

BREAKTHROUGH POWER FOR CHRISTIANS

A Daily Guide to an Extraordinary Life



DAVID YOUNG

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POWER
FOR CHRISTIANS

A Daily Guide to an Extraordinary Life

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Wind Runner Press
Round Rock, Texas

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Dedication

To the memory of my father and mother, Dayton and Mina, who taught me the value of hard work. And to my wife, Christina, who showed me the power of love.

Introduction

Have you heard whispers of greatness? Has an inner voice said, *You were made for an important purpose*? If so, did you reach for the stars, only to fall back to earth, hurt and embarrassed that you had attempted a lofty goal? Convinced your abilities didn't match your desires, did you decide to be more careful the next time you were tempted to pursue a dream? Such experiences can be devastating – so devastating that we often find ourselves trapped inside unfulfilled lives.

The road to success is usually under construction. Bumpy roads, stop-and-go traffic and countless detours can wear you down and leave you confused about what to do next. You need more than a few tips on how to succeed; you also need motivation to push forward when success seems far away or impossible. *Breakthrough Power for Christians* provides both. It provides tools for building a successful and rewarding life and daily motivation to help you persevere until you achieve your dreams.

For each day of the year, *Breakthrough Power for Christians* provides four great quotes, usually from people known for their outstanding accomplishments. Their insights are based on years of experience. You can read all four quotes in one minute,

so you can squeeze them in before you start your breakthrough day.

The first quote is humorous, which will put you in a good mood, ready to face life's challenges. The second one will help you focus on the important things in life, such as developing integrity, building a strong family, making a difference in the lives of others, enjoying simple pleasures and finding time for renewal, all critical to laying an unshakeable foundation. The third quote will help you overcome the weaknesses and seemingly impossible circumstances that have held you back. And the fourth one will help you seize the summits. These will encourage you to dream big, set goals, develop effective plans of action, follow through with superior work and persevere, even after setbacks or failures. In short, *Breakthrough Power for Christians* will help you leave a legacy of greatness and enjoy the journey along the way.

God whispers. As a father encourages his child,
He calls us to greatness

Start with a smile

Before marriage, a man will lie awake all night thinking about something you said; after marriage, he'll fall asleep before you finish saying it.

— *Helen Rowland*

Focus on what's important

When I think of God, my heart is so filled with joy that the notes fly off as from a spindle.

— *Joseph Haydn*

Break the barriers

By His wisdom He so orders His delays, that they prove to be far better than our hurries.

— *Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

Seize the summits

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

— *Robert Louis Stevenson*

❧ January 2

Start with a smile

A lie is an abomination unto the Lord and a very present help in trouble.

— *Adlai Stevenson, quoting a child who had merged two memory verses*

Focus on what's important

Even when His will doesn't make sense from your human perspective, your obedience will reveal that His will was right.

— *Henry Blackaby*

Break the barriers

When God contemplates some great work, He begins it by the hand of some poor, weak, human creature, to whom He afterwards gives aid.

— *Martin Luther*

Seize the summits

All things are difficult before they are easy.

— *Thomas Fuller*

Start with a smile

To a dog you are family; to a cat you are staff.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

God may allow His servant to succeed when He has disciplined him to a point where he does not need to succeed to be happy. The man who is elated by success and cast down by failure is still a carnal man.

— *A.W. Tozer*

Break the barriers

God loves us not because we are lovable, but because He is love.

— *C.S. Lewis*

Seize the summits

People with a dream before them run the race with tenacity because they are motivated by their goal.

— *T.D. Jakes*

❧ January 4

Start with a smile

Skill without imagination is craftsmanship and gives us many useful objects such as wickerwork picnic baskets. Imagination without skill gives us modern art.

— *Tom Stoppard*

Focus on what's important

The strength and the happiness of a man consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going that way too.

— *Henry Ward Beecher*

Break the barriers

Ignoring a temptation is far more effective than fighting it. Once your mind is on something else, the temptation loses its power. So when temptation calls you on the phone, don't argue with it, just hang up.

— *Rick Warren*

Seize the summits

When obstacles arise, you change your direction to reach your goal, you do not change your decision to get there.

