

Micah 2:13 *The breaker goes up before them; They break out, pass through the gate and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, and the Lord at their head.*

Micah describes God's character as a breaker! God is our breaker! He is in front of us doing the heavy lifting and then we break through. Breakthrough is an act of overcoming some kind of resistance or obstacle. God sets us up with a breakthrough so that He can manifest Himself as a breaker in our lives.

Genesis 15:1-6 *After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." Abram said, "O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall our descendants be." Then he believed in the Lord, and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

God works with Abram, the faithless man, who wants to go to plan B. God comes in our lack of faith and gives what is most needed - Plan A. God changed Abram's location and his vision and as He told him to look to heaven and count the stars. God gave Abram faith. Faith is a gift - the greatest gift God gives us - the ability to believe. Fear is the opposite of faith - it's not believing. **Verse 6** now he believed! Then God counts his belief as righteousness.

James 2:21-26 *Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."*

Abram believed and God gave him faith. And it's carried throughout the New Testament. God saves Abram from a disastrous Plan B. God wanted to do this **after these things**... What things?

- Partial Obedience. **Genesis 12** Abram displayed partial obedience.
- Character crisis when he feared for his life and lied about his wife.

God knows what we've been through and there is more coming... **After these things**. The breaker is going before us. We tend to look at the past too much instead of what's coming. God does not focus on our failures, is not consumed with our past, and does not give up on us. God was not shocked at the pandemic - He is working. Abram was to have a personal breakthrough even though all seemed to be breaking down. God sets up and brings breakthrough so we need not fear. God can do more in a few seconds than we could do in months and years of planning and praying. God sets us up... **after these things** that are hard. If you get a true word from God, it will generate questions as God starts a journey of inquiry.

- 1) We need breakthroughs to get us to the next level of God's destiny for us.

2) We need breakthroughs because they are personal. Abram's breakthrough was personal. God loves the one. He loves you. He wants to give us breakthrough - a close encounter. When God gets close, He reveals to us about Him and about us. A crisis reveals ourself to ourself. God took Abram outside to shift his focus. You see differently then. A prophetic word is like a fresh photograph of your future, a snapshot of your whole photo reel. God knows my photo reel. **Isaiah 46:10**. In crisis, God will sometimes give us a fresh photo of what is coming.

3) God brings breakthroughs and changes us and our circumstances to reassure us that God is on the throne. God's Word is reaffirmed to us.

4) A breakthrough changes us! God changed Abram. We want to change our circumstances but our biggest battles are within us. Our breaker comes to break the resistance inside of us. What do we do? We pray for:

- breakthrough in courage. God broke through Abram's fear. Courage will help us avoid fear. Strength comes from courage. (Joshua) When the fear comes, ask.
- breakthrough in commitment to the process that God has you in right now. Commitment helps you avoid failure because we do it God's way. It happens in our hearts as we find out God's desires in His Word. Like David committed in the process of being King. David asked God for direction in **2 Samuel 5:19-20**. *Then David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You give them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." So David came to Baal-perazim and defeated them there; and he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters." Therefore he named that place Baal-perazim.* David understood that God was his breaker going before him. Internal commitment is what you draw on when you feel like giving up. Commitment starts with God. He committed to us first.
- breakthrough in heart. It asks, why am I doing this? Check your motive. Solomon asks God for an understanding heart - a pure motive. God then blessed him. A breakthrough in heart will keep us from impure motives that creep in. Solomon was more interested in what would make him better for others than more comfortable himself.

There is an ordained outcome for Abram, for each of us, and for this church. Our battle is agreeing with God's outcomes. *Thy will be done*. We need internal breakthroughs! Pray! We've all had "after these things." There is always something *after these things*.

How has God shifted your focus this past year?

Do you have an area of fear that needs a breakthrough?

What do you draw on when you feel like giving up?

What does "after these things" mean in your life?