

SEVEN DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH DEVOTIONAL

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SEVEN DAYS



DEAR LUKE CHURCH FAMILY,

As we approach the close of one year and prepare to embark upon a new season, we must align ourselves spiritually for the journey ahead. I invite you to join me for our Seven Days of Breakthrough Fast from December 26 through January 1.

The purpose of this fast is to dedicate ourselves to God as we seek clarity, strength, and renewal for the coming year. We aim to deepen our intimacy with God through fasting and prayer and position ourselves to receive His vision for our lives individually and as a church body.

Fasting Period: December 26, 2024, to January 1, 2025, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM daily. During these hours, we encourage participants to abstain from meals (water and juice only) or follow a modified fast. After 7:00 PM, participants may partake in a light meal or as their health permits. Please consult your physician if you have any health concerns.

Daily Prayer Call: Join me each morning at 7:00 AM for our daily prayer call.
Dial-in details: (605) 313.5086; Access code – 1065196#

Each day of the fast will carry a theme rooted in Scripture to guide our reflections and prayers:

December 26: Breakthrough Barriers (Philippians 4:13 NIV)

December 27: Breakthrough in Spiritual Growth (Jeremiah 29:13 NIV)

December 28: Breakthrough Financially (Ecclesiastes 11:6 NIV)

December 29: Breakthrough in Relationships (2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NIV)

December 30: Breakthrough in Purpose (Proverbs 19:21 NIV)

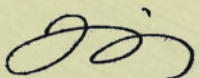
December 31: Breakthrough in Health and Healing (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV)

January 1: Breakthrough in Worship (Acts 16:25-31 NIV)

Whether you're seasoned in fasting or this is your first time, I encourage you to participate, trusting that God will honor our collective sacrifice and prayer. Let's set our hearts and minds on things above, embracing the promise of a new year filled with God's grace, favor, and power.

If you have any questions or need guidance, please contact Rev. Aisha Davis, our Coordinator of Spiritual Formation and Assimilation, at adavis@theluke.org. May God richly bless you as we journey together in faith.

With great expectation,



Dr. Timothy W. Sloan
Senior Pastor



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH



DAY 00

Consecration & Preparation for Breakthrough
By Min. Aisha Davis

"Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." Joshua 3:5 (NIV)

Before entering a breakthrough, there must be a time of consecration—a setting apart of ourselves for God. In Joshua 3, as the Israelites were preparing to cross into the Promised Land, God instructed them to consecrate themselves because He was about to do something miraculous. This consecration and preparation wasn't just about being ready physically, but about the condition of their hearts.

As we begin this journey of breakthrough and fasting, we must first prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits for what God is about to do. It's a time to seek God in repentance, surrender our lives and plans, and commit ourselves to Him fully. Breakthrough is not just about receiving blessings; it's about breaking through any and everything that would seek to hinder us from being all who God created and redeemed us to be. Take this day to reflect, fast, pray, and prepare your heart for the days ahead.

Application:

Set aside some time to reflect on any areas where you need to experience a breakthrough.

Consider fasting from something that distracts you from God's presence.

*As a church, we will be abstaining from food from 7am-7pm for seven days. Only water and juice are recommended between that time frame. If you have any health concerns, please consult your physician. *

Prayer:

Lord, I'm ready to be set apart to be all who you created and redeemed me to be. Cleanse my heart and mind from anything that distracts me from You. I surrender this time to of prayer and fasting to You, believing that You are preparing me for a breakthrough. Thank you for all that you are getting ready to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH



DAY 01

Breaking through Barriers
By Dr. Timothy W. Sloan, Senior Pastor

**"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13 (NIV)**

I like to consider myself to be the athletic type, regardless of what others might say. I had the shortest stint in track. While I may not have been the fastest sprinter, the event I learned the most from was the hurdles. Every day of practice was filled with jumping over barrier after barrier. At first, they seemed too high, causing me to stumble constantly. But with determination, coaching, and persistence, I began to leap higher and land stronger. Similarly, life places a lot of hurdles in our way. As we spend time with our instructor, listen intently, and persist a little more, we develop a rhythm for overcoming the barriers in our way.

Life is full of barriers. Some are visible, like financial struggles, lack of opportunities, or systemic inequalities. Others are invisible but just as real, like fear, doubt, or past hurts. These barriers often make us feel stuck, discouraged, and disconnected from God. But Philippians 4:13 reminds us that with Christ, no barrier is too great, and no obstacle is insurmountable.

