

What's the Story You're Listening To?

I want to talk to you this morning about your story and I want to talk to you about how your story affects breakthrough in your life. And I want God to come in His power and to help release you into the realm of breakthrough that you're looking for. But there's something about your story that you need to understand in your life and I'll get to that-to give a little context, Isaiah 53. Isaiah was an amazing prophet, awakening the land to the heart of God. He had an encounter with God's presence, the glory of who He is and he was sent to be a prophet to bring people back out of their sin, out of their issues, out of their struggles, out of their bondage into a place of relationship. And he releases these words and prophecies over the land and prophecies things that are so incredible and powerful and he says this in Isaiah 53. Many of you are very familiar with this statement. He says, "Who has believed our report?" Many times we rephrase this to say, "Whose report are you going to believe?" What's a report? A report is a word.

A report is a mindset. A word a testimony. It's the mindset of God coming to you and the key is that will you believe the report that God sends to you. It is going to be very critical for you in the next stage of your journey that you begin to analyze what's the report that I live by on a daily basis? And I want to rephrase this instead of the word report I want to rephrase it more specifically into a more modern term and that's what's your story? What's the story over your life because every single one of you, you carry a story.

It's a story that involves where you've come from, where you are right now, and where you're headed and your story encompasses this. These three areas. Where you've come from, where you are right now, and where you're going. And God comes, when He comes with His Word, it comes and it intersects and it speaks to all three. God's Word is very prophetic and when I say the word 'prophetic' what I mean is that it comes and it works beyond the spans of time. When God speaks, there's so many layers in what He's saying and what it means.

That's how you can read the Word of God and you get this out of it and then you come back later and you get that out of it and then you get this. And then you sit with other people and someone says 'well, I got this,' and someone else says 'I got that.' Who is right? Usually both of you. Because there's a way that God's Word has such power that when it comes to you, it's so multi-faceted it speaks to so many things. So Isaiah, when he would prophesy, he would tell Israel, this is where you've been, this is what God has done. Here's where you are, here's your predicament, here's what God says about where you're at. Here's corrections that need to be made. Here's awakenings that need to happen. Why?

Because this is where we're going. And if we hear what God is saying, it alters our story. It begins to shift because the story that we hear will make a way for what you're wanting in your life. What I want to challenge you in, if you listen to one thing and you fall asleep for the rest of the service, it's that I want you to take in God wants to redeem, transform your story so He can take you where He's wanting to take you.

This is the power of what God does. God is so redemptive. What does this word redeem speak of? It speaks of to buy back, to take back, this is what God's wanting to do in your life. So, wherever you've come from, and whatever happens, God wants to have an intersection with you to have an encounter with you where His Word comes and speaks to your past. It isn't just 'forget it, I know where you've been, I know what you came through.' I know what you've gone through. But here's who I am in the midst.' To have an intersection with that so now it shifts where you're going because what you carry in that changed mindset has everything to do with whether or not you're going to live to the potential that God says you can have. This is the realm of true belief of really, truly believing what God is saying about us, our past, our present and our future and activating that.

I have to hammer home this word 'belief' because in the United States, in modern culture, belief is cheap. It's a cheap word. Belief is something like you believe in God, you believe in aliens, you believe in whatever, you believe in this. But it has no effect on your life. The majority of Christians in the United States of America say they believe in God. The majority of them even say they believe in a Christian faith-even a Christ-centered faith. But yet what does it have to do in the application? Because the story they carry doesn't match it. So therefore they really, truly don't believe.

In the Bible, belief always equals obedience. It always lines up and speaks of that. It always speaks of action. Belief is not just a theory. It's who I am and it's what I'm doing. We have to be able to enter into a new realm because we're saying we believe certain things about God, about who He is. But the story that we carry in our life doesn't say that. Because God is wanting you to bring a story into your life before it comes to pass. And He wants to awaken your understanding of how you see yourself and how you see your world.

