



The Battle Before The Breakthrough!

Psalm 30:5

5 For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning. [\[i\]](#)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible tells us that our walk with God is going to be a journey of ups and downs.

We are continually moving from strength to strength, victory to victory, glory to glory!

However, in between the mountaintops of victory there are valleys of the shadow of death!

In between the victories there are struggles!

In between the breakthroughs there are battles!

§ *And most of the time the devil knows how close we are to the border of a new land before we even realized how close we are!*

§ *The devil knows more about our strength than we do!*

§ *The enemy knows more about what God wants to do for his people than God's people know!*

And before every new breakthrough, there is a harder battle than ever fought!

At every new level, there's a new devil!

And right at the point of the breakthrough, there's a battle to be fought!

Ø *And it's the job of the enemy of our souls to get us to turn back when the struggle heats up!*

Ø *It's the job of the enemy to get us to surrender during the weeping of the night so we'll never experience the joy of the morning!*

Ø *It's the job of the enemy to get us to surrender during the battle so that we'll never experience the breakthrough!*

But, I'm telling you this morning, it may look like things are breaking up, but actually, we're breaking through!

It may look like we're going to die in the struggle, but we're getting ready to step over some walls that have been brought down into our breakthrough!

It may look like you're going to perish in the night, swept away on a river of tears, but just hold on, the morning's on the way!

Galatians 6:9

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. [\[ii\]](#)

§ *Don't faint!*

§ *Don't give up!*

§ *Don't give in!*

§ *Don't retreat and don't dig in!*

§ *No right turn, no left turn, no u-turn!*

Just keep fighting, this is just the battle before the breakthrough!

§ This is our Gethsemane!

§ This is our Peniel where Jacob wrestled!

§ Strength is not born by seeing miracles, its born in the struggle!

§ We're being made ready to inhabit our promised land!

I.) OUR GREATEST BATTLE COMES RIGHT BEFORE OUR GREATEST BREAKTHROUGH!

· Chuck Yeager was the first man to ever break the sound barrier in an aircraft. *Planes like the British Meteor jets that approached the speed of sound (760MPH at sea level, 660 MPH at 40,000 feet) had encountered severe buffeting of the controls.* At that time, no one knew for sure whether an airplane could exceed "Mach 1", the speed of sound. The U.S. Army was determined to find out first.

The Army had developed a small, bullet-shaped aircraft, the Bell X-1, to challenge the sound barrier. A civilian pilot, Slick Goodlin, had taken the Bell X-1 to .7 Mach, when Yeager started to fly it. *He pushed the small plane up to .8, .85, and then to .9 Mach, but backed off when the plane began to shake uncontrollably.* The date of Oct. 14, 1947 was set for the attempt to do Mach 1.

As he approached Mach 1, that plane began to shake and rattle and be buffeted from side to side, so much so that he was not sure that he would not explode in mid-air.

But on this day Chuck said, *"I refuse to turn back now! If I die, I die trying but I am not going to back down! I've been close before, but no matter what happens today, I am going for it!"*

And with that he shoved the controls forward and headed for the sonic wall!

In the account of this momentous event recorded in the book "The Right Stuff" the author records:

The X-1 went through "the sonic wall" without so much as a bump. As the speed topped out at Mach 1.05, Yeager had the sensation of shooting straight through the top of the sky. The sky turned a deep purple and all at once the stars and the moon came out - the sun shone at the same time. ... He was simply looking out into space. ... He was master of the sky. His was a king's solitude, unique and inviolate, above the dome of the world.

Chuck Yeager achieved a level no one had ever reached, simply because he refused to turn around and go back!

And, I am telling someone today, it may seem like you are being shaken and rattled and tossed to and fro – don't turn around now! You are on the verge of a new experience that will bring you higher than you have ever been! Just don't stop now!

It may seem that all the forces of hell have come against you to destroy you- but don't turn back now! Victory is straight ahead!

