

The Sword of the Valliant Warrior By Todd Bentley

**Moravian Falls Encounter**

Two years ago I was in Moravian Falls, North Carolina and an encounter. Before the encounter the Lord had spoken to me and told me that I would have three angelic visitations. I can't recall Him ever telling me in advance that I was going to have a visitation other than this time. He said I would be given three gifts that would be impartations. Naturally, I had much anticipation.

On the third day, I went into the restroom and closed the door. I turned around and there stood an angel holding a sword. He handed me the sword and said, "Behold, the sword of the Lord and Gideon!" I took the sword and the visitation was over rather quickly, but the revelation continued to unfold.

The Lord showed me that there would be times that I would travel to a place and this sword would show up. It represents an anointing for corporate deliverance. He said it will not come through a man or woman, but through the sword of the Lord to break every chain and bring freedom.

**Second encounter two years later**

Later, during meetings in Jacksonville, Florida, I had another encounter where I was at the Banqueting Table. The Lord prepares a table in the presence of your enemies. He anoints your head with oil when you need breakthrough – in the presence of your enemies. He wants your enemies to see His anointing, power and favor coming on your life. He likes to make a public display of breakthrough in your life. You're feasting with the King.

At the table I saw a silver cup that looked like a vessel for drinking wine. Silver is the color of redemption. When I reached for the wine I saw that the name of the cup was "Goodness." When I looked inside the cup it was the darkest, thickest red wine I've ever seen. The Lord told me to drink it and He was going to bring the church into a season of goodness.

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4

**Breakthrough is upon us**

Goodness is part of God's nature. That's why He heals. He gives good things to those who ask. A new season of breakthrough is upon us.

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. Exodus 33:18-19

I asked the Lord once, "What is Your glory?" He said, "You cannot have My glory without My goodness." They are one and the same. If God gave you one drop of His goodness, what would you do with it? He said to Moses that He will make ALL His goodness pass before you. It is His kindness manifested in your life. We need a revelation of His goodness. THEN He will proclaim His name by revelation.

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help. When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me." Judges 6:1-10

**Overcoming Christians**

Isn't it true that though we are called to be overcomers, many times we make places to hide in our insecurities and the strongholds in our lives? When God looked for Saul he was hiding amongst the baggage. I love the story of Judges because time after time Israel cries out and God always brings His Moses or Sampson or Gideon. God hears the cry of His people. The Midianites would steal Israel's harvest – strife, contention, and quarreling. The enemy would leave no fruitfulness or breakthrough and Israel was greatly impoverished. Many Christians are that way, yet called to be overcomers. There will be a day where the inhabitants of the land will say "I am not sick!" – a day of victory. I'm not talking about one or two people; I'm talking about breakthrough for the body of Christ.

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. " "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" Judges 6:11-14

**The sword of the Lord and of Gideon**

Have you ever asked, "If the Lord loves me, why is all this happening?" Gideon means "valiant warrior" but it also means "the man that cuts a tree." That is a prophetic picture of breakthrough. It is a warrior spirit. Deliverance comes by the sword of the Lord and of Gideon.

His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands." Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.' Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" Judges 7:14-20

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?" The Lord answered him, "Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands." So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, "As waters break out, the Lord has broken out against my enemies before me." So that place was called Baal Perazim. 2 Samuel 5:17-20

**Learn from David**

After any kind of graduation or promotion, the enemy comes to challenge. It is important to record the breakthrough, the testimony. Write it down. Write your dreams down, everything the Lord gives you. When the battle is raging, we often go into panic mode and our emotions rage. David took off his armor and went to the secret place. The key to breakthrough – regardless of what's going on, stop and inquire of the Lord. That is very common in all of David's battles, he strategized. He left the frontlines and said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" There is a place called breakthrough and the Lord can take you there. Advance quickly, there is a window.

The Lord brings breakthrough like a breach in a wall. Breakthrough means to burst out, break down, so that you can break open. To break out of where you are. To advance in the kingdom, all the way through. Increase. To scatter. A significant, dramatic overcoming of a perceived obstacle allowing the completion of a process in your life.

Now! Press in, and go after it!

Your friend in the harvest,

Todd Bentley

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