

THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE

Supplemental Study:

“The Giants in the Land”

Introduction

One of the greatest mistakes believers make is becoming preoccupied with the giant instead of focusing on God.

The Bible never teaches us to deny the existence of giants.

The giants were real.

The obstacles were real.

The difficulties were real.

The dangers were real.

The issue was never whether the giants existed.

The issue was whether God’s people would evaluate the giants in light of God’s power or evaluate God’s power in light of the giants.

That distinction makes all the difference.

What Is A Giant?

A giant is:

Any person, circumstance, system, habit, fear, adversity, obstacle, or area of weakness that seeks to hinder your advance in the predesigned plan of God.

Or more simply:

A giant is anything that stands between you and God's will for your life.

Notice that a giant is not necessarily evil.

Sometimes the giant is:

Fear

Discouragement

Self-doubt

Arrogance

Bitterness

Unforgiveness

A relationship

A habit pattern

Financial pressure

Physical suffering

Mental suffering

A test of endurance

A system of human viewpoint

Anything that attempts to stop spiritual momentum can become a giant.

Why Did God Leave Giants In The Land?

This is a question many believers never ask.

Why didn't God simply remove every giant before Israel arrived?

Why not clear the land completely?

Because the objective was not merely possession of the land.

The objective was learning dependence upon God.

The giants were part of the training process.

The battle was designed to teach Israel:

- Faith

- Courage

- Dependence

- Obedience

- Grace orientation

The giant was not an accident.

The giant was part of the curriculum.

Giants Expose What Is Already In The Soul

This is perhaps the most important principle.

The giants did not create Israel's unbelief.

The giants exposed it.

The unbelief was already there.

The giant simply revealed it.

When Israel saw the giants they said:

“We became like grasshoppers in our own sight.”

(Numbers 13:33)

Notice what happened.

The giants changed their perspective.

They forgot:

- The Red Sea

- The plagues

- The pillar of fire

- The pillar of cloud

- The manna

- The faithfulness of God

One look at the giants caused them to forget years of grace.

The problem was not the giant.

The problem was their thinking.

The greatest battles in life are not fought on the outside. They are fought in the soul.

The Giant Is Never The Real Issue

The giant was not Israel's problem.

Unbelief was Israel's problem.

The giant merely exposed it.

Likewise, the giant in your life today is not necessarily your greatest problem.

The greater issue is:

How are you thinking about the giant?

Are you viewing the giant through the lens of God's promises?

Or are you viewing God's promises through the lens of the giant?

One viewpoint produces courage.

The other produces fear.

The Grace Perspective

Caleb and Joshua saw the same giants.

They saw the same cities.

They saw the same obstacles.

Yet they reached a completely different conclusion.

Why?

Because they evaluated the giants in relationship to God.

Numbers 14:9 (NASB)

Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection is gone from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.”

That is grace thinking.

The majority said:

“The giants are too big.”

Caleb said:

“God is bigger.”

The majority focused on circumstances.

Caleb focused on God.

The majority focused on limitations.

Caleb focused on promises.

Giants Are Opportunities For God’s Glory

The giant creates an opportunity for God to demonstrate His grace.

Without Goliath there is no demonstration of God’s power through David.

Without the Red Sea there is no demonstration of God’s deliverance.

Without Jericho there is no demonstration of God’s victory.

Without Paul’s thorn there is no demonstration of grace sufficiency.

Without the giant there is often no visible manifestation of God’s glory.

The obstacle becomes the platform.

The difficulty becomes the stage.

The impossibility becomes the opportunity.

The Giant Is Often Larger In Our Imagination Than In Reality

Notice what Israel said:

“We became like grasshoppers in our own sight.”

The giants had not defeated them.

The giants had not attacked them.

The giants had not conquered them.

Israel defeated themselves in their thinking long before any battle occurred.

This is exactly what Paul addresses in:

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NASB)

We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Many believers lose the battle mentally before the battle ever begins.

The giant becomes larger and larger in the imagination.

Fear magnifies problems.

Faith magnifies God.

Giants Teach Us Grace Dependence

One of the reasons God permits giants is because giants force us to recognize our inability.

As long as Israel could win in their own strength, they would trust themselves.

The giant removes self-confidence.

The giant exposes human weakness.

The giant drives us toward divine power.

This is exactly what Paul learned:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made operational in weakness.”

The giant is often God’s tool for teaching grace dependence.

Modern-Day Giants

The giants facing believers today may not be physical warriors.

They may be:

Fear

Anxiety

Depression

Loneliness

Rejection

Health struggles

Financial adversity

Family conflict

Bitterness

Addiction

Legalism

Antinomianism

False doctrine

Pride

Discouragement

Whatever seeks to keep you from advancing spiritually can become a giant.

Final Principle

The objective of the Christian life is not giant avoidance.

The objective is learning to face giants through faith.

God never intended Israel to live in the wilderness.

He intended them to possess the land.

Likewise, God never intended believers to spend their lives retreating from every challenge.

The Christian life advances one promise at a time.

One step at a time.

One battle at a time.

One act of faith at a time.

The giant may be large.

The obstacle may be intimidating.

The challenge may seem impossible.

But the issue has never been the size of the giant.

The issue has always been the size of your God.

And when God's grace becomes operational in the believer's life, the giant that once seemed impossible becomes another opportunity for the glory of God to be put on display.

The giant is not there to stop your spiritual growth.

The giant is often there to reveal God's power, God's faithfulness, and God's grace as you continue advancing in His plan