I'm not saying that the battle won't be tough – but victory is already promised if we just won't turn back!

Paul said 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

8 *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; [\[iii\]](#)

We may be shaking, but we will not be destroyed! We are entering into a realm of anointing like we have never known before!

Don't be frightened by the shaking – just push down the controls and don't look back!

You have landed on the shore of a land that God has promised you, and instead of being able to lie down in a hammock and enjoy your inheritance, you are having to pick up the sword and fight an enemy that doesn't want to surrender his territory!

But, don't give up now, just keep pushing a little more, you're on the border of your inheritance!

The battle is always the hardest right before the breakthrough!

I've heard it so much lately:

- *Pastor, I have prayed and prayed, and instead of getting easier, things are getting harder!*
- *I have claimed my husband/wife/sister/brother/friend for Jesus, and it seems they are getting meaner and meaner!*
- *I have prayed for greater anointing, and it seems that I am less anointed now than ever before!*

Good!

The darkest night is just before the dawn, and I am telling you, the battle rages the hottest just before the victory!

Just stay with it and don't turn back – you are getting ready to inherit a land you've never had before!

If your enemy is fighting you harder than ever it is because he knows you are closer than ever to victory!

Don't give up in the battle, we're at the border of the breakthrough!

I sense in my spirit that someone is asking, *“Is it really worth it? Maybe I should just quit this daydreaming and go back to a life of ease and complacency.”*

Remove all opportunity to go back! Just hang in there, the victory is yours if you will just stay where you are!

I know things seem right now like they are falling apart, that you are going to die in this battle, but I promise you, you are getting ready to be propelled into a realm of the Spirit like you have never experienced before – just stay in the battle!

Remember Hernan Cortez, the Spanish conquistador who burned his ships in the harbor off of the coast of Mexico, committing himself and his 700 men to the battle!

BURN YOUR SHIPS TODAY!

You're not going to break UP!

You're going to break THROUGH!

Just don't quit, don't quit!

II.) THE PROBLEM WITH MANY PEOPLE IS THAT THEY GIVE UP TOO SOON!

Right on the verge of a miracle, and they turn around and go back.

Joshua 24:29-30 29 And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. 30 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathserah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash. [iv]

Many people get right to the border of their inheritance and that's where they die! They are buried before they can ever step foot into the land that God has promised them!

- I don't want to go down in history as an "ALMOST!"

Paul was witnessing to King Agrippa II, superintendent of the Temple of Jerusalem, and governor of Chalcis, Philip and Lysanias.

As Paul stood before this great man, whose father incidentally had slain James and imprisoned Peter, his words rang with such authority and power, that King Agrippa, I imagine with white knuckles gripping the sides of his throne, fighting conviction, said:

Acts 26:28 28, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. [v]

Agrippa almost entered into salvation! He almost defied the sins of his father and gave his heart to God, but in my mind I can see him briefly looking back and realizing what he would have to give up:

- *His position*
- *His family*
- *His friends*
- *His wealth possibly*

And decided, it is just not worth it to me to have to give all of this to inherit salvation!

And so, as he boarded his ship to sail back into a life of comfort and ease, he cries out,

- *"Almost, I inherited the greatest gift known to mankind!"*
- *"Almost, I entered into a peace like I have never known!"*
- *"Almost, I was saved!"*

But, looking back, I found an opportunity to go back to what was familiar, what was easy, what was less of a struggle!

You were so close, and you gave up!

CONCLUSION

I know what it looks like today!

It looks like things are falling apart, we're shaking at the seams, bucking and rolling, we feel like we're about to explode.

I'm just saying, keep the controls pushed all the way down and break through this barrier!

We're in the battle before the breakthrough! We're at the edge of our inheritance, just push thru!

[\[i\]](#)The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

[\[ii\]](#)The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

[\[iii\]](#)The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

[\[iv\]](#)The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

[\[v\]](#) *The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.