

Series: Facing the Giants

# LAND OF THE GIANTS

## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-10

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

### **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:* <sup>4</sup> *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* <sup>5</sup> *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

Introduction:

There used to be a television show called the Land of the Giant. Seven people from earth found their spaceship caught in a warp of some kind and ended up on a planet where everything was twelve times larger than on earth. Each week they battled giant cats, children, and soldiers. It was a little strange but raised an interesting question. What would we do if everything and everyone was a giant except for us?

The truth is that we do live in a land of giants. There are things that are bigger than us which seem to stand between us and being where God wants us to be. In the Old Testament, God sent His people, Israel, to a

place called The Promised Land. It was a great place to live but it also was inhabited by giants whom they would have to face and defeat.

We too live in a land of giants which we must face if we are to be where God wants us to be.

Note:

## **1. THE WARFARE WE FACE**

Notice:

### **A. The Necessity of This Warfare**

We must all face the fact that spiritual warfare is a necessity.

God never hid the fact that there is going to be warfare for His children.

- He told Moses there would be blessings and enemies in the Promise Land.

### ***Exodus 3:16-17***

*<sup>16</sup> Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:<sup>17</sup> And I have said, I will bring you*

*up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.*

- He promised Joshua the Land but told him he would have to be strong and courageous to face its challenges.

### ***Joshua 1:1-7***

*<sup>1</sup> Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, <sup>2</sup> Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. <sup>4</sup> From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. <sup>5</sup> There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to*

*the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

- He promised Gideon he would save Israel but he would have to face the Midianites.

### ***Judges 6:15-16***

<sup>15</sup> *And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.* <sup>16</sup> *And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.*

- He anointed David to be king as a youth but David still had Goliath and Saul to fight.

Note the words of the Lord:

### ***John 15:18-20***

<sup>18</sup> *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.* <sup>19</sup> *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.* <sup>20</sup> *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

In other words, there is great joy and blessing in following Christ but there will also be battles to fight. They are a necessity and they are very real!

Notice not only “The Necessity of This Warfare” but also:

## B. The Nature of This Warfare

Consider the nature of the warfare we have to fight. We are to be engaged in offensive warfare. We are not called to hold the fort against the giants of life. Unfortunately, that is the plan many Christians seem to have. They want to circle the wagons at the church building and hold off the devil until Jesus comes back.

That is not God’s plan!

Note what the Lord said:

### **Matthew 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; **and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

When Goliath challenged Israel, Saul hid in his tent and just hope everything would work out.

When the Midianites were destroying Israel, Gideon was hiding behind a wine press.

We aren't called to run for cover.

- God has called us to pull down strongholds (vs. 4)

### **2 Corinthians 10:4**

<sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the **pulling down of strong holds;**)

The words pull down means to dethrone. When the Apostle Paul preached the Gospel at Ephesus many people were saved. In coming to Christ they realized they needed to get rid of their idols of the goddess Diana.

### **Acts 19:21-27**

<sup>21</sup> After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. <sup>22</sup> So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season. <sup>23</sup> And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. <sup>24</sup> For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; <sup>25</sup> Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. <sup>26</sup> Moreover ye see and hear, that not

*alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:<sup>27</sup> So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshipping.*

As people gave up their idols, the local idol makers became alarmed that they were losing business. They said that Paul's preaching of the gospel had destroyed the magnificence of Diana. In other words, the gospel had pulled down the stronghold of that false god. That is what we are called to.

Through the gospel of Jesus Christ we pull down the strongholds of this world system we live in.

We are also called to cast down imaginations (vs. 5)

## **2 Corinthians 10:5**

<sup>5</sup> **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

That means we are to conquer them. We are to attack and conquer imaginations of this world. What are these imaginations? They are the deceptive and fleshly

way of thinking common to this world system. Paul spoke of this in Colossians 2:8-10:

**Colossians 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.* <sup>9</sup> *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

<sup>10</sup> *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

In 2 Corinthians 10:5 we see that a giant is anything that exalts itself above God.

We are to cast down every high thing.

Illustration:

Goliath towered above everyone else in Israel. He was even taller than their king (Saul), the tallest man in the entire kingdom. No matter how big Goliath was, Israel could bring him down if they let God fight their battle for them.

There are many things that tower above us.

- Intellectual Giants

These people that seem to have all the knowledge;  
They are “experts” and we are not. How can we stand  
against their evidence?

- Philosophical Giants

People who seem to understand life so much better  
than we do

- Material Giants

People who have so much more than we do; who are  
we to question what they say or believe?

In the end, a giant is anything or anyone that refuses to  
give God His rightful place. It is what exalts itself  
against the knowledge of God. This includes people  
who are operating in the flesh rather than in the Spirit,  
circumstances that make it appear that God is not in  
control, and attitudes that put man before God.

Note not only “The Warfare We Face” but also:

## 2. THE WEAPONS OF OUR FIGHT

Note:

### A. Weapons We Cannot Trust

We must understand that there are weapons that we cannot trust.

#### **2 Corinthians 10:4**

*<sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

Carnal weapons are not trustworthy weapons.

We cannot face the giants of life with weapons of our own making.

It's the carnal nature that is our problem in the first place.

#### **1 Corinthians 3:1-3**

*<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. <sup>3</sup> For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

## B. Weapons We Can Trust

God has given us weapons we can trust. These weapons are mighty in God.

### **2 Corinthians 10:4**

<sup>4</sup> *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

Though we live in this world and face the problems of this world, we have a different way to face those problems. This is the emphasis of Galatians 2:20:

### **Galatians 2:20**

<sup>20</sup> *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

We cannot trust weapons of this world – we must trust God’s weapons.

Illustration:

David refused to fight Goliath with the weapons of Saul. He knew he must fight God’s battle God’s way. We must guard against trusting in the flashy and appealing answers of this world rather than in the trustworthy weapons of God’s armory.

Note:

Ephesians 6:10-18

***Ephesians 6:10-18***

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. <sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: <sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; What giants do you face in your life? Do you find other people, circumstances, or things within in your own heart and mind coming between you and obeying God with your whole heart?

Note three commandments in these verses:

- Command 1 – Be Strong in the Lord (vs. 10)

### ***Ephesians 6:10***

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and in the power of his might.

Paul told the early Christian that God was the source of their strength.

- Command 2 – Put On (vs. 11)

### ***Ephesians 6:11***

<sup>11</sup> **Put on** the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We are to put on not our armour but God's armour.

We are to put it all on not part of it.

Command 3 – Stand Against (vs. 11-12)

### ***Ephesians 6:11***

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand against** the wiles of the devil.

### ***Ephesians 6:13***

<sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.

Close

In Hebrews 12 we find the answer for all the giants of life:

**Hebrews 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** *who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*