



There is a great contest going on between the values of God's Kingdom and the values of this present age. Which side are you on? We can't afford to stay in the middle. Tragically, the Church has capitulated to the values of the world so much that it now feels almost inappropriate to express our support for a Judeo-Christian worldview. But not aligning with God's Truth because you don't think it will be well-received is not just a personal choice. It is *false* faith. Folks, it is appropriate to agree with God's Word. In fact, it is necessary—even if it puts you at odds with others. But we have drifted into confusing places where truth and integrity are not celebrated. Our culture desperately needs breakthroughs—God's interventions in our lives to create better outcomes. The greatest change God's people need is in our hearts, but we are not alone in the desert. God is ready to help us with His breakthroughs as we turn to Him, repent, and agree with the truth of His Word.

WATCH, LISTEN, THINK, ACT: **Avoiding Deception and Fulfilling God's Purposes**

**A voice of one calling:** *"In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."*  
Isaiah 40:3 (NIV®)

**\*\*Share a time when you found yourself in a spiritual desert. How can the desert be seen as a place of meeting God, provision, refreshing, renewal, or preparation?**

### I. GENERATIONAL BREAKTHROUGHS

Luke 3:2–7 ... during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, **the word of God came to John** son of Zechariah in the desert. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. <sup>6</sup> And all mankind will see God's salvation.'" <sup>7</sup> **John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"**

**Breakthroughs often emerge from the desert!**

**\*\*Have you ever had to stand up against a majority opinion? If so, what were the challenges you faced? How did you try to be heard?**

#### Generational Faith

<sup>2</sup> Timothy 1:5 *I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

<sup>1</sup> Samuel 1:11 *And she made a vow, saying, "O Lord Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."*

Hebrews 11:17–23 <sup>17</sup> **By faith Abraham**, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, <sup>18</sup> even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." <sup>19</sup> Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

<sup>20</sup> **By faith Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

<sup>21</sup> **By faith Jacob**, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

<sup>22</sup> **By faith Joseph**, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.

<sup>23</sup> **By faith Moses' parents** hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

**\*\*Name someone who significantly impacted your faith journey. How do you see their values continuing through you?**

**\*\*What specific actions can you take today to intentionally build a legacy of faith for future generations?**

## A. The Rebuke of Truth

Luke 3:19–20 <sup>19</sup> *But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done,* <sup>20</sup> *Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.*

Exodus 13:14–16 *"In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.' <sup>15</sup> When **Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go**, the Lord killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' <sup>16</sup> And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand."*

**Breakthroughs are catalyzed by repentance!**

or

**Breakthroughs are interrupted by refusing obedience/disobedience!**

## B. God's Word Fulfilled

Luke 7:27–30 ***This is the one about whom it is written:*** *" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." <sup>29</sup> (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)*

**Breakthroughs are the fulfillment of God's promises!**

2 Peter 1:4 *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

**God's provision is in His promises.**

## C. Faithful Ending

Matthew 14:9–12 *The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted <sup>10</sup> and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup> His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. <sup>12</sup> John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.*

1 Corinthians 9:24 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.***

**\*\*What are some challenges you face in living out your faith in everyday life?**

**Breakthroughs present opportunities for us into God's purposes more than they satisfy our temporal circumstances.**

Isaiah 61:1 and 3 *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and **a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.** They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.*

## PRAYER

**\*\*Quaker Prayer:**

**Hands up:** Pray as a group to accept the assignment the Lord has for each of you.

**Hands down:** Pray as a group to surrender your children, grandchildren, and/or spiritual children to the Lord.