

A SPITITUAL MINISTRY

By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI Int'l President and General Overseer



Everyone I know desires to have a ministry, but may never pray to have a "Spiritual Ministry." However, we should be specific and make it a matter of prayer to have a spiritual ministry led by the Holy Spirit instead of just "any kind of ministry." William Carey, the great missionary to India said, "Attempt great things for God, and expect great things from Him." Carey is right! Once a person makes a noble effort, then God does His part.

What makes a ministry spiritual? Is it because the person says he/she is a prophet? Signs and wonders following them? They have a large following? They have keys or a formula for you to follow? No, indeed. Attaining a spiritual ministry is to allow the Holy Spirit to fill us and adjust every fault in our life.

We must look to the scriptures in Colossians 1:15-17 to teach us the things about having a spiritual ministry. Here it shows us to have a spiritual understanding, a spiritual walk, spiritual fruit, spiritual power, spiritual endurance, spiritual affinity and then by following the Word of God you will have a "Spiritual Ministry." ▼

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YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS WITHIN SIGHT IT'S CLOSE BY-IT COULD BE TODAY OR **TOMORROW**

By Pastor Lynn Burling/ Christian Faith Church -TX



Breakthrough: A sudden dramatic discovery or development or improvement, a sudden advance-moving through or beyond an obstacle. God has a delivery system for every need.

I believe the Lord wants to encourage you to not give up on Him (His Word and promises). This teaching will serve its purpose by helping to equip us for this Breakthrough that is coming and the next one as well. Miracles are defined by the Supernatural Measure God uses to reveal Himself to us, and for us. (Job 5:9 NIV) "He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted." Poets say, "Hope is the sunshine of the mind" ... and a sundial only works on cloudless days. So the question is not if we'll wait, but rather "how" we'll wait. I believe "how" will determine "how long!"

We'll all wait in one of two ways: Passively or expectantly. A passive person hopes something good will happen and is willing to sit around waiting to see if it does. After a short time, he gives up saying, "That's it. I've waited and nothing happened." Quoting a famous teacher, "He had a lot of wish bone but no back bone." The **expectant** person is hopeful, believing the answer is just around the corner." He wakes up every morning expecting to find his answer. He may wait and wait but suddenly what he's been waiting for happens. (The Pessimist's greatest fear is that the optimist is right!) Our situation can change suddenly without warning. One thing is certain—before God moves suddenly, we will wait! Waiting for answers is a fact of life, nobody gets out of it! A pregnant woman is referred to as "expecting." She carries the promise even though she can't see it. She knows it's there the moment she learns of her condition. She begins to plan for her baby's arrival. She prepares the details for his/her arrival -nurseryspecial items they will need. She knows the promise will be fulfilled in a certain amount of time, give or take one or two weeks. She is set on waiting as long as it takes. Wait means to expect, "to look for." Our expectation is geared to sooner than later. Many times the waiting period serves as a time of preparation. As time passes she grows eager with faith, wanting something very much, hopeful yearning, whole hearted, dedicated and motivated. Sometimes we find ourselves in situations hard to imagine waiting one more day or hour or minute or even one more second.

DEADLINES ARE OUR REDLINE

TRUST: Firm in or strength of someone. **PATIENCE:** *The* capacity to tolerate delay or suffering without getting angry

