



BREAKTHROUGH CULTURE 2016



Do we want to see God move in 2016? Do we need more / want more / dream of what He might do?

- * Do we want to grow? Finally see that elusive breakthrough? Step it up a level?
- * Deeper into Presence in worship? Hear from Him more clearly + specifically?
- * Escalation in souls saved, bodies healed, lives transformed?

Hopefully, ANS to all those questions is 'Yes' ... If not, may I humbly suggest you're asking wrong Qs

NEW YEAR: Great time to reflect, look forward + back, re-evaluate, realign, reprioritise.

→ *Have you set yourself any New Year Resolutions this year? How are you getting on with them? Do you reflect, analyse and target set by nature? What areas could / should you be looking at? Physical? Relational? Spiritual? Etc.*

READ THE STORY: Paul & Silas in Acts 16:16-40

3 BIG Qs: 1. WHAT did they do? 2. HOW were they able to do it? 3. WHY did they do it?

LESSON #1: PRAISE our way into His PRESENCE

Answer to Q1 = WHAT did they do? → Praised their hearts out till voices were hoarse

- * They INVITED GOD into the middle of their CRISIS until the CHAINS FELL OFF.

THE THEORY

Psalm 22:3 → *You are holy, O You who are ENTHRONED in [the holy place where] the PRAISES of Israel [are offered].*

Psalm 100:4 → *ENTER his gates with THANKSGIVING; GO INTO his courts with PRAISE.*

- * We know praise is RIGHT, PROPER, DUE.
- * We know praise is the PATHWAY TO the tangible, manifest PRESENCE OF GOD.
- * We know praise is the key to BREAKTHROUGH, way out of crisis, has tremendous spiritual power.
- * We know praise should be our DEFAULT RESPONSE: 1st place we turn, in good times and bad.

→ *"If the Word is your sword, then praise is the way you swing it!" Discuss!*

WHAT IS PRAISE ALL ABOUT?

- a) Making STRONG DECLARATIONS for all to hear.
- b) REMINDING ourselves of who He is, what He's done + what He's promised to do.
- c) REALIGNMENT: A reminder of who belongs on the throne.
- d) Establishing His THRONE: Rule, authority, dominion, right here, right now.
- e) Cultivating an ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE.
- f) Cutting us FREE from strongholds of selfishness + worldliness.
- g) Strong statement of POSSESSION and INTENTION to forces of darkness.
- h) Route into His MANIFEST PRESENCE.

→ *Is that what praise means to you? Is that what your praise looks like? Which of the eight are most significant in your eyes? Perhaps each one could expand upon how one of them works?*

→ *Are you a praising person? Are we a praising people? What could we change?*

LESSON #2: CONSECRATE yourself for tomorrow the Lord will do AMAZING THINGS amongst you (Joshua 3:5, Hebrews 12:14, Matt 5:8) ... This is the how ...

→ *What is consecration? How does it work? How do we do it? What did Jesus say about it? Why is it so important?*

- * "A MATERIALISTIC WORLD will not be won to Christ by a MATERIALISTIC CHURCH." (David Platt)
 - * "Consecration is going ALL IN and ALL OUT for God. If you do that DAY IN and DAY OUT, look out: God is going to SHOW UP and SHOW OFF." (Mark Batterson)
 - * For God to do what needs to be done, He needs to find a CONSECRATED VESSEL: soft heart, renewed mind, great faith, open ears, positive attitude, right motives.
 - * God is constantly working in us to SANCTIFY, MATURE, PREPARE.
- *What part does God play in our sanctification? What part do we play? What roles do the Word and prayer play? What did some of the major Bible characters have to go through to get them where He needed them? What have you been through?*

LESSON #3: Be PROACTIVE rather than REACTIVE. (This is the why)

- * Change may be UNCOMFORTABLE, but it is INEVITABLE. We have the opportunity to help SET THE CULTURE, rather than just PROTEST we're the VICTIMS of it.
 - * Are you going to LET IT happen or MAKE IT happen? (If 2016 is a sentence, are you going to be the subject or object?)
 - * It's easy to be reactive: To live in RESPONSE, RETALIATION, RETREAT, dominated by HURTS, REJECTIONS, FRUSTRATIONS. Are you going to let those things DEFINE you?
 - * Or will you let God's WORD / HEART / DELIVERANCE define you? (Deut 30:19)
- "Is YOUR LIFE going to be consequence of Christ in you / the expression of your new identity / the unleashing of indwelling Spirit power + Kingdom authority? Or are you going to WAIT AROUND to be a kicking ball, subservient to everyone else's negative actions, criticisms, agendas, responding defensively to whatever they throw at you?"
- *Which of those is you? Which did you tend to? What might you do to become more proactive? Are you get up and go, or sit back and wait? Are you victor or victim?*

IN YOUR LIFE

→ *Is there INTENTIONALITY (I'm on the look-out, on the front foot, naturally take it to the enemy)? Is there CARELESSNESS (things are happening around me that I shouldn't permit)? Does the WORD have strong enough INFLUENCE?*

PROACTIVITY IS

1. Praying the WORD → Releasing promises, enacting principles, unleashing truth
 2. Walking in STRONG LOVE → i.e. Doing it God's way, by choice, however they behave, every time.
 3. Responding to the HOLY SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS → Tapping into the power source and doing whatever He tells you.
- *How do you measure against each of those? Which could you grow in? And how?*

Paul & Silas dragged themselves out of the gutter and MADE IT HAPPEN ... or better still, opened the door so GOD COULD HAPPEN.

→ *Who's making it happen in your life? To what extent should it be God and to what extent or you? What can you do to increase Lord's influence over / input to your life?*