— *Zig Ziglar*

Start with a smile

A guy knows he's in love when he loses interest in his car for a couple days.

— *Tim Allen*

Focus on what's important

The great hindrance in spiritual life is that we will look for the big things to do. "Jesus took a towel . . . and began to wash the disciples' feet."

— *Oswald Chambers*

Break the barriers

Faith like Job's cannot be shaken because it is the result of having been shaken.

— *Abraham Heschel*

Seize the summits

Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light.

— *V. Raymond Edman*

❧ January 6

Start with a smile

Repartee is something we think of 24 hours too late.

— *Mark Twain*

Focus on what's important

My secret is simple. I pray.

— *Mother Teresa, when asked what her secret was to loving people whom others regard as human debris*

Break the barriers

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

— *Psalms 37:25*

Seize the summits

Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end street.

— *John Maxwell*

Start with a smile

Class reunion: A gathering where you come to the conclusion that most of the people your own age are a lot older than you are.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

If you're already in debt and you didn't get there in one year, you probably won't get out in one year. But you can get out. It's a matter of self-discipline and desire.

— *Larry Burkett*

Break the barriers

Whatever the situation, no matter how bleak, we are to praise God. Not for what He let happen, but that He is greater than the circumstance and that His love will guarantee our triumph over the test.

— *Jack Hayford*

Seize the summits

Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

— *St. Francis of Assisi*

❧ *January 8*

Start with a smile

If you want to get rid of somebody, just tell him something for his own good.

— *Kin Hubbard*

Focus on what's important

Worship is about rekindling an ashen heart into a blazing fire.

— *Liz Higgs*

Break the barriers

We need to haunt the halls of history and listen anew to the ancestors' wisdom.

— *Maya Angelou*

Seize the summits

Once you know your purpose, you'll discover you will no longer be tossed by the waves or carried away by every ill wind that blows.

— *Todd Duncan*

Start with a smile

I owe my great learning to the fact that I have always kept an open book on my desk which I read whenever somebody on the phone says, “One moment please.”

— *Helen Daley*

Focus on what’s important

When we truly love someone, our focus is on him or her, not on ourselves. And our constant thought is, “What can I do to give this beloved person joy? To please him? To ease his path? To minister to him?”

— *Catherine Marshall*

Break the barriers

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

— *1 John 1:9*

Seize the summits

The tyranny of the urgent will always out-shout the essential nature of the important . . . if we let it. We have to determine not to let that happen. The secret is establishing personal priorities.

— *Charles Swindoll*

❧ *January 10*

Start with a smile

Trying to get a word in edgewise with some people is like trying to thread a sewing machine with the motor running.

— *Bob Phillips*

Focus on what's important

You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.

— *St. Augustine*

Break the barriers

I believe that God will give us all the strength we need to help us resist in all times of distress. But He never gives it in advance, lest we should rely on ourselves and not on Him alone. A faith such as this should allay all our fears for the future.

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Seize the summits

Waiting is an essential part of spiritual discipline. It can be the ultimate test of faith.

— *Anne Graham Lotz*

Start with a smile

Flatterer: One who convinces you that you are not alone in the way you feel about yourself.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hate. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.

— *Corrie ten Boom*

Break the barriers

God doesn't use great ability; He uses great availability.

— *Kathryn Kuhlman*

Seize the summits

Theoretically all planning begins at the end. Unless you know where you want to end up it is impossible for you to really know the wisest step to take today.

— *Bobb Biehl*

❧ *January 12*

Start with a smile

The paycheck is the company's way of saying "Thank you." Most of us, of course, wish they would say it louder.

— *Gene Perret*

Focus on what's important

Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

— *Philippians 2:8-9*

Break the barriers

Strong faith is content without signs, without tokens, without marvels; it believes God's bare word and asks for no confirming miracle.

— *Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

Seize the summits

Genius at first is little more than a great capacity for receiving discipline.

— *George Elliot*

Start with a smile

Middle age: When a woman's hair starts turning from gray to black.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

God, whether I get anything else done today, I want to make sure that I spend time loving You and loving other people – because that's what life is all about.