He brings His Word in beautiful power to come and shift you so that now what you carry is a redeemed story. Divorced three times, this, that, bad relationships, brokenness, this, no father role in your life. All these things that kind of collect; we call that baggage. And God wants to come and He wants to speak into those areas of what He can do. That's why it's important that we understand the impossible God. Because He wants to come and He wants to speak to who you are and tell you where you're going. He always does this in amazing ways.

He comes to Israel and says 'Here's where you come from, this is what I say, this is where we're going. And you have to make corrections here to how you think because I'm going to lead you into areas that are impossible, that are breakthrough-filled.' Israel hears it and says, 'Yes, God. Yes, this is great. Let's throw a party. Whoo! Isn't God awesome?' One day later, 'Eh, we should just go back to Egypt. This is pretty lame. What's the deal here? Where is God?' Why? Because the story changed. Every single person in this room, you have a narrator in your life. It's like looking at your life like a movie and there's a narrator that narrates. What's happening, why you're doing the things that you're doing.

And there's something that God wants to break off of us because we're still listening to a story that's not the story that God's giving us. And therefore we become discouraged day after day and we get mad at God and we get mad at circumstances and we're just listening to the same story and expecting something to change. I think for some of us today, the exhortation I want to bring, is God says, "I've got

to confront the story of where you've come from, where you are, and the recordings you keep playing about where you're going and what's happening. That sucker talks to you. I need to redeem; I need to take back of your life so that you truly believe. And how do you know you truly believe something? It's manifesting in what you're stepping into, what you're doing, that actions you take. Otherwise, it's not belief; it's just theory.

And so, Isaiah weaves this thing and he says, "Whose report are we going to believe? Are we going to believe the report of the Lord; are you going to believe the story that God releases?" So he goes through the whole chapter and he begins to weave the coming of Jesus Christ and letting them know the sins He's going to take; the iniquities He's going to take upon Him; the breakthrough that He's going to bring to the nation. And he goes step by step by step bringing them through who Jesus Christ is and the power that He's going to bring to them as a nation. Then, look into the next chapter in verse 54: "After sharing the story of what God's going to do." What does Isaiah say God is going to do? What is the command now? The command that we need to start moving into in activation of this is; there's six things I want to give you out of this of what God's story does when it intersects in your life. Six things right out of Isaiah 54.

1. You're going to give birth to dreams that have been dry.

He said, 'sing O barren one.' Barren meaning you can't have children. And the Lord is coming and saying, "I'm going to birth things in you that you thought were dead, dry or delayed for so long. Now, somebody whose story has changed, when they hear that report, they say 'yes' to it. So when you read the Bible it's not just a bunch of nice stories, it's something that you now take ownership for you in your own life in what's available for you now here and today. It releases a joy-filled lifestyle.

2. Because he says, 'break forth in singing.'

Now, in the church of that time, the Old Testament church, if we could say, it's like 'what do you mean break forth into singing? Messiah's not here. The Savior's not here. We see nothing here.' Why? Because they continually fell back into the old story. I'm too old to have a relationship now. My kids are too far gone. My job situation is too....my anxiety is too bad. My depression, I've been on it for so many years. Because, still, when the rubber meets the road, real deal life, is you're still listening to a bad story. You're listening to a narrative that captivates you and so you carry that and then it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy as people would say. It becomes something that becomes manifest because truly deep in our hearts it's what we believe.

What I want to encourage us to move into is to move out of just cliché. We come, we have these great services. Yes, God, You're amazing! And when we leave the house we go back to listening to the story. Right? How many of you, you don't have to raise your hand, when you come and when the atmosphere of God's presence is here in the assembly of the saints and we're worshipping God, there comes these moments, these windows, where you can see what you couldn't see all week long? Right? It's like, Oh my goodness, why was I even worrying about that? Oh, God, forgive me for being anxious over that. It's like you get a revelation of who He is. What is that? Worship is God's invitation for you to change the story. When Isaiah had an encounter with the Lord; it's like "I saw the Lord and this thing is man, I'm

done! I'm done!" And God is wanting to do that with His word where you encounter Him that it shifts the story that you now carry in your circumstances so that you bring the breakthrough anointing with you that the mindset of the story that you have, now this mindset infiltrates society. Because, otherwise, I'll tell you what, if you don't set the story under what God is saying, the world will set it for you. The enemy is plenty happy this morning, the moment you woke up, the story is already playing. You didn't even have a chance to know what day of the week it was, what the temperature was outside, or what planet you were on and the story was already playing.

