

SERIES: THE PROCESS OF BREAKTHROUGH
PART 5: KNOCK ON SOMEONE'S DOOR

Inevitably, this is one of the most critical and most difficult aspects of preparing ourselves for the breakthroughs that Jesus desires for us. As you read through the Gospels Jesus is relentlessly relational. He loved children and would allow them to get up on His lap, and He would lovingly play with them. He demonstrated in human form the Father's heart, attitude and passion for people. The way Jesus treated women, children and those who were considered disenfranchised, outcasts and who the religious elites called the scum of the earth portrayed in such a unique way that only God could do this. Several of the most revealing insights into the heart of Jesus, into God's heart, was while Jesus was dying on the cross. In Luke 23:34 Jesus was surrendered by Jewish leaders, Roman politicians and the elitists of the day were scoffing, mocking and humiliating Jesus with the vilest words they could come up with, and, in that moment, the heart of Jesus, the very heart of God gushes forth in prayer with Jesus saying, **“Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.”** What was Jesus doing? He was knocking on the Father's door, and in a disturbing but incredibly loving action He asks the Father not to hold this against them. What an incredible breakthrough for the human family. The God/Man breaks tradition with our sin nature, because He was sinless and He demonstrates when a person is dominated by true love which is sacrificial, giving and intentional.

Then in vs. 43 we have Jesus' response to one of the criminals who deserved his punishment who stood up for Jesus and corrected the other criminal by saying this Man hasn't done anything wrong. Then he asked Jesus to remember him when He would come into His Kingdom. Again, what is amazing is that Jesus is nailed to a wooden cross, and yet He is fully alive and aware that He still has Kingdom business to be involved with, so that when this criminal knocked on Jesus' door, listen to Jesus' response, **“I assure you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”** The word paradise comes into the Greek language from the Persian world. First references had to do with gardens like the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter 2. In Judaism it referred to the home of the righteous. Dr. Bock writes, “That Jesus was referring to Abraham's bosom in Luke 16:23, an image that highlights immediate reception after death. The phrase appears in two other NT texts—2 Corinthians 12:4 and Revelation 2:7, both of which seem to allude to the heavenly realm where the righteous are gathered.” Before Jesus dies Jesus promises this criminal that today he will be with Jesus and live among the faithful.

Another incredible example of Jesus' utter selflessness and always thinking about others, as He is dying in John 19, we're told that after the soldiers crucified Jesus they divided His clothes among four of them. They took His seamless robe, and they threw dice to see who would get His robe since they didn't want to cut it up into pieces. Then the text says that near the cross Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister,

Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene were standing. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple He loved, He said to her, **“Dear woman, here is your son.’**
27 And He said to this disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’
And from then on this disciple took her into his home.”
Let’s look at what it means to knock on someone’s door when it comes to acknowledging our wrongs and sins against others.

I. Admit my faults to another person

God says it is absolutely essential for your recovery. James 5:16, **“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.”**
Notice James says confess your sins to each other. Why do I need to drag another person into this? Why can't I just admit it to God? Why don't I just pray about it, make a list, talk to God about it? But why do I need to tell another person?
Because the root of our problem is relational. We lie to each other. We deceive each other. We're dishonest with each other. We wear masks. We pretend we have it together. But we don't. And we deny our true feelings, and we play games. It isolates us from each other and prevents intimacy. We end up living with shame, and it makes us insecure. If they really knew the truth about me, they wouldn't love me. They'd reject me.

So we get sick. I am only as sick as my secrets. The secrets I hold onto are the secrets that make me sick. God says,

“Revealing your feelings is the beginning of healings.” If you don't do that, the more you hide it, the bigger it gets; you exaggerate it internally. But the amazing thing is, when you risk honesty with one person, all of a sudden, this feeling of freedom comes into your life. You realize that everyone has problems, and often they have the same ones you do. You admit it to one other person. Everybody needs one. You don't need more than one, but you need at least one person in life you can be totally honest with. Why? This is what integrity is all about. This is how God builds humility into our lives. There is also something very therapeutic about it. It's God's way of freeing and restoring us.

