

**FW: A Baal Blast 1 Chron. 14:8-12; James 2:14-20,26; Rom. 10:17; 2 Sam.5:20
Matt. 7:24-27**

All organizations have mission statements, yet in marriages we don't have them. Should we not set goals for things we would like to attain, things to work towards as a couple? I.e. a new level of prayer, or intimacy, debts to be paid off, etc.

God is going to bring a breakthrough for those who are willing to listen to His voice and obey. It won't happen without a battle. Nonchalantly waiting for God to do it is not the position of a spirit filled believer. That belongs to a passive believer. Prayer is not just telling God what we want; it's listening to what He has to say to us. It is two-way communication with most of the listening on our part. We need to be able to walk away from a time of prayer saying, "God has spoken to me." How often does God waste His time talking to us because we don't stop to listen to Him? There is a work for us to do. In order for us to go forward, to have a breakthrough in the next season of our lives we have to die. Any farmer will verify that in order for a seed to bear fruit, it must first die. Death is evident in the green sprouts that push through the earth. It's time for the church to focus on green growth. Are we growing in our prayer life? Are we growing in our Bible reading? Are we growing in fellowship with the body of Christ? God speaks in one of two ways: either in a whisper or a roar. We need to be listening for the whisper so He doesn't have to roar. God has a windfall planned for your life but it's not a lottery, it's a sure thing called tithing. He will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing you won't have room to contain. David inquired of the Lord. He could have assumed because of his strength and history that he could do it alone, but he asked God what he should do. Will we be known as those who call on the name of the Lord? That is His desire, is it ours? Why do we tolerate things in our lives when we have the authority to rebuke them? We need to get in the war zone and start to win some victories. Why are we letting Satan wreck havoc on our homes and families? It's time as moms and dads, as grandparents to pray and intercede, to ask God what to do and how to do it. Do we want to hear from God? Here is the secret: take the tools He gives you and go to work. Instead of passively accepting the pressure to be applied to you, apply some pressure in return. You don't score goals with only defence players; you need offence as well. You need to both guard and attack. It's time to run some offensive attacks. We have the power and it is on our knees in prayer, maybe even on our faces. The pastor is not the only one who should pray, we must pray for ourselves, we must pray together. We have the authority to push back the powers of darkness through the power of the Risen Saviour. That's worth getting excited about!! The breakthrough comes when we pray and obey. We need faith and works together **James 2:14-20**. We are saved through grace alone but we prove our salvation with works. **Matt. 7:24-27** if we are not tithing and the storms come and take from us, we have no right to cry foul. Both the wise man and the foolish heard what Jesus said, but only the wise man did what he heard.

If we live by the word of God we will be building on the Rock and we will have the strength to stand against the storms. If we refuse to forgive we are in essence tying God's hands and He cannot forgive us. Be wise!! The next time you get a forward email may it remind us that we need Faith and Works together (FW). God will bring a breakthrough in our lives but it's going to take faith. **2 Sam. 5:20** David inquired of the Lord a second time but it took faith to hear the marching in the treetops. Don't operate in presumption that God will do again what He did before. We need to get a fresh word. Pray and obey. Are we showing the next generation how to hear from God, how to follow Him, obey Him and honour Him? David took the time to inquire of the Lord and won the victory. If we want a breakthrough in our situations we need to get a present word for ourselves from God. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God **Rom. 10:17**.