**Deuteronomy 30**

**How to Have a Breakthrough**

Q: What do I do with what God put on my heart this weekend?

I want to have a breakthrough. I want my life to be different based on what I have heard and learned this weekend.

Can you think of a time in the Old Testament when God had a “talk” with a younger generation who were about to make a big decision in their life?

The scene:

The first generation have all died. All the people here were less than 20 when the Jews were unfaithful about entering the Promised Land. The second generation is about to enter and occupy the Promised Land. Moses is going off into the sunset on Mt. Nebo. It is decision time.

Moses: What do I need to leave God’s young people with?

Background in Deut 28 & 29 Blessings and curses for obedience and unfaithfulness.

Deut 30:1-10 Blessings and curses.

No matter how far you have gotten from him, no matter how “dispersed” you have been from him;

v. 2 If you return to the Lord and obey him…

v. 10 The only requirement is that you obey the Lord your God and keep all the commands in the Bible.

Which is harder, to obey completely, or to give your entire heart to God?

v. 3 He will restore your fortunes, and gather you into a family.

v. 5 He will bring you back into the “land” which for us is the kingdom of God.

v. 6 He will change your heart.

v. 9 He will again bring spiritual prosperity and joy into your life.

Can I do it?

Can I do the thing I decided to do this weekend?

Deut 30:11-20

v. 11 What I am asking you to do is not too difficult.

You do not have to cross the ocean or ascend into heaven.

Well, what is he asking us to do?

v. 6, 16 Love God with all your heart. Well, that is hard to do!

v. 16 Walk in obedience to him. Obey all of the laws he has given. Well, that is hard to do.

OK. I have to love him with ALL my heart.

AND I have to obey all of his laws all the time.

I am overwhelmed.

But he said it is not hard.

OK. Two approaches.

1. I do the right thing, and hope he will change my heart.

I will act my way into a better way of feeling.

2. I wait until my heart is there. I pray that God will help me to have the correct feelings of love. Then I will be able to fully obey him.

I will feel my way to a better way of acting.

Deut 30:17-18 But if your heart turns away or if you are not obedient, you will be destroyed.

ARRRRGGGGG! You told me it was not too difficult! Help me out, Moses. Now I am really overwhelmed.

So which is it? Do I feel my way to a better way of acting, or do I act my way to a better heart.

Nope! That is not what this passage says.

Re-read Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Moses, God, what must I do to bring this retreat home with me and make major changes in both my heart/motivation and my actions?

v. 19 Choose! Choose life. Make a decision. Decide now.

I remember that decision 42-1/2 years ago. Think about your decision to put your hand to the plow and not look back.

Do I act my way to a better way of feeling (obey in order to give my heart)

Or Do I feel my way to a better way of acting (get my heart right, then do the right thing?

Neither. Decide. Choose your way to a better way of feeling and acting.

It is kind of like a successful marriage. Choose today…

v. 20 THEN you will be able to love God AND obey him.

Then he will bless you and prosper you, and then both your actions and your heart will be transformed by God.

So, what change do you want to make for God today?

Choose life!!! Then you and your spiritual children as well will live.