And the only way you're going to breakthrough to the next level is the story has to begin to shift and change. It doesn't mean that you ignore the past because the past has an effect on you. I'm a pastor who believes in talking about the past because I know God deals with things to shift. If we don't deal with that baggage, we're going to drag it. We're going to go, oh, bless God! He's good. He's going to do it! He's just going to do it. It's like what about the chain on your leg? Oh, it's not there! He's going to do it! It's like no, no, no, no. God is so confident and powerful in who He is. Yeah, we'll talk about your past. He's going to bring you to a place of encounter and revelation of who He is in that. How many of you in your prayer life, when you pray, you tell God your story?

And you want Him to land, based on a story of what the enemy has written in your past. Oh, God, I'm just so hurt, I'm wounded, I'm in a broken place and don't get me wrong, we've all been there. We've all don't that. He's good. He's gracious. But that's not the breakthrough mentality; that's not the breakthrough realm. The breakthrough realm is – God, what do I need to begin to shift in my life to move to make way for who You are in my actions and in my life.

3. You get an expansion of your influence and your territory.

He says, in verse 2, "Enlarge the place of your tent." And they're going to enlarge it for what? I have my five kids, or ten kids, or whatever they had back then. Got my family. I've got enough. God's going, 'enlarge your tent.' And they're going for what? Why? Because they haven't heard the story. The story says, 'there's breakthrough coming, there's abundance coming, there's influence I'm preparing you for.' So, do you have a dream on your life? Do you have things that you're wanting to see breakthrough? Have you prepared the tent? Because preparing the tent is hard work. Setting the room, setting the atmosphere, preparing yourself, cultivating the time that you're in for the time that's ahead. Most people don't do this. We want God to come and change and - poof! – with no grid for His kingdom to land on.

That's why, in the past, hmmm, thousand years every revival that's happened in history (makes deflating noise) because there's no grid. God, in His goodness, still works, still powerfully manifests, and we don't take anything away from that. But at some point, man gets his hands around it, something begins to happen and fizzling begins to happen. Why? Because there was no grid set in place for long-term growth, transformation and breakthrough. You want financial breakthrough in your life and you pray and you pray and you pray but there's no change of your story and how is your story changed? Your whole financial picture reflects somebody who's moving toward the place of breakthrough in their life. How you spend, how you give, comes under submission under kingdom authority That's just one area.

We want relational breakthrough. You know, I'd like to meet a guy, I'd like to be with a girl, I'd like to meet somebody someday. And God goes "You're replaying a story over and over again that's deflecting every good guy that would want to come into your life. Or every good girl that would want to come into your life. I have to begin to shift and to change the story of who I am inside of you that makes way for My kingdom in your life. Are you following me?"

4. And so, number four, He says 'I want to shift generations.

He says 'enlarge the place of your tent and stretch out the curtains of your dwellings. Do not spare, lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes for you shall expand to the right and to the left. Your descendants will inherit the nations.' Come on! You're going to shift generations. I say this over people, 'You're going to be a generation-shifter.' And they go, Uhhhh. I guess. Guess not! As you believe in your heart, so be it. That's why I got exhausted because for five years I spent so much time prophesying over people that couldn't hear it. Telling them who they are and every word 'yeah, but; yeah, but' and unworthiness just goes wah-wah. Word of the Lord, Word of the Lord, Word of the Lord, Word of the Lord, Word of the Lord, because I have to position myself for an intersection of heaven that says I need to change my story.