or bitter, belief in the reliability. For us Paul's and Silas's experience in prison doesn't make sense They were His anointed servants. (Acts 16:17) Starts with, "These men are the servants of the Most High God—to show us the way of salvation.," and then in (22) "The multitude rose up against them, tore off their clothes and beat them." (24) "Beat them with stripes put them in stocks into a prison." Between verse 24 and 25 scripture offers no comments concerning any bitterness they could have had because of what they were having to go through or blaming God! It just says, (25) "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God and the prisoners heard them." (26)SUDDENLY a great shaking, an earthquake, the foundations of the prison were shaken. IMMEDIATELY all the doors were open and every one's bonds were loosed." How long will we be here God? Will we get some medical help, antibodies to keep infection from us? Are they going to kill us? It was a SAME DAY breakthrough for them. For the three Hebrews boys, it was a **SAME DAY** breakthrough. Daniel, it was a **SAME DAY** breakthrough. Don't give up, don't stop believing, stay full of hope and expectation. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." His power is limitless. None of these escaped His eye and care. All of these were serving Him up to the very day they were threatened with death and destruction, possibilities of being burned alive...to rot in prison and for Daniel eaten by wild beasts. "When, oh God we cry" To Mary and Martha Jesus was too late. "If you'd been here, our brother would still be alive." Lord if you would have showed up my marriage would not have failed. Lord you waited too long. My servant says my daughter has died. Jesus still answers us the same today. "Just believe." He didn't save them from them...He just showed up TO BE WITH THEM. He is our breakthrough. Think of the strange ways God has answered the enemies' assaults. Asleep in the Lions' den, not burned in the fire, freed from the prison without a trial, walk out across the red sea on dry ground. (The narrowest part is around 16 miles, the shallowest was 164 feet.) (KJV Isaiah 43:19) "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?" There is a time when God does a

Your Breakthrough... continued from page 2

sprinkling of His power to encourage our expectation, to remind us He's not forgotten us. He gives us a super natural law, contrasting blessings and miracles. At some time or another everyone will need a miracle. There are times when we just can't come out of it without supernatural means. MIRACLE: A SUPER NATURAL INTERVENTION by God suspending natural laws. We can be divinely healthy or by being miraculously healed. I'll take either or both as needed. At times we just need a miracle. How do you receive your breakthrough? Many say I believe God can do it! That's not enough! Because these people are at a loss on how to receive, how to get from where you are to where His

miracles are? Some think that place is wish and hope and pray. If we could, we'd do anything to make it happen. That's why we are so dependent on God and His love for God is more predictable than you think. He's orderly. He's got promises. He still stands behind them.

I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

(Matthew 17:20)

His law in this world is to be predictable for us so we can believe He can do what He's already done! He's never going to change. He sets laws to govern all things. (Romans 3:27) "The law of faith." Faith is governed by law. It doesn't just work sometimes but every time! There are natural laws regarding air flight. When a plane crashes the N.T.S.B. is contacted. They look for pilot error; mechanical failure; weather forces; but on closer investigation, sometimes they say none of those things affected the crash. But you NEVER hear anyone say, "Well the law was just not working that day! Aerodynamics stopped that day hopefully next time it will work!" If that were the case, I'm not flying anymore. Not an option! They don't doubt the law! It's unchangeable.

You can tap into a miracle and breakthrough. You can see God more in your life. (Ephesians 3:20) "Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..." We all believe that, RIGHT? That's the way people believe it but it's not the way it's written. (Ephesians 3:20) "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding and abundantly above all we ask or think ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKS IN US."

That's God allowing us to partner with Him. I wish it were the other way. Why, because it puts too much pressure on me to believe, to wait. So with all these miraculous breakthroughs, Daniel, Moses, Israel, Shadrach, Paul and Silas had, they worked according to the power they believed God had <u>put within them to believe Him!</u> The scripture said He flows through the power that works in you. If you turn off the power in you, you turned off God's power on your behalf in your life. Satan can't stop God but we can! He doesn't want to stop but he will not violate your will to believe. It is God's will that you have everything you need in this life—no matter what's going on! The three Hebrews could have said, "Well, it's true we didn't bow to the King so we deserve to be roasted. It's the King's law!" No! A <u>higher law</u> said, "Thou shall not worship other Gods." They

trusted God working in them. They even said our God is able to deliver us out of the fire. Daniel could have said, I went against the King's decree, so I must be eaten by lions. It's the law! No! I have a higher mandate from the King of Kings to pray and seek His face. Paul and Silas could have said, "We've had a good life, let's just accept our fate." No! "Let's worship our God in the face of the impossible."

