

## Understanding Spiritual Breakthroughs Pt 2

*Moving from Confusion/Complacency to Confidence/Commitment.*

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Apr. 18 AM*

**Reflection:** For every successful journey we need to know/identify:

*Where we're starting from; Where we want to end up (go); A map (plan) to get there;*

*How to identify probable obstacles; and How to overcome (navigate) them.*

**Direction:** Everyone starts the journey of Faith from the same basic point. God calls this the condition "The Natural man" in 1 Cor. 2:17 and describes this condition as spiritually:

- **Lost:** So God seeks to Find/Save us. (Lk 19:10)
- **Blind:** So God gives us the light of the gospel. (2 Cor. 4:4-6)
- **Dead:** So God offers us His life. (John 11:25; 2 Cor 5:21)

Understanding this (our true condition) is critical to successfully navigating:

**1. The 1st Spiritual Breakthrough** (Of our Faith journey) occurs when we:

**A. Repent** (metanoēō: reconsider) aka: Recognize our natural condition.

Lk 13:3 *"Except ye repent, ye shall all ... perish"* Jn 3:36 *"...he that believeth not is condemned already..."*

**B. Receive** (by *faith*) the "seed of the gospel" into our hearts. (See Acts 20:21)

Mk 1:15 *"repent and believe* (Pisteuō: to entrust, commit to) *the gospel."*

Ro. 10:10 *"with the heart man believes* (pisteuo) *unto righteousness"*

**C. God describes this as being:**

1) Born again. Jn 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23 *"Being born again, ...of incorruptible seed, by the word of God..."*

John 1:11-13; 3:3, 16

2) **Regenerated**. Titus 3:5 *"Not by works of righteousness...but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration,* (palingenesi'a: new birth)

*and renewing* (Anakai'nōsis: renovation) *of the Holy Ghost"*

3) Delivered (Saved/ **Redeemed**) Acts 16:30,31; Ro. 10:9-13; Eph. 2:8; Col. 1:13,14 *"God...hath delivered us* (Rhy'omai: caught out of a current) *from the power of darkness, And hath translated us into the kingdom of his Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."*

4) Adopted/ **Sealed**/ Secure Gal. 4:4-6 *"God sent forth his Son...To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. ... God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts"*

(See also Ro. 8:15,16; Eph. 1:12-14)

This first spiritual Breakthrough sets the stage for the next necessary Breakthrough.

**2. Our new condition creates a new *tension!***

**A. The presence of God's Spirit creates a conflict with our own (selfish) soul.**

1) God calls this (our selfish soul) our "Flesh" or "old man". Eph. 2:1-3; Ro. 7:14-24

**B. This Conflict produces a *Choice*.** (See Ro. 8) Mt. 6:24 *"no man can serve two masters..."*

1) Our Flesh prompts us to pursue selfish pleasure, pride & possessions (1 Jn 2:15,16)

a) Satan uses these to draw us away from God. Jms 1:13-15

2) That's why God commands us to:

a) **Deny** (crucify) our (selfish) flesh. Mk 8:34a *"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross..."*

b) **Dedicate** our lives (choices) to Him. Pr. 3:5,6; Mk 8:34b *"...and follow me."*

Mk 8:35-36 *"whoever shall save his life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake..."*

*Shall find it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, And lose his own soul?"*

Eph 4:22-24 *"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."*

Eph. 5:18 *"be not drunk with wine... but be filled (influenced) by His Spirit!"*

In light of what Jesus did for us,

In Ro. 12:1 God calls this *"our reasonable service"*

See also 2 Cor 5:14,15; Gal. 2:20

## Conclusion:

The 1st Spiritual Breakthrough occurs when we Repent (*reconsider our natural condition*) and Receive (*respond to*) God's gift of eternal life. This decision:

- 1) Determines our eternal destination! (John 3:16-18; 14:1-6; 1 Jn. 5:11-13)
- 2) Seals us with God's Holy Spirit. (Ro. 8:15,16; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13)

Since God's Spirit indwells every true believer His presence produces the tension / possibility for the 2nd Spiritual Breakthrough:

Breakthrough 2: Will I deny my "flesh" and dedicate myself to God's purposes?

(allow His Spirit to influence my choices. Ro. 12:1,2) **This:**

- 1) Is a **repeated** decision. 1 Cor. 15:31; Ro. 12:1 *"Present yourselves a Living Sacrifice..."*  
Gal. 2:20 *"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I; but Christ lives in me."*
- 2) Gives God's Spirit the freedom to **influence** our lives (Gal. 2:20) *"and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*  
Eph. 4:18; 2 Cor 5:14,15
- 3) Produces spiritual "fruit" in our lives. Gal 5:22-24 *"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."*
- 4) Allow us to determine (Ro. 12:2) and (*with God's help*) fulfill our eternal Destiny! Jn 15:16; Rev. 4:11; Mt. 25:14-30

## Application:

Which of these Spiritual Obstacles do you want/ need to break through?

- 1) Repent and Receive Christ as Savior? Mk 1:15 *"repent and believe the gospel."*  
Pisteuō: to entrust, commit to (Ro. 10:9-13)
- 2) Deny yourself and Dedicate your life (choices) to Christ. Mk 8:34  
*"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and Follow Me!"*  
(Mt. 7:7,8) 1 John 5:14 *"This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:"*