That's why, when people come to me and say, 'I've done everything there is to do.' 'No, you haven't.' Because if you did, you'd be changed. You haven't done everything. You just want to establish, because this is what satan wants to do in you, is he wants to establish a story that you become convinced of that you've done everything you can do and breakthrough is just not going to happen. We don't like to hear that but it's the truth. And it actually moves us into a realm of pride where you say, 'Well, God, I've been obedient. I've done everything. Done everything You've said to do and I don't see the manifestation of it. It's pride. And we're stuck now. And so He says, "You're going to shift generations. Shift cities".

5. He even says, "You're going to add value to cities.

They're going to change. You're going to make the desolate cities inhabited.

6. Fear, shame and disgrace are going to be broken off of you.

Look at verse number four: "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced for you will not be put to shame for you will forget the shame of your youth." God's looking, this is about you past. It's what He's going to do. He says, "I'm going to bring you under no shame world. I'm going to bring you under no condemnation world. I'm going to begin to redeem your perspective. I'm going to set you up as a city on a hill." And then we go, 'yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I can't see it.' Then we take a few steps and go 'well, I tried. I tried and I didn't really get anywhere. I don't really know what God is doing.' Here is what I hear amongst the kingdom is I hear 'Well, I've done everything that I need to do now God just needs to do something' And it's a bitterness against Him.

There's a deep sense of resentment saying 'I had an agenda. I followed a, I pulled this slot machine, I did this formula and You didn't fall through for me so I'm just going to sit here and now it's up to you. And then we're stuck. Now, some of you are going to catch this and you're going to rock some things this

week. You're going to get so sick of it; you're going to get so tired of it. You're going to start dealing with stuff you've never dealt with before. You're going to start rocking some stuff you've never dealt with before because you're going to come to an awakening of this intersection. This is, "God, I'm going to embrace the story that You say about me and that thing is going to trickle down to the cells of my being." You see, at a DNA level it begins to affect you. That's when it's in the marrow of your bones, it's no longer theory. How do you know what your story is? You know what your story is by what circumstances bring out in you; by what the difficulties bring out in you. These bring out the story.

And so we end up in this place where we're stuck and, like Israel, they're stuck. They're going around the mountain so many times, travelling in the wilderness, and they're stuck. And God's sitting there going "I've got this for you. It's only this far away. Come on, let's move into the story, into the narrative I've given you." They're stuck and they're stuck and they're stuck and why are we stuck? If you're feeling stuck in your life, has anybody ever felt stuck in their life? Don't raise your hand if you feel stuck right now.

Why are you stuck? What's the reasons that we give why we're stuck? Come on, give me some. Fear, I'm afraid. What's the reasons that we give? I don't have enough money. I heard money. Did somebody say money? I don't have enough money. I don't have enough resources. I'm in the same pattern. Oh, that's the real answer. You just stole my sermon, right there. No, steal away because you're on it. I don't have enough support. Come on, let's get past the bull and get to the real things the swirl in our minds. OK? If I had some more people around me. If I had more education, more equipping. What does this force us to do? We look around, and we're looking external, when God says, "I have everything inside of you right now that you need to get to the next level."

But what we don't want to do is take responsibility for our story. We want somewhere over the rainbow. Why'd your business fall apart? Well it fell apart because, you know, these cruddy employees and not enough money and the economy and 2008 and the collapse. And now it's, things are picking back up. Why's your family the way it is? You know, my husband, he can't get it together, you know, he's not even leading our home. I have to like kick him in the rear end every time and all this stuff and I just want my kids. We have all these reasons why we are where we are and God says, "That's fine. But then you get angry at no change is taking place in your life. You're believing a report that's not mine." And so, this is not just I think I can, I think I can, I think I can, I think I can, and that kind of stuff.

