

JOSEPH'S BREAKTHROUGH WITH FAITH AND PATIENCE

An Unusual Setting

“Father,” young Joseph said, as they sat around the camp fire, “would you please tell me again the story of how you struggled with an angel and then met Uncle Esau?”

“Surely, my dear son, for I have never been the same since. You know how I had done wrong to deceive my father Isaac and had to flee because Uncle Esau was so furious that he wanted to kill me.

“Well, your grandmother heard about Esau’s anger and warned me to flee. I had to leave almost immediately with only the clothes on my back, a staff, and a little food. Oh, so much has happened in my lifetime. Your grandfather, Isaac, blessed me as he repeated the promise from Jehovah that the land of Canaan would belong to all of us. I knew I would be greatly blessed, but here I was, fearful for my very life.

“Yes, Jehovah had blessed me abundantly even though Uncle Laban tricked me so many times. It was amazing how the sheep and goats multiplied as speckled and spotted when I put the rods before the feeding troughs. God truly has prospered me.

“But you asked about the struggle with the angel. I was so fearful that night. My scouts had told me that Esau was approaching with four hundred men. I decided to send him a present of the animals the Lord had given me. Yet, I was not confident that

those gifts would satisfy him. I remembered the blessing my father Jacob had spoken over me. I also remembered the dream of the angels going up and down the ladder as I left my home. My father said I was supposed to be greatly blessed with lands and many descendants, and God's presence, but all I felt that day was fear!"

"Dad, was it hard to have faith in the promises?" asked Joseph.

"Yes, my dear son. It was very difficult. Then suddenly, I saw the form of a man in the dark. Not knowing who it was, I began to struggle with him. For a long time we struggled and then suddenly he touched my hip and something strange happened. It felt like my hip went out of joint. When I asked the man his name, He wouldn't answer me, but He said my name was changed to Israel and then He blessed me. After that I limped as you see now.

"The next day, I saw Esau coming to me, and strangely enough, I was not afraid. When we met, he even kissed me and refused to accept the gifts I had sent him until I urged him. Jehovah surely did bless me."

This imaginary scene is just part of the background of Joseph's life. During his lifetime, around 1900 BC, there was no written word from Jehovah. Stories were shared by word of mouth. Even before the life of Joseph, the Chinese etched their pictographs about creation and the flood to illustrate the oral stories. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible about 400 years after Joseph lived. Joseph had much opportunity to remember those stories, having spent much time with his father as a

avored son. Later, he spent time in prison in Egypt, and I'm sure he recalled his father's stories.

Land of Affliction

When Joseph was a young boy, he had two amazing dreams. In the first dream, he and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field and his sheaf rose up, stood erect, and the brother's sheaves gathered around and bowed down to his sheaf (Gen. 37:7). In the second dream, the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to him (Gen .37:9). When Joseph told his brothers and father these dreams, they were very surprised and angry. The brothers were jealous of Joseph because their father, Jacob, loved Joseph more and made a special varicolored coat for him.

One day, Joseph was asked by his father to see about the welfare of his brothers and the flocks in the field. As Joseph was approaching the brothers, they made plans to kill him. Reuben, convinced the brothers to throw Joseph in a pit, rather than kill him. Judah suggested he be sold to a caravan of Midianite traders who were on their way to Egypt. The Midianite traders bought Joseph and then sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard.

While in Potiphar's house, Joseph had many adjustments to make. Everything must have been strange to a Jewish boy. The food, clothing, customs, language and the worship of animals was different. However, the Lord was with Joseph and he learned

quickly and took responsibility very well. Potiphar noticed how Joseph was blessed, so before long Joseph was put in charge of the entire household (Gen. 39:2-6).

The Big Test

In Joseph's honored position, he was exposed to a great test. Potiphar's wife desired to have Joseph lie with her. Joseph feared God and replied: **"How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen 39:9).** Immediately, Joseph fled from the house. The wife accused Joseph of attempting to lie with her as a result of which Joseph was put in prison.

Even here the Lord gave Joseph favor so that he was eventually put in charge of the prisoners. While in prison, Joseph kept up his relationship with God Almighty and was able to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker. Even though Joseph had asked them to remember him, the butler forgot Joseph for two full years.

