

# **THE BREAKTHROUGH MINDSET PRT 7 – GOING BEYOND**

## **YESTERDAY**

*Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal (perfection), but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us going through a series teaching titled **THE BREAKTHROUGH MINDSET 7**.

This morning I want to talk to you on the subject matter **GOING BEYOND YESTERDAY** and that makes it the last mindset of this series. Every one of us seated in the place have a history that greatly impacted you – positively or negatively.

Going beyond yesterday is a major mindset you need in order to experience today's breakthroughs.

- Do not underestimate the power of yesterday – yesterday happened and you cannot do anything about it. It can cage you in, it can control you, it can be a mini god to you.
- You need to realize that in the present, you are caught up in between a well-known yesterday and unknown tomorrow.
- What you do and the choices you make in the now, will determine how much influence yesterday will have on how you embrace and deal with tomorrow.
- The breakthrough mindset regarding the past is this: Be free from the stagnation of yesterday's victories and the emotional paralysis of yesterday's failures.
- What you celebrated as a major victory can be your greatest enemy for future victories – why is it that very few people are able to keep the winning formula. It is because they stagnate.
- When you continue looking at the mistakes and failures of yesterday, you can become stuck in the fear of further failures, resulting in you not trying out things any longer.
- Let's allow the apostle Paul to teach us one more time on how to go beyond yesterday into a future full of God's promises.
- In speaking to the church at Philippi, Paul uses a number of powerful terms in order to bring this home and let's unpack each of them:

### **1. Not that I have already attained**

- Paul was under no illusion of having attained the end goal – the word to attain speaks of having arrived and received the ultimate prize.

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## YESTERDAY

- You can only say this if you know what that prize is - for every believer, the ultimate prize is to spend eternity with our Lord, it is to receive the heavenly rewards.
- But whilst we are here on earth, do you know what prizes await you?
- He was not about to deceive himself to living in a dream world where he pretends to have achieved much.
- When you have experienced a measure of success in your yesteryear, it is possible to bask in past glory and yet there is still more to be achieved.
- Despite being born again, despite being anointed greatly, there was a greater dimension of glory that Paul had not yet attained.

### **2. Not that I have arrived at perfection**

- The main goal for Paul was to appear before Jesus his Lord and that is the only time he would arrive at perfection.
- Now, this brings us to a very important principle, the principle of growing in our sanctification.

*2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with our face having been unveiled, having beheld the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Lord Spirit.*

- We know in part, we worship in part and therefore there is more we can grow into. Paul says we are changed from glory to glory.
- You must refuse to stay in yesterday's glory – just like there was fresh manna every morning, you should desire the fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit every moment.

*Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, cultivate your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

- You need to under the 3 dimensions of salvation:
  - The first is you were saved when you gave your life to Jesus and that brought about justification. With respect to justification, you are perfectly justified from all things, by the righteousness of Christ.
  - The second part is you are being saved through continuous sanctification. Though your sanctification is perfect in Christ, yet its not yet perfect in you; your knowledge is imperfect, your faith falls short often, and sin still lingers around you.
  - The third aspect is that you will be saved at the second coming of Jesus – this is when we enter into our Father's glory and our mortal bodies take on immortality.

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## YESTERDAY

### **3. I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it**

- Despite Paul's great resume, he never allowed the attitude of having arrived to rob him of the ultimate glory.
- When you remove your eyes from the crown of eternal life, you will settle for less.
- Jesus apprehended you, laid hold of you for something more than just preaching, or leading worship, teaching kids in go kids - He apprehended you so that you might have eternal life, so that you might live with Him forever.
- Many people live their lives as if they have finished their race – there is a song that I like, which says “there is a race I must run and there are victories to be won, give me power every hour to be true”
- The devil will not allow us to run with patience, he will place stumbling blocks on our way, he will bring discouragements and pitfalls on our paths.

*Hebrews 12:1 Therefore since we also are surrounded with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right of the throne of God.*

### **4. I forget what is behind**

- Paul actually says; *one thing will I do, forgetting what is behind.*
- What is Paul talking about here? Paul was a well accomplished man by all accounts and what he was alluding to here was that he was not going to allow yesterday's success and failures to determine how he was going to pursue a God ward future.
- Paul is not even telling us not to acknowledge yesterday but he was saying that do not allow yesterday's experiences to determine how you respond to God's promises for today and tomorrow.

*Isaiah 43:18 Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall sprout; shall you not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.*

- The future must be approached with a zeal born out of the nature and character of God.

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- The past can cause you to lightly esteem the word of God – you can tell yourself that last year you trusted God for healing but healing did not take and for that reason I am not going to trust God for healing this year.
- Be ready to move when God moves, be childlike and flexible in your walk with God. Many of us cannot embrace the new move of God because God has never moved that way.
- The religious leaders missed God's visitation because they were holding onto the old.
- Jesus addressed this matter when He said the following:

*Mark 2:21 No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, and a worse tear will result. 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."*

- When God does something new, the instrument has to be new as well.

### **5. I strain towards what is ahead**

- Paul had his eyes on what lies ahead - the future that lies ahead is better than yesterday but it will not happen to the lazy, the weak and to those who wait for it to come to them.
- Paul uses words that tell us that getting ahead is hard work indeed – he says he strains ahead; he presses on towards the goal.
- There is an idea of someone going against some resistance and opposition.

*2 Corinthians 4:8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.*

- Again, we are in a contest and the war is raging on – towards our ultimate victory, we will lose some battles but the war was already won.
- Let's press on towards the mark, towards the high calling of Christ.