There are more than likely some barriers between you and the ambition you have for your future. It's going to take work to overcome what's in your way. As we spend time in prayer and fasting, we become better at our approach. We learn to anticipate oncoming challenges. We develop a spiritual rhythm to face what's in front of us. And with every challenge, we discover that the strength we need is at work inside of us – Christ!

Application:

What barriers are you facing today? Is it a difficult relationship, a closed door, or an internal struggle? Practical steps can help:

1. **Pray Boldly:** Ask God to strengthen you and reveal His plan for overcoming the barrier.
2. **Take Action:** Identify one small step you can take in faith, trusting that God will guide the rest.
3. **Seek Support:** Surround yourself with others who can encourage you, pray for you, and remind you of God's promises.

Breaking through barriers doesn't mean the road will be easy, but the journey will be victorious. Remember, with Christ, you are already equipped to leap higher, overcome stronger, and press forward with purpose. Today, embrace the strength God offers and trust Him to guide you through.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being my strength in the face of life's barriers. Thank you for the opportunities you've placed in front of me. Help me to trust You, take bold steps of faith, and lean on Your promises. Let my testimony of breakthrough bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH



DAY 02

Breakthrough in Spiritual Growth
By Min. Aisha Davis

**"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with
all your heart ..."**
Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

Have you ever had a desire to grow closer to God, but felt like God was far away? If you have, there's some good news in the Bible as illustrated in this verse. Seek. Find. All. Found. These four distinct words capture the essence of this verse. God makes this declaration "You will seek me." This declaration asserts that we will all get to a point in life that will cause us to seek God more earnestly. It may be life circumstances and challenges, but nonetheless, these circumstances have a way of drawing us into the presence of God. It's an invitation to develop a more intimate relationship with God. It is an invitation to experience God in ways that we hadn't before. To seek means to search out by any method. When we seek God, he adds an additional promise, that we will find Him.

God again makes a declaration that we "will" find Him. He didn't say that we may or could possibly find Him, He says we "will" find Him. However, he communicates that there is a particular way that we must seek him, that we must do in order to find him...Do you see it? He says, "seek me with all your heart." This is not an empty guarantee; it's an assurance rooted in the very character of God.

If you have a desire to grow spiritually or develop a more intimate relationship with God, know that God is waiting to be found by you. In order to find Him, we are encouraged to seek Him with all our heart. This level of seeking will require intentionality, dedication and commitment. It will require us to be "all in". When you intentionally seek Him—not halfheartedly but with your whole heart—God promises that you will find Him. That means He's not hiding or distant. He's near, waiting, and ready to reveal Himself to you.

Application:

Read the Bible: Start your day with Scripture, allowing God's Word to shape your heart and mind.

Talk to God: Talk to God in prayer about the areas where you feel distant from Him. Be honest and invite Him into your struggles.

Create Space for God: Remove distractions—whether it's social media, TV, or busyness—and use that time to reflect on His Word and promises.

Seek Accountability: Connect with a prayer partner or small group who can encourage you to remain intentional in seeking God.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for Your promise in Your Word that challenges me to go deeper in my relationship with you. Open my eye to seek you in ways that I haven't before, so that I may find you. Help me to discover how I can grow to become more like you. Thank you that when I seek you, you promise that I will encounter you. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH



DAY 03

Prayer for Financial Breakthrough
By Dr. Akeem Walker

"Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well." Ecclesiastes 11:6 (NIV)

In a world that pressures us to accumulate wealth and possessions, Jesus calls us to a different standard—one focused not on just gaining material items but eternal security. Financial fasting is a spiritual discipline that helps us break free from materialism and refocus on God's provision. By resisting unnecessary spending, we simplify our lives and make space to seek God more deeply. This fast reminds us that our true security comes not from money but from God alone, and it helps us realign our priorities with His kingdom values. While we practice boundaries, we pray for God to grant us a Breakthrough.

Application:

Make a list of your necessities (items you need to survive, and NO Starbucks isn't a necessity).

Place a boundary on your card, account, etc., so you will only buy essentials for a specific time. (If you usually purchase Starbucks, let's say you decide you are going 30 days without) Take the \$10 you'd typically spend there and put it aside; after the fasting period, pray to GOD about what to do with the money you've saved. It could be a sacrificial offering, pay off a debt, pay down a debt, or do something rewarding.

GOD gives us breakthroughs; we must be good stewards of them!