Finally, Pharaoh had a dream, which needed interpretation, and the butler remembered Joseph. Joseph's breakthrough was about to happen because he honored the "Lord of the Breakthrough" by faith and patience. Joseph was called for from the dungeon by Pharaoh, and was able to interpret the dream. Pharaoh was so delighted that he set Joseph over all the land of Egypt. He was also given a wife. (Gen. 41:41-45) In one day's time, Joseph was elevated to the second in the land!

Later, Joseph had two sons. He named the first Manasseh **and the name of the second Ephraim, “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction”(Gen. 41:52).**

Just recently, I read this Scripture and it’s like a light went off in my spirit.

“That’s it” I said to my husband, “I must teach and write about this story. We need this for our ministry!” Joseph must have spent a lot of time in the presence of the Lord and was faithful in all areas, I thought. I need to be like him.

Then the Lord said, “Study Joseph’s life, his characteristics, and find out why I made him successful. I want all people to be successful in My Kingdom. That’s My plan.”

Many of you, consider yourselves to be in the “land of affliction”. Maybe you are in a developing country and are dreaming of going to America or even somewhere else where you will be “free.” Possibly you may feel you are “afflicted” in your own family, your job or your circumstances. The life of Joseph will give us some keys for breakthrough.

The purpose of this book is to help you find the breakthrough God has planned. **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jer. 29:11).**

Joseph had to have faith and patience before he could inherit the promises. Not only that, he worked faithfully in many areas.

As human beings, we all like success stories of real people who triumphed in spite of overwhelming disadvantages. Joseph was a real man

and God gave him a breakthrough. Let's examine his "afflictions" or "disadvantages" first.

Joseph's Disadvantages

1. He was hated by his brothers. This hatred was partly due to the fact that his father favored him above the rest of the children. Also, Joseph probably should not have told his brothers about the dream of the sheaves in the field bowing down to him (Gen. 37:7,8) or the dream of the sun, moon and 11 stars bowing down to him (Gen. 37:9).
2. He was sold for 20 pieces of silver to Ishmaelite traders. (Gen. 37:28)
3. He was brought to a foreign land where he had to learn a new language, eat strange food, and dress differently.
4. The people in this foreign land despised the Israelites and would not even eat with them. (Gen. 43:32)
5. He was bought as a slave within Potiphar's house, who was the chief bodyguard for Pharaoh. Potiphar must have been a very alert, sensitive man, who gave much attention to detail. It might have been hard for Joseph to please a man like this, but we read that Joseph found favor in his sight.

6. He was in a land where people served many gods. The Egyptians worshipped the sun god, Ra, the Nile River, the Apis bull, and many other creatures. Lester Sumrall in his book, *The Names of God*, (LeSEA Publishing Co. Inc. page 35) says, “Egypt, the most powerful nation in that part of the world, worshipped animals such as monkeys alligators, cats – even beetles! For instance, the falcon represented Ra, the sun god. When one of these animals died, it was given a very stately burial. Archaeologists have found thousand of cat mummies, bird mummies and mummies of other animals considered sacred. The Egyptians worshipped these things. Yet their gods perished.” Remember how these gods were proved powerless in the sight of Almighty God when the plagues came to Egypt. The Lord said: **“and against all the gods of Egypt, I will execute judgment: I am the Lord”**(Gen. 12:12).
7. Joseph had no written Word. Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament about four hundred years later (1,500 BC). Joseph only had the stories his parents and grandparents had told him about God Almighty. At Joseph’s time, the Lord had only revealed Himself as **“Elohim,”** Creator, **“Jehovah,”** the covenant name of God, our Father, **“El Shaddai,”** The Almighty, All Sufficient One, **“Adoni,”** Master, and **“Jehovah-Jireh,”** the Provider.

8. Joseph did not have family or friends to encourage him.
9. Joseph did not have the fullness of the Holy Spirit like He is available to us today. He obviously had a measure of the Spirit or he would not have had a breakthrough. In the Genesis account, it says over and over again **that the Lord was with him.**
10. He was falsely accused and put in prison. The prison at that time was in the basement_of Potiphar's house. **And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker, so he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined (Gen. 40:2,3).** Now this place was actually called a "dungeon." When Joseph was later called to interpret Pharaoh's dream the Word says: **Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh (Gen. 41:14).** I don't imagine it was a very pleasant place. It was beneath the surface of the ground. Strong's concordance calls the "dungeon," a pit, cistern or well. Jeremiah also was thrown into a dungeon. (Jer.38:6) and later rescued. It must have been dark and damp, possibly with rats. Even here Joseph had favor and was put in charge of all the prisoners because the Lord was with him and Potiphar, himself had recommended him for the job! **And the captain**

of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them, so that they were in custody for a while. Then the butler and the baker of the king...dreamed a dream (Gen. 40:4,5). Joseph was in prison for quite some time, until the baker and butler had a dream. Joseph noticed one morning that the butler and baker had sad faces, so he asked about their troubles. That's when they told him their dreams. What a selfless man!