Do I just go out and broadcast my sins to everybody No. Telling the wrong person could be big trouble. You don't just go out and indiscriminately tell your problems. No.

A. Who do you tell?

1) Someone you trust. Somebody who can keep a confidence, who is not a gossip and who has a reputation for keeping a confidence. You don't need to tell somebody and then next week it's in *National Enquirer*.

2) Someone who understands the value of what you're doing

3) Someone who is mature enough that they are not going to be shocked

4) Someone who knows the Lord well enough that they can reflect His forgiveness to you. That may be a person in your small group. A close trusted friend, a Christian counselor. Most genuine Christians I know would be honored to listen to your fourth step.

B. Then what do you say?

You find a safe place and take your moral inventory list and say, “I just need someone to listen to me take my fourth step in the breakthroughs I’m looking for. Here's some things I know are wrong in my life, this is what I've done, this is what I've felt. Here are the habits, the hurts, the hang-ups.”

Whenever I have someone tell me, “What I'm about to share I've never told anyone in my life,” I get so excited because I know that the moment they share it, they are going to experience relief like they've never felt before.

You don't have to tell everyone, just someone. And all of a sudden the secret that's been making you sick, stops making you sick, because you start sharing it. **Remember, be specific. The secret you want to conceal the most is the one you need to reveal the most because that's the one that will heal you, so you can experience God's grace.**

C. When do you do it?

As soon as is appropriate. Don't procrastinate. This is a step that is crucial to your breakthrough and restoration and to your ability to **LIVE OUT ALL OF THE**

BREAKTHROUGHS that God has for you personally and for us together at CVCHURCH.

I strongly encourage you to pray and start looking for that trusted person you can share your moral inventory with. First of all, take the time to write it all out. You will want to write this down on your notes.

II. How to create a moral inventory

Meditate on this verse as you create your moral inventory. Lamentations 3:40, **“Instead, let us test and examine our ways. Let us turn again in repentance to the Lord.”**

As you reflect take a piece of paper and make five columns.

A. The Person

In the first column write: **Who is the focus of my resentment, anger, fear, or unforgiveness?**

B. The Cause

In the second column write: **What specific action did that person take that I allowed to hurt me?**

C. The Effect

In the third column write: **What effect did that action have on my life? How have I allowed what was done or not done to impact me?**

D. The Damage

In the fourth column write out: **What damage did that action do to my sense of self-worth, my needs being met and my convictions?**

E. My Responsibility

What part of the resentment, hatred, anger, or unforgiveness am I responsible for? Who are the people I have hurt? How have I hurt them?

This step is extremely powerful. You will sense a connection to Jesus Christ like you have never done before when you fulfill this step and you make things right with others as much as possible. Romans 12:18 says, **“Do your part to live at peace with everyone, as much as possible.”**

< BREAKTHROUGH TESTIMONY >

III. Receive God’s forgiveness

Romans 3:23–24, **“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴Yet now God in His gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, Who has freed us by taking away our sins.”**

All have sinned. We're all in the same boat. Every week somebody comes up to me, "Pastor Scott, you've been reading my mail." No, I've not. I've been reading my mail. We're all in the same boat. Pastors need to take step 4. We're all in the same boat. We're just a bunch of sinners. Who are we trying to kid? Nobody is perfect. We've all blown it. We've all made mistakes. It's not like anybody is more righteous than anybody else. We've all got different problems, just different areas. "All of us have sinned, yet God declares us not guilty if we trust in Jesus Christ who freely takes away our sins." What happens when I take this step? How does God forgive?

A. God forgives instantly

He doesn't wait. The moment you do this, you're forgiven. He never makes us wait—makes us suffer for a while. Humans do that, but God doesn't do that.

B. God forgives freely

He freely takes away our sins. You don't deserve it, you don't earn it, and you can't work for it. It's free.

C. God forgives completely

He wipes it out. "There is no condemnation for those who live in union with Christ Jesus." From personal experience, I want to tell you how great that feels, to live with no condemnation. I keep short accounts with God.

COMMUNION

“Then He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then He said, ‘Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.’ He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.’ After supper He took another cup of wine and said, ‘This cup is the new covenant between God and His people—an agreement confirmed with My blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.’” Luke 22:17-19