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Facing Giants (Keeping our Eyes on the Promise)

Sermon

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### Facing Giants

(Keeping your Eyes on the Promise)

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - The United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan...As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense...With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounded determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God."

President F.D. Roosevelt - 8th December 1941

"Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely"

General Dwight Eisenhower - 6th June 1944

World War II, there were many giants that our soldiers faced and they kept their focus on the promise and the victory at hand. Defeat was not an option.

In the Bible we can find many examples of people facing giants in their lives. The first that comes to mind is located in Numbers 13:25-33 ten spies went out and eight came back crying there is giants in the land and two came back stating that the Land was promised to us not let us take it.

When a giant arises in our life do you see victory or defeat? God offers victory to those who keep their eyes on the promise.

## Body

### I. The land of Canaan

#### A. The Promise

1. Genesis 15:18 God's promise to Abraham
2. Genesis 17:8 God's promise to Abraham
3. Genesis 50:24 Joseph speaks of the promise
4. Exodus 3:8 God tell Moses of the promise
5. Exodus 6:8 Moses tells the Sons of Israel about the promise
6. Exodus 13:5 Moses speaks to the people concerning the promise

#### B. The Problem

1. Numbers 13:27 The spies confirmed this was the promise land
2. Numbers 13:28 Nevertheless
  - a. The people are strong
  - b. The cities are fortified and very large
  - c. They saw descendants of Anak
3. Numbers 13:29

- a. Amalek is living in the Land Negev
  - b. The Hittites and Jebusites and Amorites are living in the Hill country
  - c. The Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan
4. Numbers 13:31 we are not “ABLE” the people are too strong.
5. Numbers 13:32
- a. The land devours its inhabitants
  - b. They saw men of great size
6. Numbers 13:33
- a. They also saw Nephilim (Giants)
  - b. We were like grasshoppers in our sight and their sight
- C. The ten defeated themselves
- a. Their focus was on the giants of the land
  - b. They had forgotten the promise
  - c. They wanted the land but was not willing trust in the promise
  - d. God promised the land, and even told them many times of the people in the land.
  - e. Why did they lose their focus?

- 1) This was the same God who deliver them from out of Pharaoh's hand
  - 2) This was the same God who parted the Red Sea and they crossed on dry land (Exodus 14:21)
  - 3) This was the same God that provided water (Exodus 15:25)
  - 4) This was the same God that provided manna (Exodus 16:4)
  - 5) This was the same God that provided meat (Exodus 16:13)
- f. What more could God have done to prove to them?
- g. What more could God do to prove to you?

II. David could not see the giant for the promise (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:31-47)

A. Saul said David was not able because of his youth

B. Why was David's so strong

- a. David remembered all times that God had delivered him while tending his father's sheep (vs. 34)
- b. I remember back when a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock (vs. 34)
- c. I went after him and attacked him and rescued it (vs.35)

- d. When it rose up against me I seized him by the beard and struck him and killed him (vs.35)
- e. I killed both the lion and the bear (vs.36)
- f. This philistine is just like one of them (vs.36)
- g. This same God who delivered from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me again (vs. 37)

C. David's victory

- a. I come to you in the name of the Lord of host, the God of the armies of Israel (vs.45)
- b. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands (vs.46)
- c. That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel (vs.46)
- d. That all this assembly my know (vs.47)
- e. The battle is the lord's and He will give you into our hands (vs.47)

D. David never lost sight of the promise.

III. Paul never lost sight of the promise

A. Giants in Paul's life (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:23-27)

- 1. I more so: in far more labors (vs.23)

2. I more so: in far more imprisonments (vs.23)
3. I was beaten times without numbers (vs.23)
4. I was often in danger of death (vs.23)
5. Five times I received thirty-nine lashes from the Jews (vs.24)
6. Three times I was beaten with rods (vs.25)
7. Once I was stone (vs.25)
8. Three times I was shipwrecked (vs.25)
9. I have spent a night and a day in the deep (vs.25)
10. Frequent journeys I have been: (vs.26)
  - a. In danger from rivers
  - b. In dangers from robbers
  - c. In dangers from my countrymen
  - d. In danger from gentiles
  - e. In danger from the cities
  - f. In danger in the wilderness
  - g. In danger on the sea
  - h. In danger from false brethren

11. I have been: (vs.27)

- a. In labor
- b. In hardship
- c. Experience sleepless nights
- d. In hunger
- e. In thirst
- f. Went without food
- g. I was have been cold
- h. I have been nakedness

12. There was a throne in Paul's flesh and three times he ask God to remove it

(2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:7-8)

B. How did Paul keep his focus through all of these events

1. Paul's vision (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:2-4)

- a. I was caught up into the third heaven (vs.2)
- b. I was caught up into Paradise (vs.4)
- c. I heard inexpressible words (vs.4)

2. Paul had his eyes on the prize (2 Timothy 4:8)

- a. In the future there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness

b. The Lord the righteous Judge will reward to me on that day

c. Paul though facing many giants in his days here on earth never lost his faith in God.

### Conclusion

The Bible is full of examples of people facing giants in their lives. To list them all would be like rewriting the Bible. When you are facing a giant in your life, pick up the bible and begin to read about the prophets and the apostles.

Remember we serve the same God as little David, Daniel, the three Hebrew children. We serve the same God of Isaiah, Jeremiah etc...

When our life on earth is finished let us be able to repeat the words of Paul (2 Timothy 4:7). I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have kept the faith.