



CENTRAL SDA MESSENGER

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SEEKING HEAVENLY
BREAKTHROUGHS

by Pastor John Abbott

Hauoli Makahiki hou!—which is Hawaiian for Happy New Year—to you all! I'm praying that all of you and your loved ones will know God's peace, joy, protection and abundant growth throughout the coming year! In fact, knowing that we can find ourselves stuck, unable to move ahead in all kinds of areas in life—is the focus of our first series in the new year: "*The Lord of Breakthroughs!*"

David had just been installed as king of both the northern and southern kingdoms. Israel was ecstatic *but guess who wasn't?* The Philistines! They saw David's consolidated power as a threat, so they conspired with five Philistinian city-states to march against Israel.

2 Samuel 5 says that David fled to a "**stronghold**"—not to escape or hide but to **pray!** He asked God for guidance and the Lord assured him that Israel would win the battle! *Isn't it good to go to the stronghold of prayer?* That's when you're really safe—when you **know** you're doing God's will.

Verse 20 says: "*...David defeated them there; and he said, 'The Lord has **broken through** my enemies before me, like a **breakthrough of water.**'*" Some versions say: 'like a **raging flood**'. David called the name of that place '**Baal Perezim.**'

'**Baal**' means "*lord/master*" and '**Perezim**' means "*breakthroughs*". So David called the place of this amazing victory: '**The Lord of breakthroughs**' because God **burst** through what at first appeared to be an impenetrable wall of opposing forces!

A HEAVENLY break through is a sudden **release** of God's power and provision that brings a sudden **reversal** to our otherwise **hopeless** condition! *How many of us are in need of a dramatic reversal to our unsolvable problems and conditions?*

The great news is: the **Lord of breakthroughs** doesn't show up with a mere **trickle** of **blessing**: He **often** appears to His people just as David described: like a **raging flood**—sweeping away all the **obstacles** that had been holding us back!

So David's words *can* apply to **ALL** of us: "*The Lord has broken **through** my enemies like a **breakthrough of water!***"

The crazy thing is—even though God offers these much needed life-changing reversals—we often neglect to

seek them. Perhaps we believe God doesn't work so wonderfully as He did in Bible times. *But did you know that God NEEDS to work mightily and wonderfully with amazing breakthroughs in EVERY generation?*—because **every** generation needs to know the **Lord of the Breakthroughs!**

Feel free to review the archived message to learn more. But let's make 2021 the year we become 'breakthrough-minded believers as we move from praying **safe, ordinary** prayers to praying **God-sized** prayers!

Church family, breakthroughs don't come **passively**. They come because we **seek** the Lord in the **stronghold** of prayer like David did—**trusting** He's going to **bless** us—not with a mere **trickle** or **stream**—but a **TIDAL WAVE** of blessing! It will be in His time and in His ways, but we'll never know unless we become **intentional** about calling on Him to be the **Lord of Breakthroughs** in our lives!

In other news, Skye is helping me set up a **Digital Youth prayer meeting**. Be checking the website for further info. I can't wait to get to know our young people and worship Christ together. I'll lead them through some principles on helping to build up their faith in Christ and we'll do some simple but heartfelt prayer together!

We also look forward to the **10 Days of Prayer** that launches for our church on **Jan. 20 at 6:30**—thanks to Joanna Herr for organizing, and Audrey Schrader for hosting! The more **prayer**—the more of God's **presence**. And the more of God's presence—the **more power and courage** we'll have! The Enemy has made us feel that we're safe **without** God's people, His church or His power. Do not be misled: since the illusion is so masterful—we've never needed to come together to pray as much as we do today. Most importantly, the real attraction of prayer is to meet with Jesus just because He is so good, lovely, merciful and true!

In His Joys, Pastor John :)



Online Worship Service:
Saturdays @ 10:50am
Please join us!!

Access this and other resources at:
www.abqcentral.org

SAVE THE DATES!!

January 20th through January 29th—10 Days of Prayer Event
February 14th—Pathfinder Sweetheart Fundraiser Event

More info to come for these great events!!! Check back soon on the church website or Facebook page!

ABQ Central Pathfinders and Adventurer Clubs Promote Active Learning and Fun!!



Pathfinder's Enjoying a Snow Shoe Experience that Earned them an Honor!!



Adventurer's Earning Honors Through Fun Activities!!



People who need People. ~ By a Simple Seeker.

"Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us."

1 John 4:11-12 (NLT)

Happy New Year, Central family!

I pray that each of you finds new ways to get to know our Savior more deeply in the coming year. Jesus is always reaching out to us, if we just pause and ask Him into our lives. We struggle every day to survive and thrive in the world, and Jesus stands ready to fill us with His Love and Spirit:

**"Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.
But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint."** (Isaiah 41:30-31, NLT)

As with every previous year, the year of 2020 brought both happiness and sadness. But last year brought extra challenges as we faced the impact of the COVID-19 virus. Beyond the threat to our collective physical health, the limitations and restrictions also placed burdens on our emotional and spiritual health as well. We don't get to see each other as much; we don't get to go out to do as much; and it comes at a cost. And we feel the cost – every day.

But we also have a promise from God that reminds us in difficulty is also opportunity. Paul tells us in Romans that even hardships can work out to our benefit – if we love and trust God. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28) Every day, but even (and maybe, especially) on the darkest of days, God has a blessing for us! We just need to do our part to seek Him and live according to His will.

Don't get me wrong, this is not always easy, and at the outset, it may not be especially enjoyable. But as Isaiah reminds us above, God is faithful to give us strength when we need it. And it is through those actions we take in His service -- even when we might not feel like it, or it might be more difficult than usual -- that we can find the blessing God has prepared for us. In seeking and accepting that blessing, we not only further God's work on this earth, but we find the joy and fulfillment of serving one another while we serve our Savior.

COVID is no fun. We're tired. And we're almost a year into the restrictions, much to all of our frustration. Maybe we feel disconnected, or depressed. But we can change that. If we call on God's strength and direction, and just take that first step, God is faithful to lead us and bless us. As John says above, through showing our love to others through actions, we find that God's love can be brought to full expression in us. And we will reap the benefits of feeling more connected not only to our Savior, but also to each other.



Fellowship for Families with Children

We are setting up activities for families eager for fellowship. If you are interested in these types of activities please email:

abqcentraladventurerclub@gmail.com

and we will keep you updated!!

We really need YOUR help to stay in touch!!

Please take moment to help us update our records by visiting the link and adding your most current contact info:
<https://www.abqcentral.org/contact/church-member-contact-information>

(Or visit the church website at: abqcentral.org)