11. He was forgotten by the butler. Joseph asked the man to remember him when he was released, but the butler forgot all about him. Joseph then remained in prison two more full years! Faith and patience were going to get him his breakthrough! He was doing his job faithfully.
12. Egypt's climate was hot and dusty. Many "afflicted" people groups suffer from hot, humid and bug infested lands. Others suffer spiritual affliction on the job or at home.
13. There were no doctors, medicine or money for Joseph. He had to trust his human master for everything. Yet God prospered Joseph in every way! *El Shaddai* was watching out for him! Oh! We have so much more available to us! Now let's look at Joseph's character traits which helped him secure his breakthrough.

Joseph's Character Traits

1. First and most importantly, he had a deep abiding fear of God. When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, he said, "**How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**" (Gen. 39:9b). He then fled! **The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride and arrogance and the evil way (Prov. 8:13).** May this be our first reaction to any evil. In the New Testament, we are told to **abstain from every form (appearance) of evil (I Thess. 5:22).** Sin breaks our fellowship with the Lord, so that we cannot hear from Him; in fact, He may not even talk to us until a sin is confessed. Also, He will not hear when we cry for help! **But your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isa. 59:2).** Still we know He is a God of mercy and full of compassion, but let us not plan to sin and then ask for forgiveness!
2. He had great humility. When he heard that the baker and butler had had dreams, he then said: **"Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me please" (Genesis 40:8b).** God then gave Joseph the meaning, and the butler was reinstated in service to Pharaoh. Later, when Pharaoh had a dream and needed an interpretation, Joseph did not take the glory. **So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace" (Gen. 41:16.** Later Joseph says: "God

**has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do”
(Gen. 41:25,28).**

3. Joseph’s life showed that God was with him for he found favor in the sight of others. Both Potiphar and the chief jailer saw the favor of God on him. He must have been trustworthy or they would not have put him in charge of the household or the jail. We have the assurance in the New Testament that God will never leave us or forsake us *if we are abiding in Him*. We can turn away from Him and lose our salvation if we continually disobey Him and do not heed His commandments. Once we are born again, we must continue to follow Him, listen to the Holy Spirit and feed on His Word. It is crucial that we live a holy life and take care of this temple. It is so easy to rationalize and think that God doesn’t care as long as “love” Him. That is very dangerous thinking for the Word says; **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Rev. 21:8)**. When we become a Christian we bear Christ’s Name. Let us bring honor to His Name.
4. Joseph had a servant’s attitude. Joseph’s father Jacob must have left his son with a good attitude of serving others because Jacob had served his Uncle Laban for more than 14 years. Jacob prospered under Laban and Laban prospered

because of Jacob. The same thing happened to Potiphar; he prospered because of Joseph. Joseph left us with an excellent example of servant-hood yet, Jesus was a better example. For Jesus **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:7,8).**

5. Joseph was responsible and faithful in the little things. Because of this character trait, Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's entire household, and later in charge of the entire prison. The Lord sees every little thing we do, even when nobody else is looking. God speaks of the importance of this character trait: **He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's who will give you what is your own? (Luke 16: 10-13).** This principle is crucial for today. God cannot bless our lives if we are disobedient in the little things. We have the Holy Spirit to guide us, convict us and lead us into all truth.
6. He was a hard worker. I'm sure that Joseph would not have been put in charge of the household or the jail if he were a lazy person. **He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich (Prov. 10:4).**

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor (Prov. 12:24). The soul of the lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich (Prov.13:4). If you are facing a seemingly impossible situation, and you cannot find a job, begin by volunteering your time in serving at church or visit someone who is ill. Pray for the sick and expect miracles to happen. You may want to volunteer your time to some godly person who is in business. Pray for the business while you work. Or, open up your home for a prayer group or Bible study. Trust God to reward you. God knows your financial needs are will supply **according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).**

My Childhood

As a child, I was very poor because my father ran away to another country. My mother was left with three small children to raise alone. Fortunately, I was born in America, so we received a little money from the government, but there was never enough money for the entire month. My mother worked by sewing in the home; she taught me to work hard, study hard and give to the church. I delivered newspapers, babysat, and cleaned the house and washed dishes. Although I did not have a good attitude, God was gracious and blessed me. I was seldom sick. My mother began working for the church in

child evangelism, so she made sure that I received Jesus as my Savior.