The God of the impossible can give us an impossible breakthrough. We have a mindset that God is angry or so ticked at us that He's ready to get us. That's religious talk! Most of us were brought up not to believe in these things. If you've been taught a lot of junk, it takes time to get it out of you. It's God's Word that will renew your mind.

I've witnessed breakthrough in my life because I didn't know NOT to believe God. This doesn't make the waiting any easier when I need a breakthrough. In the face of sickness or in the face of hearing doctors tell you, it won't work or it will take a radical process, you need this or that without any guarantees their words sometimes reverberate in your ears and you just have to stop listening and just believe the Words of the Lord. You may have heard God heals today or read it five years ago but unless that reality is alive in you today are you keeping alive what you've heard? Well, He healed me back then but I don't know about today. What's changed? You have-not God! The threshold of believing is when it's no longer "in your mind" but "in your heart." I can't tell you where that threshold is but you'll know it when you cross it. "Your knower will know." Remember the

Church/Ministry Tax Dates to Remember

In addition to regular semiweekly and monthly withholding requirements, churches/ ministries should note the following dates. Keep

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Need Help? Call PCAI Office Dr. Jan Harbuck

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July 17th

 If you have non-ministerial employees and deposit payroll taxes monthly, the June 2017 payroll tax deposit is due.

July 31st

 File Form 941 (payroll tax) for the second quarter of 2017 and deposit any unpaid taxes. If your tax liability is less than \$2,500, you can pay it in full with a timely filed return. If you deposited the tax for the quarter timely, properly, and in full, you have until August 10th to file the return.

Featured Resource: <u>ChurchLawAndTax.com Legal</u> <u>Library</u>

We've all heard the cliché "the devil is in the details," and when it comes to contracts, that certainly rings true. Unfortunately, many church leaders don't keep that phrase in mind when they create and/or sign an agreement on behalf of their churches—and the consequences can be costly.

Contracts contain page after page of text, fine print, appendices, and boilerplate copy, much of it often reading like a foreign language. It's tempting for anyone—but especially a busy pastor or board member—to skim, or even ignore, much of this material before signing. In other cases, a leader may seek out an existing contract from another church, or a sample template freely offered from a resource website, rather than create something original. Either way, churches encounter numerous problems as a result of these approaches.

Case-in-point: in the latest issue of *Church Law & Tax Report*, attorney Richard Hammar covers a case involving a Tennessee-based ministry facing an employment lawsuit. The ministry discovered a "choice-of-law" provision in its employment contract, one that likely originated through a contract it borrowed from another ministry. To the Tennessee ministry's dismay, a court ruled that Virginia's laws—not Tennessee's—would apply to resolve the matter. Indeed, the devil was in the details for this ministry.

This case illustrates why church leaders should consult with qualified local legal counsel and exercise the patience and carefulness necessary to handle every detail well. For more help with contracts, be sure to check out Hammar's overview in the ChurchLawAndTax.com Legal Library.

Your Breakthrough... continued from page 3

threshold for Breakthrough is initially opened from His side...to accomplish it for our side! Your carnal mind will try to counter you but God's Word in you says, "According to the power that works in us." Well then, God has already given us the very thing we need to believe with. There is one key we can all learn. We are to HUMBLE ourselves under the Mighty Hand of God, in **Due Time**, He will exalt us. "**Due Time**" is God's time. (Ecclesiastes 3:1) "To everything there is a season and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven." God's timing is often a mystery yet His Word promises that He will never be late, not once! (Habakkuk 2:3 AMP) "For the vision is yet for the appointed [future] time-It hurries toward the goal [of fulfillment]; it will not fail. Even though it delays, wait (patiently) for it because it will certainly come; it will not delay.

YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS ON THE WAY...DO YOU AGREE?