This is not just believe, believe, believe, believe, believe, believe, believe, believe, you know. I've had a lot of friends in ministry over the years. It's like they're "Yeah, I believe God," then when you kind of chip away at it, at the fabricated kind of Jesus spray paint they put over you, they're angry. They're mad at God. They're frustrated, they're irritated at their kids and their spouse and it just spews off of them. Why? Because deep inside, the story hasn't fully changed because when it changes it affects me at a grass roots level. It affects how I relate to my wife; how I relate to my kids; how I interact with people; how I see the news; it affects everything. God's going, "I'm wanting to redeem and begin to cleanse out every part of the story that you believe, because once the story shifts, things in your life will begin to shift. You won't even, you won't even realize 'Oh, I had breakthrough. Will just happen because you're in personal breakthrough; you're carrying it and now everything around you is matching what's on the

inside of you. That's why we gather here together. What makes our time together powerful? Our expectancy. Taking personal responsibility, I'm coming here to see God move. I'm doing my part, taking responsibility in my life and my relationship with Him and at the end of the day, I've got nobody to blame for the decisions going on in my life or the atmosphere I'm setting.

We come here, you know, today, I don't really believe, this person's a little off. We have all these factors we want to blame. I let it go years ago, of coming to the house of God, and looking to see what other people are doing. Long time ago. Because I'm coming, everywhere I go, to carry the ways of the kingdom in my life to shift the atmosphere because of where I'm going. Why? Because that's my story and I'm sticking to it. And I don't have in 100% of my life, a story that's God. I'm still allowing Him to sanctify and cleanse the story because you make a decision for breakthrough. Are families going to grow? You walk out the door and what's the report that comes to you? When your kid gets pulled into the principal's office? It's like 'Oh, my goodness.' And God's like 'Don't forget the story. Come into my story because in there there's strategy for you, in there there's implementation for you. But you've got to come into a new report of what you're feeding on in your life.

So, how do we begin to make this shift and change because I know you're practical people and you're always asking me, 'Well, Mark, how can I do this?' I'll give you a couple of things. What breaks this, first of all, is surrender.

1. Surrender

There's some times in your life where it's not just prayer, it's not just warfare, it's not just reading the Word. There's something in your heart that has to finally give way where you're just so sick and tired, so sick and tired, that something has to change inside of you. And what happens? A surrender comes to God. I release to You, God. I come under a new level of submission to You, to Your plan, to Your work, to Your destiny for my life. This challenges our tip-toeing. Because we tip-toe in areas and God is going 'I want you immersed.' Tip-toeing. God, why didn't anything happen? I dipped my toe in the water. Why didn't the flood come? And God is not interested in this. He's interested in absolute immersion not just dabbling.

You have to come into a place of surrender where you put yourself in a position- not where God has to do something – where you have to change. You're still living under a lesser identity. And this is not a performance thing. It's a realization of identity inside you thing. Because if we live according to the lesser identity, we'll stay in status quo. This is why we stay in areas we feel stuck in. It's matching what's inside of us. Now, don't do the blame thing; don't do the condemning thing. Please. Because if you can bypass the enemy's condemnation on you, your breakthrough is coming. So, don't listen to him going 'yeah, you wasted 20 years of your life.' That's a bad story. God, remember, He's redemptive. He comes wherever you are. You could have wasted 50 years of your life and God's goes, He just cracks His knuckles and goes "This is what I'm good at, right here."

The second thing I have to do is I have to begin to move into strategic action. Now, this is important, because again, belief is going to line up with the action that I take. If I say I believe something and it's not activated in my life, it's not a belief, it's just theory. I believe God's going to breakthrough. I believe

God's going to change this. OK, so what does that look like? It's almost like heaven watches the steps you take because you need a strategy to get out of where you are. You've got generational stuff that's wanting to take you out. You've got familial things. You've got situational things. All kinds of impossibility things. You need a strategy that you don't have right now because if you had it, there'd be a different change going on. Can I just be honest?

So, God is saying, "Come to Me. I want you to learn". You're going to have to seek after this because the strategy – the only way the strategy is really going to work is if you get to the why. Why am I even going after this? Why am I even asking God for this? And you begin to let Him pierce to the motives of your heart. Some people are like, 'well, I'm starting this business and I'm doing this thing.' And their why is they just want to be famous and be a big tycoon and there's plenty of people like that. And God is going, "I want some strategic action for people that have a heart in the business community to make an impact in who I am."