I remember some unusual times when the cupboards were empty and we went to church. When we returned, as a surprise, there was a bag of food on the table. The Lord had spoken to someone to give the food to us. Even though my heart was ungrateful, God had a covenant relationship with us as a family, and He has been faithful ever since. He has now prospered me enough so that I can travel to other countries teaching about healing, prosperity, and the gospel of the Kingdom.

7. Joseph was organized and able to plan for the future. Since Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's household, I'm sure he was organized enough to manage the housekeeping staff, the cooking staff with buying and selling, and he also kept financial records. This was no small task. However, he must have known what was required to keep the house clean, the kitchen well stocked, the animals fed, the garden tended, and the financial records in good order. He did such an outstanding job that Potiphar had nothing to worry about. (Gen. 39:6).
8. Joseph also was visionary. After interpreting Pharaoh's dream, he was immediately able to give Pharaoh a plan for getting and storing the bountiful crops in the seven productive years. Joseph said: "**Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-**

fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years, and let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities” (Gen. 41:34,35).

We should all have a plan, and a vision for the future. Our first goal should be to bring people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Most often, this requires money, prosperity. A successful, healthy, prosperous life, reflecting the love of Jesus should attract others to Jesus. Our testimony should be, “Once I was lost, but now I am found, once I was sick but now I am healed, once I was poor, but now I am rich. Glory to God. His Word has taught me how to be successful in all areas. He has given me faith and patience, and I know I shall inherit all His promises!” **The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing (Psalm 92:12-14). Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant (Psalm 35:27b).**

9. Joseph had faith and patience. Now all of us were given a measure of faith when we received Jesus as our Savior. **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3b).** Our faith then, is a gift from God but it must be exercised. We

must walk by faith, (II Cor. 5:7) live by faith, (Rom. 1:17) and speak faith filled words (Matt. 9:22) to get results. The Lord is looking for and listening for our faith filled words. Our words are powerful and can produce life or death (Prov. 18:21). Joseph had an undying faith that his childhood dreams would come true.

Weak faith can become strong faith like Abraham's faith, for he grew strong in faith (Rom 4:20,21) and received the promised child after many years of believing and waiting. Pastor Benny Hinn has said, "Faith is believing in the character, truthfulness and integrity of God and the accuracy and dependability of His Word."

Joseph was strong also, in the virtue of patience. Patience or perseverance always comes as a result of testing. God allows His Word to be tested in us. Before every promotion comes a test. **My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, but let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2,3).** Now lets look at the reward of patience for Joseph.

Joseph's Reward

He became the second most important man in a foreign land! Because he was able to interpret Pharaoh's dream, in just one day's time, Joseph was exalted to the second most important person in a foreign land! Joseph was

rewarded bountifully because he had a deep abiding fear of God in him, was faithful in every detail, and kept a good attitude. Therefore, Pharaoh put him in charge of all the storehouses, collecting and distributing. Pharaoh said: **“Can we find such a one as this man in whom is the Spirit of God? Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house and all my people shall be ruled according to your word.... See I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot, which he had; and they cried out before him, “Bow the knee!” So he set him over all the land of Egypt. Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt” (Gen. 41:38-44).**

He was able to bring his family to Egypt. As an additional reward, Pharaoh told Joseph to bring his entire family to Egypt where they would be given the best of the land and where they would eat off of the fat of the land. Also, wagons were provided for transportation. This way, Joseph’s family would be well taken care of during the remaining years of the famine.

Joseph was also given a wife, who eventually bore him two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Manasseh means “making to forget,” and Ephraim means “doubly fruitful.” Joseph was so grateful to

God Almighty for blessing him in the land of affliction that he wanted to praise God in naming his children. These boys must have been a great blessing to Joseph.

