

We Need Giants

I. Pattern – Promises are Protected from the Half-Hearted!

Walking toward an automatic door – keep walking

Driving into a gate – keep driving

A. Gift of Grace - the Promised Land

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “**Go from your country ... to the land that I will show you.** 2 And I will **make** of you a great nation, and I will **bless** you and make your **name great**, so that you will **be a blessing**.”

Promises involve a willingness to leave our comfortable life

Promises will be revealed in our obedience.

In His great & precious Promises:

God will **MAKE** us into something great

God will **BLESS US** & give us **PURPOSE** within the promise.

We will **BECOME** a source of **BLESSING**

B. Exploring the Land – Faith Explores

Num 13:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “**Send men to spy out the land** of Canaan, **which I am giving...** From each tribe... a man...”

17 Moses **sent them to spy out** the land of Canaan and said to them, “**Go up...**, 18 and **see ... the land**, and...the **people ... strong or weak, ... few or many**,

23 And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and **cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes**, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs. {slide 1}

25 At the end of **forty days** they returned from spying out the land.
26 And they came to Moses and Aaron and ... all ... the people

of Israel ..., at Kadesh. They **brought back word to them** ..., and **showed them the fruit** of the land.

27 And they told him, “We came to the **land** to which you sent us. It **flows with milk and honey**, and this is its **fruit**.”

28 However, **the people ... are strong**, ... the **cities are fortified and very large**. And besides, we saw the **descendants of Anak** there.

29 **Amalekites ... Hittites, ... Jebusites, ... Amorites ... Canaanites.**”

30 But **Caleb** quieted the people before Moses and said, “**Let us go up at once** and **occupy** (take possession, inherit) it, for **we are well able to overcome** it.”

31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, “**We are not able to go up against the people**, for they are stronger than we are.”

32 So they brought ... **a bad report** ..., saying, “The land, ... is **a land that devours its inhabitants**, and **all the people** that we saw ... are **of great height**. 33 And there we **saw** the Nephilim (***gi-ants***)..., and **we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers**, and **so we seemed to them.**”

By ourselves, we see **Giants**, Insolvable Problems, Closed Doors

30 But **Caleb** quieted the people before Moses and said, “**Let us go up at once** and **occupy** (take possession, inherit) it, for **we are well able to overcome** it.”

LXX Caleb ... said, “**When we go up we shall go up**, and **we shall obtain it as an inheritance**, because **being powerful we shall prevail** against them.”

1. Let's do this 2. It belongs to us 3. We're gonna win!

II. Conquering Giants

A. *Overcoming is in our New Nature*

Giants stand for **great difficulties**; and giants are everywhere - in families, in churches, in social life, in our own hearts; and **we must overcome them** or **they will consume us...** Fee Fi Fo Fum

Faith says, "They are bread for us; we will eat *them* up."

"We will be stronger by overcoming them than if there had been no giants to overcome."

We find *giants* when we **advancing!** Giants are slow!

Israel going *forward* found giants.

In the wilderness there were none.

To the one who conquers (overcomes), **I will give...** 7x Rev 2-3

B. Slaying the Giant of Self-Pity

Self-pity is toxic to being delivered. When we are pitying ourselves, we are doing for ourselves what God has done and will do!

It is a common view that the power of God in a human life should lift us **above all trials** and conflicts.

The fact is, the power of God always brings a conflict and a struggle. So that we can overcome – more than conquerors!

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? **{slide 2}** If God is for us...

Rom 8:34 Who is to condemn? **{slide 3}** Jesus is interceding FOR us!

Rom 8:35 Who shall **separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall **tribulation**, or **distress**, or **persecution**, or **famine**, or **nakedness**, or **danger**, or **sword**?

36 As it is written,

"For your sake we are being **killed all the day long;**
we are **regarded as sheep** to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through **him who loved us.**

{slide 4}

38 For **I am sure** that neither **death** nor **life**, nor **angels** nor **rulers**, nor things **present** nor things **to come**, nor **powers**, 39 nor **height** nor **depth**, nor anything else in all **creation**, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II. Paul the Giant Slayer!

We might think that on his last great journey to Rome, **Paul** would have been carried above the power of storms and enemies.

But the reality was different! **It was one long, hard fight** with **persecuting Jews**, with **wild storms**, with **poisonous snakes**, with **all the powers of earth and hell**, and **at last he was saved**, it seemed, **by the narrowest margin**, and **had to swim** ashore at Malta **on a piece of wreckage** and barely escape a watery grave.

Was that like a **God of infinite power**? **Yes, just like Him!**

Paul tells us that when he took the Lord Jesus Christ as the life of his body, a severe conflict immediately came; indeed, a conflict that never ended, a pressure that was persistent, but out of which he **always emerged victorious** through the strength of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in **jars of clay**, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Paul's description is graphic! – a ceaseless, strenuous struggle!

Five powerful images:

1st is the idea is **crowding enemies pressing in from every side**, and **yet not crushing him** because a personal angelic secret service cleared the way **just wide enough** for him to get through.

8a We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;

2nd is of **one whose way seems utterly closed** and **yet he has pressed through**; there is **light enough to show him the next step.** Rotherham Translation renders it, **“Without a way, but not without a byway.”**

8b perplexed, but not driven to despair;

3rd is that of **an enemy in hot pursuit** while the divine Defender still stands by, and he is **not left alone**. Again the Rotherham Translation, **“Pursued but not abandoned.”**

9a persecuted, but not forsaken;

4th is still more vivid and dramatic. *The enemy has overtaken him, struck him, and knocked him down.* But it is not a fatal blow; he is able to rise again. It might be translated, "Overthrown but not overcome."

9b struck down, but not destroyed;

5th is very intense – includes even death, "*Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus.*" But he does not die, for he carries "the life of Jesus" simultaneously and he lives in the life of another until his life work is done.

10 **always** carrying in the body the **death** of Jesus, so **that** the **life** of Jesus may also be **manifested** in our bodies.

11 For we who live are always being *given over to death* for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So **death** is at work in us, but **life** in you.

Many fall into doubt, disappointment or condemnation ... because they expect to have it all without a struggle!

God has nothing worth having that is easy. No cheap goods in Heaven's marketplace!

Our **redemption cost all that God had to give**, and everything worth having is expensive.

Hard places are the school of faith and character

2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the **time of my departure has come**. **7** I have **fought** the **good fight**, I have **finished** the **race**, I have **kept** the **faith**. **8** Henceforth there is **laid up** for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Ministry to those facing giants.

enemies pressing in from every side... just wide enough
way seems utterly closed... not without a byway
enemy in hot pursuit... not abandoned
knocked him down... able to rise again
the dying of Jesus... the life of Jesus

Holy Spirit, Come