

The Key to Sustaining Your Breakthrough

God is about to promote people to their next level of authority, influence and power.

There will be a great need in the days ahead for godly leadership in the body of Christ. God wants us to know and understand not only how to break through to the next level but how also to sustain the increase He gives. It's one thing to get a breakthrough. It's another thing to keep it.

Passing Through the Place of Contention

God is bringing people into a higher realm of authority, but we must be aware this won't come without a fight. Before David could receive his royal crown of authority, he had to face Goliath. He had already been anointed king, but before he could step into his destiny and into the next level of authority, he had to face Goliath. The increase and promotion were not going to come without a fight.

First Samuel 17:23-26 says, "As he was speaking with them, the champion, Goliath, the Philistine from Gath, was going up from the battle line of the Philistines. And he spoke these same words and David heard them. When all Israel's fighting men saw the man, they fled from him, and were very afraid. The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel, and it will be that the man who kills him, the king will enrich him with great riches, will give him his daughter, and will make his father's house exempt *from taxes* in Israel." David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What will be done for the man that kills this Philistine and takes away *this* reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

Before you step into the next level God has for you, you will have to face your Goliath head-on and take it down. Your next level will not come without a fight. Understand this about your giant: It will speak to you. It will try to intimidate, limit and constrain you from possessing what is yours in God. It will speak to you with words like, "Who do you think you are? You think God has a destiny for you? You think God will ever use you?" The words you hear will come in relation to the area of battle you are facing. "You think you will be free? You think things will change? Things are never going to change. You are going to keep going around this mountain. You are nothing. Just give up and quit!"

A Sustainable Anointing and Breakthrough

Those who will move to a higher realm of authority need to understand a sustainable anointing and mantle are not possible without testing and trial. Anointing without testing is not sustainable. God doesn't want to just give us a temporary anointing or a momentary breakthrough. He wants us to be able to sustain it. The sustainability factor is crucial in this hour. We must contend for increase and sustain it.

Before promotion you must walk through a place of contention. You must contend with your giant and gain victory over it before the anointing is released to manifest in a greater measure of authority. God anointed what was tested in David's life.

First Samuel 17:36-39 says, "Your servant slew both the lion and the bear. And this uncircumcised Philistine will be as one of them, because he has reviled the armies of the living God." David said, 'The Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'Go, and the Lord be with you.' Saul clothed David with his armor. And he put a helmet of bronze on his head. He also clothed him with a coat of mail. David secured his sword to his armor and

tried to walk, but he was not used to it, for he had not tested *them*. And David said to Saul, 'I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested *them*.' So David took them off."

God anoints what's been tested in your life. God anointed David's slingshot, not Saul's armor. David couldn't win the battle in Saul's armor. It hadn't been tested in his life. David wrestled the lion and the bear. He had used his sling and stone out in the wilderness. God anointed what had been tested.

Promotion will come out of your testings and battles. Smaller battles will make you skillful in winning larger ones. Get happy, because the areas of your greatest testings are about to become the areas of your greatest anointing. The very assignments the adversary had against your life are about to be turned around against him. God will release the deepest anointing and glory in those areas where you have had the deepest level of warfare and contending.

As Isaac was entering into his land of inheritance in Genesis 26, we see he started in a place of barrenness. As he planted and sowed seed in that land, he became very prosperous and fruitful. God accelerated his harvest and in the same year, he reaped a hundredfold. But God still had more increase for him.

The Philistines envied him and began to bury the wells of Abraham. In order for Isaac to break through to a higher level of fruitfulness in his inheritance, he had to contend with the Philistines. As he dug wells, the first one was called *Esek*, meaning contention. The next well was called *Sitnah*, meaning enmity. The third well was called *Rehoboth*, meaning room. As Isaac persevered and endured, God made room for him to be fruitful in the land. The key for Isaac's breakthrough was endurance. As we endure through a place of contention, God will make room for us and cause us to be fruitful in our land of inheritance. Increase and promotion is coming, but not without a fight. In order to win this battle, we must endure

to the end.

We are in a time where many are facing their Goliaths. They are in a time of spiritual pressure and resistance, and what they do in this battle will determine their next season. Either they will sustain what God has given them and experience an increase or lose what has been entrusted to them.

Usually the greatest fight comes right before the greatest breakthrough. This is usually when people give up. When they get weary, they are right on the edge of moving to the next level. As long as you refuse to give up, God will make sure you excel to your next level of inheritance. So get happy when you see spiritual contention in your life. It means you are on the verge of breakthrough and promotion. But you have to make the right choices and pray through to victory.

The Power of Brokenness

God wants us to understand the power of brokenness. There is a big difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow, between worldly brokenness and godly brokenness. Let me show you a great example in the realm of leadership.

Saul's heart had become filled with anger, insecurity, jealousy, hate, murder, rebellion, fear of man and witchcraft. When Saul was confronted in his sin, he acknowledged it. We see this in 1 Samuel 15:30a, where he clearly says, "I have sinned." But immediately following this statement, he says, "Yet please honor me before the elders of my people, and before Israel." Saul was more concerned about his reputation before the people than he was about grieving God and losing the Holy Spirit. He had a carnal sorrow. A worldly sorrow will regret being caught and experiencing consequences. But it's not true godly sorrow. When a leader cares more about public honor and recognition than he does about grieving God's heart, there is no godly sorrow or

repentance.

Then there was David. David was not perfect. He committed some bad sins, including murder and adultery. But the Bible still calls him a man after God's own heart. Why? It was not because of his perfection but because of the depth of his godly sorrow and repentance. David's main concern was not his reputation. In Psalm 51, we see David's heart when he cries out for God not to take His Holy Spirit from him. David's main concern was grieving the heart of God and losing the Holy Spirit. This was the difference between David and Saul's heart. One still cared about reputation and honor before man. The other cared about God's heart and presence.

The reason Saul lost his mantle and anointing was because his heart grew calloused, and he lacked godly sorrow. Although David still had consequences for his sin, the reason he was able to sustain his mantle and anointing was because of the depth of his level of brokenness and godly sorrow. In order for us to be able to maintain and sustain the increase, anointing and mantle God gives us, we must have the heart of David, one that cares most about God's heart and has a holy, godly brokenness in humility before the Lord. Godly brokenness will sustain both leaders and the church in this hour.

We must be able to sustain the increase God is about to give. Many have been under spiritual pressure. They are facing giants they have never had to face. This is because God wants to promote them in kingdom authority. With testing comes the possibility for promotion, depending on what we do with that test.

The keys to moving higher will be our ability to endure and our level of true godly brokenness over what grieves the heart of God. As we face and take down our Goliaths, we will be positioned before the Lord for increase, multiplication and fruitfulness. The church is in need of godly leadership in this hour. Out of true brokenness will emerge a fresh

anointing that will bring great breakthrough in the lives of God's people.

Prayer

Wait on the Lord and allow Him to break you through every area of battle in your life. Pray the Word. Spend time in worship. Make godly choices and purge all sin and compromise out of your life. Pray this prayer with me:

"Lord, I submit and surrender every area of my life to you. I make the choice to live in a way that pleases You. Forgive me of all my sin and transgression. Show me any areas of my life that have grieved you. Release a godly sorrow and brokenness in my heart. May I care most about what you feel. Give me the strength to endure and the godly brokenness I need to sustain Your increase in my life. Lord, may the adversary have nothing in me. In Jesus' name, I take authority over every Goliath in my life that is trying to intimidate me and hold me back. I command it to come down now in Jesus' name. Amen." {eo}

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