Others Honored

Daniel was honored. Joseph wasn't the only foreigner highly honored in another land. Daniel, even at a fairly young age, distinguished himself. He trusted the Lord for his food and became outstanding among the captives in a foreign land. Then, because he was able to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the king gave him many gifts and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon (Dan. 2:48). Later, the King Darius planned to put Daniel over the entire kingdom because he possessed an excellent spirit (Dan. 6:3). Because of jealousy, the governors and satraps conspired against Daniel and he was thrown into the lion's den. Daniel had refused to pray to the king but prayed to the Lord. However, the lions did not devour him, and the conspirators were thrown into the lion's den and eaten. **So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian (Dan. 6:28).**

Mordecai, a Jew was given a royal honor also. When the king couldn't sleep, the royal records were brought to him and it was discovered that Mordecai had saved his life (Esther 6:2). Later, Mordecai was given royal robes, a crown and the city of Susa

shouted and rejoiced (Esther 8:15). This took place in Persia, around 480BC.

Ruth, the Moabitess, chose to suffer in a different land when she left Moab and went with her poor mother-in-law back to Israel in order to care for her in her old age. She gleaned in the fields for many months during the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. Finally, she met her kinsman-redeemer, Boaz, a rich relative, and became his bride. Her son, Obed was included in the ancestry of Jesus Christ.

Weapons for Breakthrough

There are many people groups in “afflicted” nations who are seeking recognition and a breakthrough in the spirit. I do not recommend taking up guns to gain freedom. Our enemy is not flesh and blood but principalities and powers in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12). *Prayer is our weapon for breakthrough. Fasting is a weapon. Also, praise is a weapon. The blood of Jesus and our testimony are weapons for breakthrough (Rev. 12:11).* The Lord has given us other weapons in His Word. His **Word is like a fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces (Jer. 23:29)**. Study the Word. Speak His Word over your situation. Spend time in prayer and listening to the Lord. Maybe the Lord is asking you to serve Him *just where you are*. Be a light. Be salt. The Lord of the Breakthrough will come if we are hungry enough for His presence.

How Hungry Are We For His Presence?

We are now learning that hunger for the presence of the Lord and brokenness will cause Him to pour out His Spirit, and give us a breakthrough. Tommy Tenney, author of “*The God Chasers*,” says that only our hunger for God determines our future. He gave the example of a poor woman in the Old Testament who needed some money to pay a debt, and all she had was a little oil (II Kings 4:1-7). She was told by the prophet Elisha to go to her neighbors and collect their empty vessels. After collecting many empty vessels, she was told to pour oil from her supply into each empty vessel until they were all full. Then she could sell the oil. As she began pouring, she soon ran out of empty vessels. If she had had more empty vessels, they too would have been filled. So too, with us. Are we empty vessels? Heaven has no lack of oil; earth, only, has lack of empty vessels. Are we an empty vessel, waiting for a filling of Him or of His presence?

Can you imagine how Joseph must have hungered after the presence of God being alone in a strange nation? He suffered many lonely moments and afflictions but overcame them all and brought honor to the Most High God. His descendants eventually returned to Canaan through the leadership of Moses, who performed mighty signs and wonders. Most of us don't suffer at all like Joseph did and can learn from his example.

Ultimately though, Jesus is our example. Once we are born again by the simple prayer of

confessing our sins, asking Jesus to take over our lives, believing in Jesus as the Son of God, and believing He rose from the dead, we receive His power for a new life. This is just the beginning.

I have had the privilege of seeing many people born again and seeing a new light come into their eyes. Disabled limbs began to move, backs straightened out, growths disappeared and many other miracles occurred. This born again experience will give you many privileges. You enter a new battleground with the forces of darkness, but through Christ you can overcome. Jesus said: **“In Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).**

Privileges in Jesus Christ

- ❖ You have a new Father. He is also called **Abba (daddy) God**. Some of His other names are: **Creator, The All-Sufficient God, Provider, Healer, Victory Banner, Sanctifier, Peace, Master, Shepherd, Most High God, Our Righteousness, and The God Who is Present.** When you made Jesus your Lord, you became a partaker of His divine nature according to His precious promises (II Pet. 1:4).
- ❖ You have a new name: Christian, Pilgrim, Joint-heir, Overcomer, Child (son) of God, Redeemed, Justified, Sanctified, Blessed, Healed, Light, Salt, Beloved of the Father, His Sheep, Sweet Aroma of Christ to God, Establisher, Ambassador,

Chosen, Called, Appointed, Anointed, God's Fellow Worker, Prayer Warrior, Intercessor, Abraham's Seed and Complete in Him. Hallelujah!

