

Giants in the Land

We spent a couple of weeks in the wilderness during the sermon. Have you ever heard about the process of purifying silver by a silversmith? They heat the furnace until the mixed metal melts, causing the impurities to fall to the bottom. The pure silver then floats on the surface. If the silver reflects the silversmith's face, it signifies that the silver is ready to be removed from the furnace. This process serves as a remarkable illustration of how humans are sanctified. Just as the silversmith refines the silver, God uses our experiences in the desert to refine and shape us, ultimately allowing us to reflect His image within us.

In today's scripture, the Israelites arrived at a critical juncture in their wilderness journey. The Israelites finally approached the edge of the **Promised Land**. But what did they find? Not an easy entrance, but giants in the land. Just when the promise of God was within sight, obstacles appeared that seemed insurmountable. Does this sound familiar in your own journey? Just when we think we're about to break through, we encounter what appears to be an impassable barrier—a giant that makes us question everything. And very often we settle not to take the promise of God in the virtuous name of wisdom, which was disguised fear.



Moses sent twelve spies to explore the Promised Land. After forty days, they returned with their report, **“We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there... We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are... The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”** (Numbers 13: 27, 28, 31-33)

However, **Joshua**, son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, said to the entire Israelite assembly, **“The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”** (Numbers 14: 7-9)

The ten spies saw the obstacles and concluded, **“We can't.”** Joshua and Caleb saw the same obstacles but concluded, **“With God, we can.”** The majority focused on the size of the visible giants; the minority focused on the size of their invisible God. Who is bigger? Incomparable! God promised; God already gave the land to the Israelites. The land was truly an evil land that people sacrificed their own children to the idol Molech by burning them alive. It was the judgment of God on the land. From God's perspective, the battle was already won.

When you receive a promise word, you should trust in that promise. Focus on the God who is infinitely greater than the insurmountable giant in your life. When you see the very big God behind the giant, you find peace in your heart and can even smile. Fear transforms. To perceive the invisible God through your inner eyes is faith. Faith allows us to see the invisible God as a greater reality.

Unlike us, God isn't bound by time. God sees from a perspective outside of time. Knowing all in his omniscience, preparing for the future, encourages us to persevere in the present moment. He doesn't just see the obstacle you're facing today; He's already witnessed your victory tomorrow. When we face giants, we see only the present challenge. But He has already prepared provision for future needs we haven't even recognized yet. **Deuteronomy 31:8 states, "The Lord is the one who will go before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."**

God always goes before us to the place where we will arrive. Prepare a favorable environment for you by preparing people who would help you, some system that would help us, some resources that you need. And in our present moment, God empowers us to persevere to take hold of what God prepared for you. What you need is to trust God's love, faithfulness, power, and promise for you in your heart truly. The journey with God is wonderful! You can achieve what you cannot imagine or even dream.

When God let me start my seminary journey again after the Ph D in Germany, there was no support from the family. I waited to receive the agreement from the family. I waited for three years. One day, God sent me a message: "If you don't obey the calling, your life will take a different path from the one God has prepared for you." That day, I rushed to the nearest seminary, which was two and a half hours away. I had an entrance interview that day, and miraculously, I was registered because the deadline for new student registrations had already passed. I was accepted into the seminary! But how could I afford the tuition? However, before the semester started, a new scholarship foundation had just been established. I was chosen as the first student to receive a scholarship for all four years of study.

If you look at it from a human perspective, it's foolish of me to register for the new journey without even a dollar. God had already prepared all the needs. When did God begin preparing the foundation that nudged a very wealthy family for Hae-Jeong? I don't know. In the university newspaper, my name was listed as the first person to receive the scholarship.

Do you have a promise of God in the Bible? Yes! Then take it as yours. We have more than 7,000 promises of God in the Bible, which we can claim for our lives securely, because God said and God loves us! Love is the foundation for trusting God. Love anchors you to peace. There is no other way around it. Grounding in God's love is what makes the difference.



Fear, anxiety, worry don't travel with God. Love, peace, and joy travel with God. Fear doesn't play fair. It lurks around every corner, waiting for an opportunity to drag you back into a foggy arena. When that happens to you, then kick it out. Fear often takes hold of me without my consent. If you feel fear, then repel it in the name of Jesus. It disappears like smoke. Really! Just because you initially feel fear doesn't mean you have to allow it to continually take up space in your heart.

When you feel you are fully taken by fear, then focus on God's promise word. And shout out the promise word. And shout, "Lord, I trust you. Lord, I trust you!" Ten times, twenty times. You will feel better, and far better. And meditate on the words until you are fully wrapped with peace and love.

Fear contradicts the will of God for your life. You were not created to continually worry, letting worst case scenario play out in your head. By choosing to align with God's truth, we can break the habit of negative expectation.

God always infusing himself into every negativity in us, not blaming us. Light always drives out darkness. Faith pushes fear far from your soul and empowers you with confidence. His presence gives us permission to explore and discover him in the process of the journey. So, we have freedom to abide, to rest and persist in him. And that is important that we do not persist in the circumstances themselves.

We travel in love, joy, and peace in believing in who God is for us. So, if Jesus really is your redeemer, then begin every situation by asking him what he wants to redeem in you and for you. Start the day with the love of God. One of the most beautiful expressions and love in the scripture is written for a time of lamentation. **"My soul still remembers and sinks within me. This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed because his compassions do not fail. They are new every morning, Great is his faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I hope in him." (Lamentation 3:22-23)**

The Holy Spirit empowers us to walk in the opposite spirit. When our natural response is fear, the Spirit empowers us to walk in faith. When our instinct is anxiety, the Spirit enables peace. When our tendency is to grasp and hoard out of scarcity, the Spirit liberates us to give generously out of abundance. We have power to choose what to think and feel.

The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you (Romans 8:11). The same power that conquered death is available to us as we face our giants.