This is for me –
Love Unleashed

**Romans 4:18-22** 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Abraham faced the facts- His body was as good as dead.

Have you ever heard these phrases or words come off the lips of your friends?

- Are you for real
- Seriously
- No Way
- Ain’t gonna happen
- Let’s face it
- Smell the coffee

These words are often attributed to people who are facing the facts. Facing the facts is a good thing to do – However there is something that often happens when we FACE THE FACTS.

**WE DECIDE TO PLAY SAFE/ WE STEP BACK FROM THE EDGE**

What are some of those facts?

- Been disappointed
- Lied to
- Rejected
- Made some poor decisions, made some mistakes..
- Missed some opportunities

Turn to the person next to you and share very quickly some other ‘FACTS’.

Okay let’s not get too caught up with the facts.

Today I’d like invite you to live life on the cutting edge. In order to make forward progress the cutting edge of a knife must be applied. Wherever the cutting edge is applied it cuts through, it breaks through what it comes against.

**Examples of people on the cutting edge:**

In 1954 Roger Bannister ran a mile in under four minutes. He was the first recorded man to run the mile in less than 4 minutes. He was on the cutting edge. It was thought to be impossible for a man to run a mile in less than 4 minutes But Bannister did it and after he did it so too did many others.

In 1947 Chuck Yeager became the first man to Break the sound barrier in level flight. In dry air with a temperature of 21 °C (70 °F) the speed of sound is 344 m/s (1230 km/h, or 770 mph, or 1130 ft/s). Many had tried and failed and others simply just gave up. Today however, breaking through the sound barrier is no longer such an amazing event.
So what does this have to do with you and I as believers?

**Matt 16:15-19 (KJV)**

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The gates of hell will not prevail/stand against the church means that the gates of hell are under pressure from the church. The church is on the offensive. That means the church is on the attack. We move forward boldly to proclaim the Word of God and deliver from captivity those in bondage. In bondage –they are behind gates of hell! If they remain there in this life they will spend eternity in hell, separated from the Lord Jesus.

Being on the cutting edge is about experiencing breakthroughs. Running the mile in less than 4 minutes was a breakthrough for Roger Bannister, flying past the sound barrier was a breakthrough for Chuck Yeager. Getting saved is the breakthrough for a person who comes to know Christ. Religion is living without breakthroughs. Tradition is living without breakthroughs. **There is nothing new without a breakthrough!!** When last did you see something new from the Word, tried something new to eat, walked a new way to work; thought some new thoughts. A life without breakthroughs can so very easily become boring. Why does church, work, sport etc, etc become boring? Because there are no more breakthroughs. We have moved from the cutting/leading edge to the following edge.

So what does it mean to live on the cutting edge?

1. **It is your choice.** Nobody can force you to live on the edge. I decide to live on the edge or not.

   *Joshua 24:15.* *And if it seems evil to you to serve the L**ord**,** choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the L**ord**."

   You choose. As for me and my house we choose... Speaking the truth when it may cause me to be unpopular is a choice I must make. Speaking out and telling others about Christ, confronting sin, calling for righteousness is a choice.

2. **You got to be sharp To Be Effective.**

   *Hebrews 4:12.* *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

   *Ephesians 6:17* *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

   The Word of God. Know the word. Speak the Word, Live the Word. Take time out to read and study the Word so that you can remain in it because it is in you. Let your behaviour and attitude be directed by the Word.

3. **There is resistance/Opposition.** Pilots who approached the speed of sound testified that the whole plane shook as though it were about to break apart into a thousand pieces. That's why many did not press on and break through. The person who chooses to live his life for CHRIST on the edge faces resistance. Resistances from within, resistance from society, from friends or family and of course from satan. When you come against the gates of hell they will not give in easily, they must be forcefully opposed... The gates will only give way because something is coming against them. Ungodly attitudes,
behaviours etc, will only be stopped when they are opposed when somebody steps ups and says, **It Should not be SO.** Anybody who steps up to oppose and cut through the worldly system **WILL** meet with resistance.

4. **It can be Lonely...** The cutting edge is a thin edge. Not too many live there... It can be a lonely place, it doesn't have to be but it often is. Jesus said that the field was ripened unto harvest BUT the labourers are few. Labourers in God's Kingdom are on the cutting edge. They experience breakthroughs. BUT there aren't too many so if you are on the edge it may be a lonely place for you... Breakthrough people recognise that they will often have to make the first move.

5. **The Edge Makes way for Others to Follow.** Breakthrough people make the way for others. Breakthrough people face the shaking and the shuddering, they face the unknown, they stand up first and are targets, they are the ones that others look to and follow, they are the ones who clear the way; they are the ones who often lay the ground work for others to enjoy success. Roger Bannister, made the way for the many who followed and ran the mile in under 4 minutes, Chuck Yeager – the way for supersonic flight... When you breakthrough you say to others **YOU CAN!!** Jesus died and rose again. HE broke through death so that we too might die and rise again. He made the way for us – **Romans 5.** The curtain in the temple was torn in two when Jesus died - He broke through the veil of religion and tradition so that we now can enter boldly into the holy of holies into the presence of the living God in relationship and abundant living.

**Conclusion:**
God is a break through God. When there was nothing and the earth was without form and void God broke through when He spoke through and said **Let there Be...!!** God broke through in Christ Jesus when he died on the cross and then rose from the grave. God wants to break through on the earth and He is looking for a people who live on the cutting edge, a breakthrough people who will not shut up, who will not give up, A people who will go up, who will step up and who will speak up, A people who will not shrink back, who will not fall back or stay back, A people who will not look back or go back.

He is looking, and He is here today inviting all who would, to come to the edge. He is inviting all who would, to become a breakthrough believer.