Prayer:

Father, I recognize that I have not always properly managed money. Help me to become a better steward. I want you to trust me more so that I can be a blessing to the Kingdom. Allow me to experience overflow so I can help others. I will sacrifice more so that there will be more to sow, and the harvest will be net-breaking. I believe that you hear me, and you are already blessing the seeds I have sown. In Jesus's name, Amen.



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH

DAY 04

Breakthrough in Relationships
By Dr. Christopher Ware

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."
2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV)

Reconciling relationships is not easy, yet it is a pivotal part of the Christian journey, and Jesus continually emphasized our connection with one another. Even after being despitely used and persecuted. God, through Jesus, took intentional initiative and overt action to reconcile humanity unto Himself, and we are called to actively pursue similar reconciliation in our relationships with others, even when it is difficult and does not feel good.

In our lives, misunderstandings and disagreements are inevitable. However, how we respond to these situations defines our character and faith. Reconciliation involves a combination of Humility, Forgiveness, and Action. Reconciliation begins with humility and a willingness to communicate. It requires us to take a step back, reflect on our actions, and seek understanding rather than simply defending our perspective. For years, I tried, to change someone else, to un-strain our relationship. But it was not until I humbled myself and was internally transformed by God that the relationship was reconciled even though the other person had not changed.

As we strive for reconciliation for a breakthrough, we are reminded that forgiveness is a powerful tool that, without, we remain painfully bound to our past, with a diminished capacity to be available in the present. We are called to extend that grace to others just as we have been extended grace. This act of love can not only mend external relationships but also free us from internal emotional bondage, enabling us to experience restored peace and joy. Reconciliation is not merely an act but a journey that stems from love, understanding, and grace. Embracing the journey of Breakthrough Reconciliation and trusting the God we have not seen can lead to profound growth in our relationship with those we do see.

Application:

Remembering the reconciliation of God you have already received; meditate on a relationship that needs reconciliation.

Reflect on what part you can play in tending that connection. How might you engage humility in strength and not avoid it because of pride or the possibility of humiliation?

What can you forgive to set yourself free to move toward reconciliation?

Pray and ask God what reconciliation in this relationship looks like.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for the gift of relationships and the love that binds us together. Help me to recognize the importance of reconciliation for a breakthrough in my life. Give me the humility to seek forgiveness and the courage to extend it, even when it is difficult. Guide my conversations with others and remind me to listen, hear and be still. May I reflect Your love through my actions, bringing healing to those relationships that need restoration. In the name of Jesus, that name that Reconciles, Redeems, & Restores, I pray, Amen.



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH



DAY 05

Breakthrough in Purpose
By Min. Lisa Reaves

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."
Proverbs 19:21(NIV)

God's purpose for our lives is a powerful promise filled with hope and intention. Yet, there are times when we may feel disconnected from that purpose, facing doubts, delays, or detours that cloud our understanding. In those moments, we must remember that God's plans are steadfast and faithful. The same God who crafted the plans for your life knows how to bring you into the fullness of your purpose. Breakthrough in purpose begins when we align our hearts with His, seeking His wisdom and leaning on His timing. Trusting in His plan means believing that, even when we can't see the full picture, God is working behind the scenes for our good.

When we pursue our purpose, it's essential to listen for God's voice amidst the noise of our own ambitions. The Lord's purpose will always prevail, even if it means redirecting us from paths, we thought were best. Embracing His purpose requires humility, patience, and faith. With each step of obedience, God shapes us and equips us for the calling He has designed specifically for us. Remember, He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. May you have the courage to walk the steps ordered for you.

Application:

Reflect on the areas where you feel unsure or stagnant in your purpose. Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal His direction and renew your commitment to His plans. Take one step today that aligns with what you believe God is calling you to.

Prayer:

Father, I thank You for the unique purpose You have placed within me. When I struggle to see the way forward, remind me of Your promises. Lead me and empower me to walk boldly in the purpose You have designed for me. May my life reflect Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH



DAY 06

Breakthrough in Health and Healing
By Dr. Arbra L. Bailey

**"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)**

In the 1920s, the Edwin Smith Papyrus was presented to the New York Historical Society, revealing the origin of the idea of subluxation, an indicator of misalignment in the body. According to Smith, subluxation dates back to Egyptian medical writings about 1,600 BC, with a belief that the writings may go back as far as the Pyramid Age. Remembering that Egypt is in Africa is essential here, pointing to an ancestral track record focusing on health and healing.