— *Rick Warren*

Break the barriers

I have found in my travels that those who keep heaven in view remain serene and cheerful in the darkest day. If the glories of heaven were more real to us, if we lived less for material things and more for things eternal and spiritual, we would be less easily disturbed by this present life.

— *Billy Graham*

Seize the summits

Vision looks inward and becomes duty. Vision looks outward and becomes aspiration. Vision looks upward and becomes faith.

— *Stephen Wise*

❧ *January 14*

Start with a smile

An acquaintance is a person whom we know well enough to borrow from, but not well enough to lend to.

— *Ambrose Bierce*

Focus on what's important

I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

— *Philippians 3:8*

Break the barriers

Worry is like sitting in a rocking chair. It will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

— *Vance Havner*

Seize the summits

The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

— *Frederick Buechner*

Start with a smile

When a man buys a new hat, he wants one just like the one he had before. But a woman isn't that way.

— *Edgar Howe*

Focus on what's important

God moves calmly, slowly and with perfect organization. The only wise rate at which to live is God's rate. God gets things done and they are done right and He does them without hurry. He neither fumes nor frets. He is peaceful and therefore efficient.

— *Norman Vincent Peale*

Break the barriers

Confidence is not based on wishful thinking, but on knowing that God is in control.

— *Anonymous*

Seize the summits

Once you are sure your dream is right, dedicating yourself completely to it necessarily involves a clear-cut decision of your will. It also means pledging an unstinting, joyous and lavish giving of all your time, effort and talent.

— *Catherine Marshall*

❧ *January 16*

Start with a smile

After conducting a concert in a small town, I once received the following note from a farmer who had attended the performance: “Dear Sir, I wish to inform you that the man who played the long thing you pull in and out only did so during the brief periods you were looking at him.”

— *Arturo Toscanini*

Focus on what’s important

There is a tendency to confuse success with the rewards of success. If you are where God wants you, fulfilling the responsibilities He has given you, you are successful.

— *Andy Stanley*

Break the barriers

The devil has least power to fasten a temptation on him that is most humble.

— *Thomas Brooks*

Seize the summits

Do your best and leave the rest to God.

— *James Howell*

Start with a smile

A refrigerator is a place where you store leftovers until they are ready to be thrown out.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

Servants work for low pay, long hours and no applause, *wasting* their talents and skills among the poor and uneducated. Somehow, though, in the process of losing their lives they find them.

— *Philip Yancey*

Break the barriers

Impossibilities vanish when a man and his God confront a mountain.

— *Robert Schuller*

Seize the summits

When you are tired, it is not wise to make decisions. It is during that time that a mood or a dark place in your soul can easily manipulate your judgment.

— *T.D. Jakes*

❧ *January 18*

Start with a smile

If you were standing in the middle of a bridge spanning a wilderness gorge, at the bottom of which was a spectacular white-water river, what would you do?

Female Response: Admire the view.

Male Response: Spit.

— *Dave Barry*

Focus on what's important

Spread out your petition before God, and then say, “Thy will, not mine, be done.” The sweetest lesson I learned in God’s school is to let the Lord choose for me.

— *D.L. Moody*

Break the barriers

Becoming active is the key remedy for depression.

— *Pat Robertson*

Seize the summits

The greatest challenge in receiving great things from God is holding on for the last half hour.

— *L.B. Cowman*

Start with a smile

Lutherans get rid of squirrels by baptizing them and making them members. That way, they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

— *Jim Elliot*

Break the barriers

If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one.

— *Mother Teresa*

Seize the summits

Do you not say, “Four months more and then the harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

— *John 4:35*

❧ January 20

Start with a smile

No, I'm breaking it in for a friend.

— *Groucho Marx, when asked if Groucho were his real name*

Focus on what's important

I would not give one moment of heaven for all the joy and riches of the world.

— *Martin Luther*

Break the barriers

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

— *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Seize the summits

There is no such thing as a perfect job. In any position you'll find some duties which, if they aren't onerous immediately, eventually will be. Success depends not merely on how well you do the things you enjoy, but how conscientiously you perform those duties you don't.

