



## EXPECT BREAKTHROUGH THIS YEAR

Matthew 2:13-23

- **2020 and 2021 have been some of the more stressful years of our lifetime.**
  - In the first year of the pandemic, drug overdose deaths increased by 28.5% (Centers for Disease Control).
  - In October 2021, 79% of GenZ adults, 74% of Millennials, and 75% of parents reported behavior changes as the result of stress (American Physiological Association).
- **After the events of 2020 and 2021, many people would say they need a spiritual, relational, emotional, or vocational breakthrough in 2022.**
- ***Where do I need a breakthrough this coming year?***
- Paul - *"Now all glory to God, Who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."* (Ephesians 3:20)
- **Matthew 2:13-23 is unique in that it repeats a very distinct pattern:**

**Heavenly Proclamation >>> Obedience >>> Prophetic Fulfillment**

- **Jesus offers us the power for breakthrough no matter what is happening in our lives or in our world.**
- The Lord - *"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."* (Isaiah 43:19)
- ***How Can We Experience A Breakthrough In 2022?***

***We Can Experience A Breakthrough In 2022 When We:***

### **RECEIVE A WORD FROM THE LORD**

- *"After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream."* (Matthew 2:13)

- *“When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.”* (Matthew 2:19)
- **The Lord often speaks to us through: 1) Dreams (Joel 2:28); 2) Prayer (John 10:27); 3) Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; 4) Circumstances (Acts 16:6); 5) Other Believers (Exodus 18:13-26); 6) Worshiping (Acts 13:2) and 7) the Holy Spirit (John 16:13).**
- **Experiencing breakthrough requires receiving a *Fresh* word from the Lord.**
  - Jesus - *“People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* (Matthew 4:4)
  - Paul - *“Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* (Ephesians 6:17)
  - **God gives us a *rhema* word for a particular circumstance or occasion.**
- **Experiencing breakthrough requires receiving an *Eternal* word from the Lord.**
  - *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”* (2 Timothy 3:16)
  - **God has already given us *agraphe* word in Scripture.**
- **A genuine word from the Lord will always be BOTH *Fresh* AND *Eternal*.**
- ***How can I do a better job receiving a word from the Lord in 2022?***

### ***We Can Experience A Breakthrough In 2022 When We:***

#### **PUT FEET TO OUR FAITH**

- *“That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod’s death.”* (Matthew 2:14-15a)
- *“So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother.”* (Matthew 2:21)
- **Faith without follow-through is folly.**
- *“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”* (James 1:22)
- **We Put Feet To Our Faith When We Do What God Has Already Told Us To Do.**
  - Jesus - *“If you love Me, obey My commandments.”* (John 14:15)
  - **Certain steps form the foundation for further faith: 1) Surrendering to Jesus; 2) Being baptized as a believer in Jesus; 3) Joining a Christ-centered community; 4) Serving the needs of others; 5) Contributing generously to the Kingdom of God; and 6) Bringing others to faith in Jesus.**
- **We Put Feet To Our Faith When We Adjust To What God Is Telling Us To Do.**
  - *“One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.’”* (Acts 13:2)
  - **Once we’ve built a foundation of faith, we should expect God to give us direction that will have implications for our family, our finances, and our fellowship.**
- **We Put Feet To Our Faith When We Prepare For What God Hasn’t Yet Told Us To Do.**

- *“Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.”* (Psalm 27:14)
- **We can use *waiting time* to develop skills, gain experience, and find the freedom that will enable us to follow the Lord.**
- James - *“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”* (James 4:17)
- **What are some areas or tasks where I need to “set feet to my faith” in 2022?**

**We Can Experience A Breakthrough In 2022 When We:**

**EXPECT GOD TO COME THROUGH**

- *“This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: ‘I called my Son out of Egypt.’”* (Matthew 2:15b)
- *“So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: ‘He will be called a Nazarene.’”* (Matthew 2:23)
- **Sometimes our prayers are not answered because we didn’t pray them.**
- James - *“Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.”* (James 4:2c)
- **If our goals are small enough for you to achieve on our own, then they are not big enough.**
- *“‘You don’t have enough faith,’ Jesus told them. ‘I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.’”* (Matthew 17:20)
- **The moment we stop expecting breakthrough is the moment we ensure it never comes.**
- *“Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.”* (Lamentations 3:23)
- **How can I “renew my faith expectations” each morning in 2022?**
  
- **No sane person wants to repeat the hardships of 2020 & 2021 in 2022.**
- *“As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.”* (Proverbs 26:11)
- **We cannot allow the hardships of the last two years to diminish our faith in the Lord.**
- James - *“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”* (James 1:12)
- **We know that to experience breakthrough in 2022, we’ve got to: 1) Receive a word from the Lord, 2) Set feet to our faith, and 3) Expect God to deliver.**
- **What steps do I need to take to experience breakthrough in 2022?**