- ❖ You have a destination, which is: Heaven, the streets of gold, the Holy city, the new Jerusalem, Zion, the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, the courts and altars of the Lord, abiding in the Vine, in Him and in His love.
- ❖ You have a destiny: to be fruit-bearers, to multiply, to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Also, our destiny is to be conformed to the image of His Son, to establish His Kingdom throughout the earth, to occupy until He comes, to be dead to sin and alive to God, to be a living sacrifice, to be transformed, to enter into His rest, to walk in the light, and to prosper in every respect. So therefore, let us **Press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14).**
- ❖ You have a duty, which will result in blessing. The apostle Paul exhorted us to pray for all those in authority over us. **Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may**

lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior (I Tim. 2:1-3).

- ❖ You have God's authority. We are seated together with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus and all the works of the evil one are under our feet. (Eph. 2:6) We are the body of Christ, so we have this same authority. Adam was given this authority in the garden of Eden but he disobeyed and the authority was given over to the devil. Yet, when Jesus came, the authority was given back to man. Jesus gave authority to His disciples in Luke 10:19 and us as His followers in Mark 16:16-18. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8) and we are the enforcers today! Additional Scriptures are Gen. 1:26-28, Ps. 8, and Heb. 2:14.

- ❖ You can prophesy over the land. Many Old Testament saints prophesied over the land. There was a time when my husband and I did some serious intercession for our country so that righteousness would be established. I searched the book of Proverbs for a Scripture that we could speak concerning our country's election. I found **The evil will bow before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous (Prov. 14:19)**. We spoke this Scripture continually and encouraged our friends to do likewise. The Lord gave us the victory! As we walk in righteousness, we have nothing to fear. **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given**

you, as I said to Moses (Joshua 1:3). God will give you wisdom and will *make a way for you* in the land of your affliction. Ask Him for wisdom. He wants to prosper you in your land.

If Joseph prospered, we should be able to prosper even more so. Yes, we each have weaknesses but His strength is made perfect in our weaknesses. Yet, unlike Joseph, today we have the written Word, as well as the fullness of the Holy Spirit. In addition, we have a church family, a new, better covenant with the Father, doctors, medicine, divinely powerful weapons of warfare in the Spirit, the love of God poured out in our hearts, and this measure of faith which He gave to us. **For whatever is born of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory that overcomes the world – our FAITH (I John 5:4).**

The Lord of the Breakthrough

King David once, was aware that the Philistines were planning to fight him, so he asked the Lord what he should do. The Lord answered him and said that he should fight against them and that the Philistines would be delivered into David's hand. So David went to Baal-Perazim, and David defeated them there, and he said, **“The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of waters” (II Sam. 5:20).** We serve The Lord of the Breakthrough and He will defeat our

enemies, in fact, He has already done so 2,000 years ago at Calvary. We are here to enforce His victories.

King David asked the Lord how he should fight the enemy and God gave him the strategy. I believe he wants to speak to us about how to get a victory. Let's use the weapons for breakthroughs which He has given us: prayer, praise, worship, fasting, the Word, the blood of Jesus, our testimony. Obedience, tithing and giving to His causes are also tools for breakthrough. Let us persevere in faith and patience. Continue to serve Him, seek the lost, study His Word and we shall experience breakthroughs in His Name!

Blessing prayer

Dear reader, I would like to pray a blessing prayer over you.

Lord, You are a mighty, powerful Lord, the God of all creation, with whom nothing is impossible. Many who have read this book are in very difficult circumstances and some have even wondered if You see how difficult their life is. But we know that You said You would show yourself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward You. We are in no way perfect, but we have Your righteousness and claim a breakthrough today. You said that You lift the poor from the dust and cause them to sit among the princes of Your people and You hear the cry of the needy. I come in humility to you and in boldness to Your throne of grace. I trust that Your eyes are on this child now and that You are working on their behalf. I speak resurrection power in their life, the gifts of the Spirit in operation and wisdom for all their circumstances. I rejoice in You now and trust You to show the reader a miracle soon. In Jesus' name, Amen