— *John Luther*

Start with a smile

Bachelor: A man who has faults he doesn't know about.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

On the Sabbath we do nothing to create our own way. We abstain from work, and our incessant need to produce and accomplish, and from all the anxieties about how we can be successful in all that we have to do to get ahead. The result is that we let God be God in our lives.

— *Marva Dawn*

Break the barriers

How many folks estimate difficulties in the light of their own resources and then attempt little and often fail in the little they attempt. All God's giants have been weak men and women who did great things for God because they counted on His faithfulness.

— *J. Hudson Taylor*

Seize the summits

When defeat overtakes you, don't spend your time counting your losses. Save it to count your gains and assets, and you will realize that they are greater than any loss you have suffered.

— *Napoleon Hill*

❧ *January 22*

Start with a smile

A bore is a person who can change the subject to his topic faster than you can change it back to yours.

— *Laurence Peter*

Focus on what's important

I cannot believe in the spirituality of any Christian who keeps an eye open for the approval of others, whoever they may be. The man after God's own heart must be dead to the opinion of his friends as well as his enemies.

— *A.W. Tozer*

Break the barriers

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

— *Psalms 34:18*

Seize the summits

When standing against an unprincipled enemy, ask the Lord for invincible courage.

— *Charles Swindoll*

Start with a smile

A sure sign to tell if a guy is married to the girl is to notice the way he honks at her.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

There is a burden of care in getting riches, fear in keeping them, temptation in using them, guilt in abusing them, sorrow in losing them, and a burden of account at last to be given concerning them.

— *Matthew Henry*

Break the barriers

I can change only myself, but sometimes that is enough.

— *Ruth Humlecker*

Seize the summits

There is really only one thing standing between you and everything you can be – and that's your dream. Never be afraid to dream too big. Enlarge yourself by growing your vision. You don't want to look back in thirty years and say, "If only I had dreamed for more."

— *John Maxwell*

❧ January 24

Start with a smile

I am not young enough to know everything.

— *Sir James Barrie*

Focus on what's important

Happiness is a byproduct of something greater, not an end in itself. Happiness cannot be pursued and caught, anymore than one can pursue a sunny day, put it in a bottle, and then bring it out on a rainy day to enjoy. True happiness comes from a different pursuit – the pursuit of God.

— *Billy Graham*

Break the barriers

Eat sparingly and at regular hours.

— *John D. Rockefeller, Jr.*

Seize the summits

Rather than focusing on all of the things you have to give up for your budget, concentrate on the benefits you will gain from it – stability, peace, future security, not to mention the surplus for *fun* items (such as a vacation) that you're building each month.

— *Larry Burkett*

Start with a smile

The cure for writer's cramp is writer's block.

— *Inigo DeLeon*

Focus on what's important

If you want your neighbor to know what Christ will do for him, let the neighbor see what Christ has done for you.

— *Anonymous*

Break the barriers

When things are going our way, it is sometimes difficult to turn our thoughts to God. And to make matters worse, we begin to confuse our sense of well-being with spirituality. But adversity causes us to loosen our grip on the things that are of little value and cling tightly to the One we know can deliver us.

— *Charles Stanley*

Seize the summits

Some criticism will be honest, some won't. Some praise you will deserve, some you won't. You can't let praise or criticism get to you. It's a weakness to get caught up in either one.

— *John Wooden*

❧ *January 26*

Start with a smile

Where lipstick is concerned, the important thing is not color but to accept God's final word on where your lips end.

— *Jerry Seinfeld*

Focus on what's important

Love that goes upward is worship; love that goes outward is affection; love that stoops is grace.

— *Donald Barnhouse*

Break the barriers

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— *Romans 8:38-39*

Seize the summits

Begin to weave and God will give the thread.

— *German proverb*

Start with a smile

Patience is the willingness to listen to the other person tell you his troubles before you tell him yours.

— *Herbert Prochnow*

Focus on what's important

Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.

— *Charles Borromeo*

Break the barriers

When God calls a person to join Him in a God-sized task, faith is always required.

— *Henry Blackaby*

Seize the summits

As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

— *James 5:11*

❧ *January 28*

Start with a smile

Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.

