

## Defeating Our Giants: A Study of Perspective

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Today I want to talk about defeating our **giants**, which is really a study about **perspective**.
  - A. I want to talk about **giants** because I believe giants exist, even today. And sooner or later we all will likely have to face one, or more.
    - i. Of course, I am not talking about really large human beings, although our giants are often associated with people.
    - ii. I am talking about problems, situations, etc., that become giants in our lives.
  - B. I want to talk about **perspective**, or our viewpoint, because of its role in dealing with our giants, in defeating them.
2. For, when it comes to defeating giants, **perspective is everything**. Think about it this way.
  - A. If you have ever visited a city with a very tall building, like the Empire State Building, viewing it from an earthly perspective, from ground level, makes it an imposing giant.
  - B. But a higher perspective make it looks quite different, even insignificant. Can you even find the Empire State Building?
  - C. Of course, it is not that the building is smaller. It is just that your perspective has changed.
3. So, perspective is what will make the difference. To examine this subject, I want to consider:
  - A. How God's people have faced giants and how their perspective played a vital role in their success or failure.
  - B. How we must face giants today from the proper perspective if we hope to overcome them.

### BODY:

#### **I. Entering the Promised Land meant facing giants!**

- A. When the 12 spies returned, they reported to Moses and the people of **giants** in the land, and much more (Num. 13:27-28 – “Thus they told him, and said, “We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> Nevertheless, the **people who live in the land are strong**, and the cities are **fortified** and **very large**; and moreover, we saw the **descendants of Anak there**.”).
  1. They told the truth about the land having strong people, large and fortified cities, and how the **descendants of Anak**, or **giants**, lived there!
  2. But who else would you expect to live in a land that “flows with milk and honey”?
  3. And God knew who inhabited the land and what it would take to overcome it when He promised it to Israel!
- B. **Perspective** was the issues. Success or failure depended on how they viewed the situation!
  1. The perspective of the **10 spies** (Num. 13:31-33 – “But the men who had gone up with him [Joshua] said, “**We are not able** to go up against the people, for they are too strong **for us**.” <sup>32</sup> So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are **men of great size**. <sup>33</sup> There also we saw the **Nephilim** [giants] (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and **we became like grasshoppers in our own sight**, and **so we were in their sight**.”).
    - a. Their perspective was purely physical, focused solely on earthly strength and size!
    - b. That perspective reduced them to nothing but **grasshoppers** in their **own sight**...and in the **sight of the people of the land**.
    - c. This is tragic because they had experienced great deliverance, seen Egypt's destruction, crossed the Red Sea on dry land, and fought and overcome armies, all by **God's hand**.
      - i. Yet, their perspective did not include God. He was not **part** of the equation.
      - ii. And as a result, they became “grasshoppers” amongst giants, which is what a earthly perspective will do to you.
  2. The perspective of **Joshua** and **Caleb** (Num. 14:6-9 – “Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; <sup>7</sup> and they spoke to

all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, “The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup> **If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us**—a land which flows with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the LORD; and **do not fear the people** of the land, for they will be our prey. Their **protection has been removed** from them, and **the LORD is with us; do not fear them.**”).

- a. Their assessment of the situation came from a completely different perspective!
    - i. They did not mention the people, fortified cities, giants, Israel’s physical strength, size, etc.
    - ii. Instead, they talked about the **LORD**, about **His favor**, about **Him bringing them into the land**, about **Him giving the land to them!**
  - b. For, they knew that no earthly force can withstand God and His people.
3. Yet, if you know the account you know that the people believed the 10 spies and would not be swayed by the truth spoken by Joshua and Caleb (Num. 14:1-5).
- a. They lost hope, desired to return to Egypt, wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb, and spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness until that generation died out!
  - b. Without God’s perspective, giants become insurmountably large!

## II. Remaining in the Promised Land meant facing more giants.

- A. This occurred when Saul led Israel’s army against the Philistines and Goliath challenged Israel to fight him in a winner-take-all battle for 40 straight days (**1 Sam. 17:1-11, 16**).
1. He was a real giant, being 9 ½ feet tall, with great strength, skill, armor, and weaponry for the battlefield.
  2. He was like a human tank that rolled out before Israel and defied them for 40 days!
- B. David arrived on the scene.
1. Jesse had sent young David to take supplies to his older brothers fighting there for Israel.
  2. When he arrived, he laid aside the supplies and went to the battle line to greet his brothers and saw Goliath, heard his defying words, and observed Israel’s response (17:24-25 – “When all the men of Israel **saw the man**, they **fled** from him and were **greatly afraid**. <sup>25</sup> The men of Israel said, “Have you **seen this man** who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father’s house free in Israel.”).
    - a. Again, Israel’s perspective of a giant was totally physical. It did not include God.
    - b. They saw the **man** and his size, and it **tormented** and **paralyzed** them *despite* Saul’s amazing offer to the one who would defeat him!
    - c. That is what an earthly perspective does. It makes giants seem undefeatable and they torment us day and night!  3. Young David’s perspective was different (17:26-27 – “Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this **uncircumcised Philistine**, that he should **taunt the armies of the living God?**”).
    - a. Did you catch the key point of David’s description of Goliath?
      - i. He was **uncircumcised** and **not in covenant with Elohim**, the all-powerful Creator God, **as was Israel**.
      - ii. Goliath was nothing but a pagan, howbeit a big one, that had foolishly defied Elohim and His armies.
      - iii. Perspective was the difference!
        - 1) Israel’s army saw the man, the physical giant.
        - 2) David saw God and the spiritual reality behind this giant problem!
    - b. Giants rule the lives of too many Christians because they have lost the ability to see things as David did, to look beyond the physical to see the spiritual reality surrounding the giants of their lives.

