

A breakthrough is about experiencing a new quality of life.

Where do you need a breakthrough?

A breakthrough requires complete disgust.

They said to me, “Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great **trouble** and **disgrace**. The **wall** of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the **gates** have been destroyed by fire.” *Nehemiah 1:3*

When I heard this, I sat down and **wept**. In fact, for days I **mourned, fasted, and prayed** to the God of heaven. *Nehemiah 1:4*

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in **disgrace**.” *Nehemiah 2:17*

“Discontent is the first necessity of progress.” — Thomas A. Edison

A breakthrough requires energy, focus and determination because there is always opposition.

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. “What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” they asked. *Nehemiah 2:19*

Disgust provides and sustains the energy necessary for a breakthrough.

“If you only care enough for a result you will most certainly attain it.”
— William James

“We change our behavior when the pain of staying the same becomes greater than the pain of changing.” — Henry Cloud

How do I get disgusted?

1. Get honest.
2. Watch the end of the movie.
3. Get alone with God.

I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans **God** has put in my heart for Jerusalem. *Nehemiah 2:12*

One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume in January 2018 during our next 10-week group semester. Use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

Devotional

Do you really trust God? Or is it something you just tell yourself and others? If we're not careful, we can let religion, wealth, or the challenges of life undermine our most basic commitments to God. We must trust Him for the affirmation we seek and rely on Him for the security we need. We must rest in Him for the relief that anxiety steals, and wait for Him for the justice we long for. Only then will trust become more than a slogan.

January 7: Matthew 6:1-18

What images or thoughts spring to mind when you hear the word “prayer?” If God knows what we need before we ask, why should we pray? After reading these verses, what changes do you need to make in your prayer life?

January 8: Matthew 6:19-7:11

If God is really in control of the universe, why do we worry so much about so many things? How do you think worry is affecting you emotionally, physically, and spiritually? What worries do you struggle to keep under control? What can help you entrust your worries to God?

January 9: Matthew 7:12-29

What does this passage tell us about the importance of doing good works? How do good works and salvation fit together? What evidence in your life points to your relationship with Jesus?

January 10/11: Matthew 8:1-9:8

How can we see a person's faith? How does it make you feel to realize that Jesus knows your every thought? How can you show your appreciation to God today for His saving work in your life?

January 12/13: Matthew 9:9-10:15

In what situations do you tend to feel compassion? Who are the people in your life who are far from God? What skills, gifts, abilities, or talents can you use to help others come to Christ?