— *Mark Twain*

Focus on what's important

If you want to be considered great by your wife, start by learning to become a servant. Any time you promote her program or agenda over yours – without grumbling or complaining – you are sacrificially loving her.

— *Gary and Norma Smalley*

Break the barriers

Watch the timing on guidance. If a strong inner suggestion is from God, it will strengthen with the passing of time. If not from Him, in a few days or weeks it will probably just evaporate.

— *Catherine Marshall*

Seize the summits

It seems to me that we often, almost sulkily, reject the good that God offers us because, at the moment, we expected some other good.

— *C.S. Lewis*

Start with a smile

If your baby is beautiful and perfect, never cries or fusses, sleeps on schedule and burps on demand, an angel all the time – you’re the grandma.

— *Teresa Bloomingdale*

Focus on what’s important

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.

— *Charles Kingsley*

Break the barriers

A single line in the Bible has consoled me more than all the other books I ever read.

— *Immanuel Kant*

Seize the summits

The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying not “What a lovely sermon,” but, “I will do something about it.”

— *St. Francis de Sales*

❧ *January 30*

Start with a smile

It always bothers me to put a silver dollar in a slot machine and then pull the handle down. It's the same motion you use to flush.

— *Robert Orben*

Focus on what's important

Beware of any work for God which enables you to evade concentration on Him. A great many Christian workers worship their work.

— *Oswald Chambers*

Break the barriers

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God . . . chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

— *1 Corinthians 1:26-29*

Seize the summits

Perfection consists not in doing extraordinary things, but in doing ordinary things extraordinarily well. Neglect nothing; the most trivial action may be performed to God.

— *Angélique Arnauld*

Start with a smile

It takes about ten years to get used to how old you are.

— *Anonymous*

Focus on what's important

I've discovered it is not sufficient simply to try to take time for quietness but that I must, with all diligence, make time. Whatever keeps me from prayer, solitude and the Bible, however good it appears, is my enemy if I am to be God's devoted friend and follower.

— *Tommy Barnett*

Break the barriers

In the face of all difficulties, doubts and objections, trust in Him; He will not let you down. If God does not grant the means, that shows He does not want you to do that particular work. If He wants it done, He will give you the means. Therefore do not worry.

— *Mother Teresa*

Seize the summits

When we have practiced good actions awhile, they become easy; when they are easy, we take pleasure in them; when they please us, we do them frequently; and then, by frequency of act, they grow into a habit.

— *John Tillotson*

Dear Friend,

I hope you enjoyed the first 31 days of *Breakthrough Power for Christians*. If you'd like to read all 366 days, you can order either the paperback, the Kindle or the Nook edition at InsightsOnSuccess.com.

— David Young

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About the Author



David Young is a policy advisor to the governor of Texas. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, Summa Cum Laude, from the University of Arkansas and his Master of Business Administration degree from The University of Texas at Austin.

David grew up in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Both of his grandfathers were born before the Civil War. He and his wife, Christina, live in Round Rock, Texas. David has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, and has visited South America, Asia and the Middle East.

Also by David Young

Breakthrough Power

Breakthrough Power for Mothers

Breakthrough Power for Fathers

Breakthrough Power for Leaders

Breakthrough Power for Athletes

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Great Funny Quotes

Rebound Strong

Have you heard whispers of greatness?

Has an inner voice said, *You were made for an important purpose*? If so, did you reach for the stars, only to fall back to earth, hurt and embarrassed that you had attempted a lofty goal? Regardless, you can be great – even if you are overwhelmed by weaknesses and difficult circumstances. But you need more than a book that explains the secrets to success; you also need daily motivation to apply them, especially when success seems far away or impossible. *Breakthrough Power for Christians* provides both.

Inside, people known for their outstanding accomplishments will help you:

- Build an unshakeable foundation
- Pursue and fulfill your dreams
- Impact others
- Improve your relationships
- Find time for renewal

Plus, you'll start each day with a humorous quote that will put you in a good mood, ready to face life's challenges. Each day's reading will take less than a minute, so you can squeeze it in before you start your breakthrough day.

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