



Empowering People to Change the World

## **The Way of Impossible Breakthrough**

Steve Holt

## “The Way of Impossible Breakthrough”

### Mark 9:14-29

Church, there are situations in this life that, by all possible measurements, are impossible. There are no human or institutional resources that can solve a problem. The problem is just too big; the dilemma is just too deep.

- 99% of the people out there just give up and accept it.
- Even among Christians.
- “Oh Sera Sera Sovereignty of God” thinking.
- Listen: You cannot experience a breakthrough with this thinking.
- Last night we looked at 2 kinds of outlooks or spirits in people:
  1. The Nevertheless spirit—Little God Giant Problem thinking.
  2. The Breakthrough spirit—Big God Pygmy Problem thinking.
- Let’s look at a Giant Problem and what Jesus did.
- “The Way of Impossible Breakthrough”

### Mark 9:14-22

***14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. 15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. 16 And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" 17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." 19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father,***

***"How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."***

**This is, by anyone's estimation, an impossible situation!**

- The son is mute since childhood.
- The young man is demonized.
- The young man has no control over what happens to him.
- The first thing Jesus looks at is not the problems but the lack of faith of the disciples.
- This is an impossible situation!!
- For example, we were living in Okinawa and we became friends with a couple who had a child with spinal bifida and was pregnant with what appeared to be similar conditions—ultrasound showed no nose on the fetus. Impossible situation!! Ueta-san needed a breakthrough.
- For example, ten years ago we needed money badly. Our septic had gone out and we just didn't have the funds needed to fix it. Impossible situation!! We needed a breakthrough.

**Mark 9:23**

***Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."***

- "If you can believe?" translates: "Is that what you just said to me?"
- Jesus picks up the doubts of the father.
- The deciding factor is not the power of Jesus but the faith of the father.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Way of Impossible Breakthrough: Faith

- Two kinds of faith: Salvation Faith and Impossible Breakthrough Faith.
- Faith either releases God's power or hinders it in your life.

- **Mark 5:25-34**

***<sup>25</sup> Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup> and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.***

***<sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. <sup>28</sup> For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." <sup>29</sup> Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. <sup>30</sup> And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" <sup>31</sup> But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, Who touched Me?' " <sup>32</sup> And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. <sup>33</sup> But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."***

- **Mark 6:4-6**

***<sup>4</sup> But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." <sup>5</sup> Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.***

- How do we develop this kind of faith?

1. Impossible Breakthrough Faith develops from God's Word.

♣ “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by God’s Word”.

♣ Joshua is told to go into an impossible situation, to enter the Promised Land and God says to Him:

♣ **Joshua 1:8 *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.***

## 2. Impossible Breakthrough Faith develops by Experience.

♣ We experience God showing up in miraculous ways and it builds up your faith level.

♣ This is how the disciples grew!

♣ This is how Liz and I have grown: Before raising \$100k’s of dollars to be missionaries, we learned to trust God for \$100. Before planting a church we learned to plant a campus ministry. Before having 7 kids we had 1.

♣ Faith is like a muscle and it has to be strengthened and worked out!

### Mark 9:24-29

***24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" 26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. 28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" 29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."***

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Way of Impossible Breakthrough: Faith through Prayer

- You have to ask!!
- “Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the Kingdom. If you may have everything by asking in His Name, and nothing without asking, I beg you to see how absolutely vital prayer is.” Charles Spurgeon
- **John 15:7-8** *“<sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*
- Jesus said, *“<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*
- **Jeremiah 33:3** *phone number of the kingdom <sup>3</sup> ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’*
- **Mark 11:24** *New King James Version (NKJV)  
<sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*
- **Matthew 21:22** *New King James Version (NKJV)  
<sup>22</sup> And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Way of Impossible Breakthrough: Faith through Prayer *and* Fasting**

- For example, for many of us this just seems impossible. Why would I sacrifice eating food to get God to answer my prayers?
- For example, I would die if I don't eat!
- Jesus fasted and prayed. Jesus' disciples fasted and prayed after the Resurrection. Many of the Old Testament heroes and heroines of the faith fasted and prayed. The followers of John the Baptist fasted and prayed. Many people in the early church fasted and prayed. What the Scriptures have taught us directly and by the examples of the saints is surely something we are to do.
- Prayer and Fasting is one of the most important Impossible Breakthrough principles in all of the Bible! God works through fasting and prayer.
- For example, remember my earlier story of the spina bifida family? Well, we fasted and prayed as a ministry and that baby was born perfectly healthy!!
- For example, we have fasted and prayed about our finances—one time we had no money and our septic tank had gone out. We had \$1k but needed \$4k more. We fasted and prayed and a neighbor knocked on our door one day and told us that God had told her that we needed money and he gave the number of \$4k.
- For example, we fasted and prayed about what to do about our future in 1994 and I had great offers to stay in southern California but we were unsettled. We walked and prayed for 3 days and after a staff meeting a woman walked up and spoke into my life.
- For example, we fasted and prayed about this church. For 40 nights we met and prayed.