and slow us down once breakthrough comes...**¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. (Heb 12:1-2 NLT-SE)



- Most people who are wanting to see breakthrough in their lives are waiting for God to change their **circumstances**, when what the Lord wants to do is change their **character** (selfishness, impatience, gossip, unbelief, etc). They are waiting for God to lift them up and He is waiting for them to **“Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”** (John. 5:1–10 NLT-SE)
- In the kingdom, most of what you need will be brought to you, while most of what you want you’ll have to go get.
~ Bill Johnson, Bethel Church
- **The environment surrounding breakthrough can be explosive. We rarely realize the potential for goodness that can be revealed and released in times of breakthrough...**²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Eph 3:20–21 NLT-SE)
- **If we value relationship with Jesus over personal breakthrough, we are positioning ourselves to get both** (Deep Roots)...⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. (Phil 3:7–9 NLT-SE)
- **Personal spiritual breakthrough has eternal ramifications. The breakthrough is not just for our comfort and happiness, but is unto something that prepares us for the days ahead...**¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. (Col 3:1–4 NLT-SE)
- **It seems counterintuitive to place any great value in weakness if what you’re hoping for is breakthrough, but embracing weakness will actually open the door for God’s power to be released...**⁹ Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. ¹¹ You have made me act like a fool. You ought to be writing commendations for me, for I am not at all inferior to these “super apostles,” even though I am nothing at all. ¹² (2 Cor 12:9–11 NLT-SE)
- **God is worthy of honor BEFORE the breakthrough, not just after it...** While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. (Heb 5:7 NLT-SE)
 - “Reverence isn’t a feigned respectful or formal demeanor we put on when we pray to God that looks quite different from the rest of the way we live and talk. **Persons who truly revere God do so all the time. When you hear them pray, it doesn’t sound much different than the way they usually talk.** You can just tell they believe they are speaking to God himself.” ~ Jon Bloom, Desiring God
- **Positioning Yourself for Corporate Spiritual Breakthrough**
 - **The Ten Virgins...** Most people look at this parable of Jesus from the standpoint of how your personal relationship with the Holy Spirit is maintained; the Spirit of God is the oil that fills our lamps and prepares us for encounters with God. I believe there is a biblical application within this story to aligning ourselves for corporate breakthrough as well.

- This is obviously a message for the church at the end of the age. It points to the need for congregations to not just allow the Holy Spirit to move in their midst, but for groups of believers to **position themselves so that they depend upon the Holy Spirit's to completely** sustain them as they watch!
- ⁸ We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. ⁹ In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. ¹¹ And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety. (2 Cor 1:8–11 NLT-SE)
- **Our Tribe...There is a “tribe” of believers in our region that is bigger than any of our buildings could hold.** All believers in our region are not necessarily members of the same tribe. Neither is one tribe more important than the others. What differentiates the various tribes is not necessarily **what** they believe, but more **how** they believe.
- **Each church family (congregation) has a responsibility to position themselves for breakthrough...**A great example is in the book of Nehemiah, where the breakthrough was actually rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. Each family positioned themselves to work on the section of the wall right outside their house. They would experience resistance which caused them to work with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. (Nehemiah 4:15-18)



Breakthrough

Ana Mendez Ferrell

“In this painting, we see the blood of Jesus coming from heaven and breaking the walls of darkness that keep a person away from God. The blood then penetrates the flesh and fills the person’s soul with light converting his (or her) to the Lord.”

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