Make tons of money, do whatever you're going to do. But have a heart that wants to shift atmospheres and make a difference and leave a deposit in people's lives. Now, this is what you're going to do. Two things. You're going to have to have a greater hunger to seek this out. It's an honor of kings to search out the matter. God's given you an assignment and He's given you a vision. You don't have, in your thinking, it's available in you, but you don't have it all awakened in you just yet, and you're going to have to seek it out. And I don't know what that means for you. Whatever area you're in, that you're going to need breakthrough, you're going to need to be a student and be one who seeks after everything that you need to know and understand to get to that next level. Because God doesn't want to just poof! Break it open for you.

He wants you to carry that mindset, to live in that dimension. So, you're going to have to seek people out. And so I'll minister to people, in one on one settings, 'So what have you been seeking after? What books are you reading? What stuff are you feeding on?' 'I don't know. Just trying to pray, you know. Just doing my thing. I just don't know. I don't really, really know.' What's that? The story's just going to keep going. Right? And the reason it just keeps going is because these are all different people they run into. They do. They tell them the story. Right?

This is why I am often called the most loving and oftentimes the most harsh minister somebody's ever met. Because I'm going to love you, and love you, and love you but at some point, the story's got to change. And we don't like to hear that, do we? 'No, Mark, I want you to tell me that my husband is a knothed and that's why I am where I am. I want you to tell me because I was raised in poverty and I want you to affirm that in me so that I can still stay in my comfortable mire. But I don't have to take responsibility to go 'you know what? I'm responsible for my choices, for my life and where I've headed. And God there's more in here that I need to learn and I'm going to go after it wherever I've got to find it'. Some of you have got to become mad scientists. Man, and whatever you're not breaking through in find everything that you can in your arsenal to go 'what am I missing that I need to understand to go to the next level.' It's what I look at when I look at the healing of disease, the healing of autism, the healing of learning disabilities, healing. I'm diving into this thing, I'm not avoiding it, I'm not saying "Jesus, paid it, He's just going to heal everybody and I'm just going to ignore it." No, let's look at this thing. Let me

look at you, devil, and see what you've been doing. All right, I'm going to learn how to have an authority over this. I'm going to learn how this stuff operates. Become a student in what you're wanting to break through in because then, you're going to teach nations how they can overcome it. Aww, it's so great.

2. Are you ignoring the wisdom around you?

But, here's the second one. And if you didn't like the first one, you're really not going to like the second one. Usually, the strategic activity is in the person, in the people you're not listening to that are right next to you. You probably have right next to you, usually your wife; that's why I call my wife my second Holy Spirit. I'll tell you one of the greatest breakthroughs I've had in my life, in my marriage, is I looked at her and said she's straight with me. Take the file knife and go for it and I've had some of the greatest breakthroughs in my life. Because she spoke to stuff I didn't want to hear before. But, please, prophet man, give me a word! What's the Scripture say? The Word is near you. And I've watched hundreds of people go from place to place to place to place and they won't hear a word from somebody right next to them. They go, "I've been praying for people to come into my life." And I go, "They're right with you." "No, no, no. I didn't mean those people. I mean like, like, like somebody...." He doesn't exist. Superman is a fairytale. I'm so sorry. (Laughter) And the crowd begins to weep.

Folks, what's breakthrough? What is breakthrough? It's a moment in time. It's a moment. Things were a certain way and then they shifted into another way. So, we look at it as a magical event. When God is actually wanting you to develop the tools and the arsenal and shift the story that makes way for breakthrough in your life. That's why Israel wandered and wandered and wandered and wandered because God had something He wanted them to carry into the Promised Land they weren't possessing right now. They just wanted the promise and God's saying I want you to want the Promiser. I want you to want the power and my Presence. I want you to see yourself as kings and priests before me offering sacrifices of praise. I want you to see yourself not as slaves. And they're like, yeah, yeah, yeah, that's great. Promising? Your breakthrough is available in many of the things that are around you.