In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul expresses concern for health and healing. He calls out the vices (subluxations) that water down the Corinthians' witness and the body of Christ. The issue is one of stewardship. The believer's body belongs to the Lord, not to themselves. God expects His children to honor Him by how they live in the body. Since the body and the spiritual intertwine, and the body belongs to Christ, what the believer does with their body expresses the health of their Christian witness.

Contemporary discussions on health and healing necessitate a holistic approach that encompasses mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. We are stewards of our bodies, entrusted with living healthy and whole lives that honor God. Mental, physical, and spiritual health are not separate entities, but interconnected aspects of our well-being. By aligning our affections with the empowering presence of the Spirit within us, we can experience health and healing. Breakthrough requires dismantling the dis-ease in our mental, physical, and spiritual lives and understanding that dysfunction starts in the mind before manifesting physically in the body, leading to spiritual ramifications. Therefore, health and healing begin with our mental health. Renewing our minds daily with God's word captures our attention and fosters an attitude of gratitude, influencing our direction in life, carried out by our physical bodies. And what we do in the body either promotes or detracts from our spiritual maturity.

Application:

Each day, take a moment to reflect on these three questions: What is captivating my attention (mentally)? In what direction is it leading me (physically)? Is it leading me to a healthy destination or a misalignment in my eternal destination (spiritually)? Spend time daily reading God's word and praying for discernment. Then, seek out a prayer partner to join you in prayer for a breakthrough. Finally, trust, watch, and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit to empower you and guide you to breakthrough in health and healing.

Prayer:

Lord, please unveil the misalignments in my life: mentally, physically, and spiritually. Grant me the desire, discernment, and determination to take the necessary steps to experience breakthroughs for every subluxation of holistic health in my life. For where you lead, I will follow. Amen.



DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH

DAY 07

Breakthrough in Worship
By Dr. Chad Brawley

Acts 16:25-31(NIV)

This is a familiar story that we've all heard a million times. Let's be sure not to take the perceivable lessons for granted. Paul, Silas, and the jailer can teach us a few things about worship. As we are intentional about spending quality time with God during this season of breakthrough, let's explore a few nuggets that will bless us and others.

Often, we think of worship in the context of church services or our personal devotional time at home. Here, Paul and Silas find themselves in quite a different environment: a prison at midnight. They were uncomfortable, in chains, and surrounded by darkness. What an unlikely time to begin singing worship songs and having a prayer service. Even though they were bound, they understood the power of worship to bring about a breakthrough in their immediate situation. Their faith and commitment to God were so strong that they decided to pray and sing exuberant praises to God. Their worship was so powerful that the other prisoners heard them; there was an earthquake that shook the very foundation of the prison, and everyone's chains were loosed. Not only that, when the jailer realized what had happened, he almost took his own life, but instead, he and his family received new life! Now that is something to shout about.

There are times when worship must be a choice, an act of faith. Like Paul and Silas, at some point, we will find ourselves in "midnight" circumstances that are uncomfortable and seem impossible to get past or through. In these times, we must make the imperative decision to worship God without restraint. Even in the unknown, this act of obedience is a significant invitation for God to move on our behalf. In the same way that God brought breakthrough and deliverance to Paul and Silas, God is more than able to unlock doors and break chains in our lives. As we see in this passage, not only is God able to bring freedom to us, but God also uses our challenges and victories to bless those around us. Worship brings transformation. Paul, Silas, the other prisoners, the jailer, and his family all experienced breakthrough because of faith-filled acts of worship.

Application:

Being a worshipper is bigger than a song. You don't need a melodious voice and a special gift to engage God. I encourage you to make worship a part of your daily life. No matter what may be going on, God is always worthy of worship. Take a few moments now to open your heart and worship God. Even though this may look different for different people, the posture of your heart is what's most important. A great way to begin worshipping God is with expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving for who God is and what God has already done in your life. From there, move to words and actions that bestow honor and reverence. When we seek God sincerely in worship, breakthrough isn't just possible; it's promised. May you experience a new level of freedom and intimacy with God as you pursue breakthrough in worship.

Prayer:

Lord, with a grateful heart, I thank you for all you've done in my life and the lives of those around me. I honor You and bless Your name. Please help me to worship you in times of joy and challenge. May I always be reminded of your faithfulness. Let my worship be a beacon of hope to others and a testimony of Your power to break chains, open doors, and bring breakthrough. In Jesus' name, Amen.