- i. Worldly giants are **uncircumcised**, not in covenant with God as are we.
  - ii. If we do not see that, we will continue to be intimidated and overcome by them!
- C. Seeing things from God's perspective meant...
  - 1. David did not need to fear Goliath.
    - a. Though basically told by Saul that he could not possibly win, David was not dissuaded (1 Sam. 17:36-37 – “Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this **uncircumcised** Philistine will be like one of them, since he has **taunted the armies of the living God.**”<sup>37</sup> And David said, “The **Lord who delivered me** from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, **He will deliver me** from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and may the Lord be with you.”).
    - b. David was not fearful because he saw the bigger picture, that this was a fight between God and a servant of Satan—a fight that a Satan and his servants cannot win
  - 2. David could enter the fight wearing God's armor.
    - a. Saul tried to clothe David with his own armor (1 Sam. 17:38-39 – “Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor.”<sup>39</sup> David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. So David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.” And David **took them off.**”).
      - i. David did not need earthly armor. That is not the protection of God's people.
      - ii. David knew that it was God's protection and strength that would bring the victory.
    - b. We need that same perspective if we are going to win the battle for our souls.
      - i. We too must shed the physical things that hinder us (Heb. 12:1-2 – “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us [including David – 11:32], let us also **lay aside every encumbrance** and the **sin** which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup> **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”).
      - ii. We too must put on God's spiritual armor (Eph. 6:10-13 – “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the **strength of His might.**”<sup>11</sup> Put on the full **armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.<sup>12</sup> **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**”<sup>13</sup> Therefore, **take up the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”).
        - 1) We, like David, must understand that we are fighting a spiritual war.
        - 2) Only God's spiritual armor and weaponry will protect us and bring victory!
  - 3. David could take the fight to Goliath.
    - a. When David did so, Goliath did not run.
      - i. In fact, he came to meet David, belittling and cursing him, and promising to destroy him (1 Sam. 17:41-44 – “Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.”<sup>42</sup> When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.”<sup>43</sup> The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.”<sup>44</sup> The Philistine also said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field.”).
      - ii. So, know that when you choose to take the fight to your giants...
        - 1) They are not going to run away without a fight. Satan wants to defeat you!
        - 2) They will try, like Goliath, to turn it all back on you, on your weakness, on your failures, etc., in hopes of diverting your eyes from God and back on to yourself.
    - b. When Goliath approached David, David did not run either!

- i. He did not run because he knew God would fight the battle (1 Sam. 17:45-47 – “Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but **I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts**, the God of the armies of Israel, **whom you have taunted**.<sup>46</sup> This day **the Lord will deliver you up into my hands**, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel**,<sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; **for the battle is the Lord’s and He will give you into our hands.**”).
- ii. We need to have that same perspective.
  - 1) Winning against our giants is not about earthly power.
  - 2) Giants are defeated by faith in God and His power to deliver them into our hands.
- c. David’s godly perspective meant victory (1 Sam. 17:48-50 – “Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.<sup>49</sup> And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.<sup>50</sup> Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David’s hand.”).

### III. The Christian’s perspective

- A. Like David, those in Christ view life from a different, a much higher perspective (Eph. 2:1-6 – “And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you formerly **walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.<sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, even as the rest.<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by **grace** you have been **saved**),<sup>6</sup> and **raised us up with Him**, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus”).
- B. So, God has changed, reversed, everything sin had affected in our lives!
  1. We were dead in our sins like the world, but are now *made alive with Christ, saved by grace*
  2. We were *children of wrath* like the world, but now *live with Christ*
  3. We were of the world but are now ***raised up*** and ***seated with Christ in the heavenly places***.
    - a. We no longer live our lives as those subject to this world and Satan.
    - b. We are now seated in places of honor in the spiritual realm with the Lord Jesus.
    - c. Our perspective of life comes from a different realm, the spiritual realm, allowing us to see the greater picture behind it all which makes all the difference.
  4. What an amazing perspective God offers to you in Jesus!

### CONCLUSION:

1. If you want that perspective today, it begins by faith in Jesus that is strong enough to obey Him by being baptized (Col. 2:12-13 – “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions”).
2. Will you come to Christ today and gain the victory, allowing you to live the rest of your life here with a glorious, unstoppable heavenly perspective?