Now, you're going to have to seek. That doesn't mean you don't seek after mentors; seek after spiritual fathers. Sometimes seeking after the man or woman of God is overrated. And you won't listen to the friend right next to you and then somebody gets brought to me and I say, 'this is what I see. I feel like this is what God is saying.' And the person next to them is going ...(laughter)...I've been telling this for 10 years! Because we love the magical rush of the prophet going 'I know your social security number and your address and the Lord says I see the red book on your table. And God's saying I've watched in that devotion with that cup of coffee. It's Folgers in your cup, I see that. And God's saying....Whoo-eeee-ooo!' And the person next to us is like, 'Man, I see this potential in you.' It's like for crying out loud. How we despise the prophet right next to us. Your breakthrough is often in the relationships that are around you. Because the people around you are there for your sanctification. That landed like a dead sled.

Attitude Shift

So, third thing I have to do is I have to begin to have a sanctified attitude that I now need an attitude shift and here's what I've learned happens. I begin to make changes; I change the story and I go God this is what I'm believing for and I pray and I intercede and I stand in. And then I go whoo, now what? How

many of you have been there? Now what do I do? I'm stuck, no change, nothing's happened, so to speak. I need a sanctified attitude now to carry me through this next level. Because that thing is revealing inside of me an area inside of me that God needs to change; an area that God needs to grow me in.

I want you to think of everybody that annoys you. Right now. Oh, I feel it. Back it down just a little bit. (laughter) Right? You went to kill him; let's just back it down to just I want to strangle them. Those people are often for your sanctification. If you make them the focus, they will be Lord over your life. So, yes, your husbands need to leave the home. But if that's the number one thing that's hovering over everything that will be your lord, your savior, that will be your idol. It will be the story that hovers over you and it will be what will keep you stuck. Until the story says, 'God, You are able to do anything above all we ask for or think. You are that kind of God. Shift the story in my heart and where does the story really change? Now you approach your husband differently. I'm just using that example. Now your actions, your reactions, your thoughts, children, people in your small group, people in your business, family members. Then instead of those things getting to you, you now have an authority over them and God goes Bingo! We've officially changed the story over your life.

I learned this a long time ago. There's one thing I know I can decide and that's my attitude in everything. The moment I realized that my attitude was a choice, it shifted everything in the environment and everything I put into because I have the ability to carry something in me to begin to release into the atmosphere. And instead, I'm going man I wish these people would get it, I wish this person would get it, I wish this would happen. God, change me. Change me. It's as simple as this. The breakthrough's not happening, there's something in you that hasn't been activated yet. Are you hearing what I'm saying? I want to preach to thousands of people but you won't talk to the ten people around you. I want to sow millions of dollars but you won't give ten bucks. I want to do this, I want to do that. We get lofty, because that's what Americans do. We dream big. We love to dream big. And God dreams big and we love to. But there's no activation. What does that look like?

Put yourself in a place of surrender where not only does the work of God have to come at some point but you change. This is what I've learned in my life – it's one of the best lessons I've learned is I would look and go, 'God'. And I'm yelling and screaming at the mountain and I'm going 'God, what's the deal with the mountain?' And He's going, 'This season is about you growing. The mountains going to fall. It's going to collapse. It's going to shrivel. It's going to vaporize under who I am inside of you.' And so, what you need to do, is if you're stuck and we all have those areas. You feel stuck. You need to take a deep breath and you need to go where do I need to go further and to surrender? So this stuff doesn't have a hold on me. Do you get knotted up over your kids? You have to surrender them. Do you get knotted up over your marriage? You have to surrender it. So you can hear from God. If you're knotted up in something, it owns you and it owns your mindset. And whatever owns your mindset is what you're going to focus on; it's what you're going to invest your energy into. And you're going to think about it and God help me, you're actually thinking from a bad tie.