

# Follow God Wholeheartedly

(Part 2)

## Overcoming Giants

*“We live by faith, not by sight.” (2Corinthians 5:7)*

You may face many things as a believer in life. The size of these events or trials it might in most of the time is bigger than your size, and you might be tempted to see them as giants because they are bigger than your ability. But the believer's perception must be one of persuasion and his thought and personality should be the same of what Paul mentioned in *2Timothy1:12* ***“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”*** God will guard what you have entrusted to Him in the day that you are going to receive His promise. But always there are barriers, hardships and hindrances to defer you from receiving what God had prepared for you. Therefore you should not allow all the unfavorable circumstances to get the size of giants that you cannot cope or handle.

God commissioned Israel to prepare the people for His promise by sending spies to go where He directed them, to observe the quality of the people, land and cities, to be of good courage, and to bring back the fruit of the land ***“2 Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”*** ***3 So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. 2 "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders." 3 So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.”*** (Num. 13:2-3,17-20) God wants us to see and prepare the people for His promises.

Moses sent twelve men and they came back after forty days. Ten of the twelve men, who were leaders from each tribe, violated the command to be encouragers; by their reports they discouraged the people, ***“27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”*** (Numbers 13:27-28,31-33) Why they gave such a report? Because they compared themselves, looking to their ability and not to God ability, therefore they came up with a discouragement message. ***“31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.”*** ***As a result, they had a distorted perception by enlarging the enemy.*** Read what they reported: ***“28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. .” 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own***

*eyes, and we looked the same to them.”* It is not wrong to understand the enemy, but do not overestimating the enemy's threats and underestimating God's ability to carry you to where He wants you. The ten men who were essentially disobedient and disbelieving, inevitably they created GIANTS which replaced the full trust in God who is able to bring them to possess the land that He already promised to give them. You look to yourself and check your behaviours and see how you create giants that are non existing and finally would hinder you to receive what God had promised to you.

God already knew about the so called “Giants,” their names and history ***“They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)”*** (Numbers 13:22) But when God sent the twelve men to spy the Land he told Moses ***““2 Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”*** (Numbers 13:2) God did not say to Moses that He will give but He said ***the land which I am giving.*** God already gave the land to them and what they needed to do is to go and to possess and they were sent to explore and evaluate before they will prepare their campaign to possess. The so called “Giants” became a standard of self-imposed terror for the Israelites who later died in the wilderness. They described others, comparing them to this self-imposed standard. The self-perception of “Giants” became the obstacle that kept a generation from entering the Promised Land.

The size of an enemy of large stature is relative, and there are ***NO GIANTS*** in God's eyes. Joshua and Caleb had this God-sized perception when they declared, ***“30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”*** (Numbers 13:30) ***“6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 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. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”*** (Num. 14:6-9) To what the ten men did God promised, ***“23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. 24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.”*** (Numbers 14:23-24) Caleb and Joshua were the two men who invited God to work mightily in their lives. Joshua led the people into the Promised Land and to Caleb he would receive the land that he went to.

The test of the giants will never overcome the Christian whose heart is stayed upon God's ability, in His time, in His way, and by His direction to bring to pass the promises that He has made. Joshua, and especially Caleb, had to face the following “giants” in order to receive what God had promised:

***1 The giant of the popular opinion:*** Caleb and Joshua were outnumbered by the rest of the spy men and the majority of the people, but they did not listen to the majority opinion. Do not put your ear on what people speak and say even if they are educated and even they called themselves Christians. As long as what they say is not based on the word of God and His promises then you do not need to bother yourselves with them. That is why we encourage not watching TV and sit down and gossip and chatting with worldly people who does not have God or know His word and follow His ways.

**2- The giant of the forgotten promises:** Caleb waited 40 years in the wilderness while a nation murmured and rotted around him. He waited through years of conflict. And, he waited while Joshua took the land. But, finally, he was able to step forward, realizing that God had not forgotten him, and receive the land other thought was filled with giants. <sup>6</sup> *Now the men of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. <sup>7</sup> I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions."* (Joshua 14:6-7a)

**3- The giant of half hearted service:** Caleb core was his heart that refused to see giants but rather to see God. His heart was full of faith knowing that God would receive from Him what He promised if He continues to obey God. Repeatedly the word of God said about Caleb that he followed God wholeheartedly as we can read in the following verses: <sup>7</sup> *I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, <sup>8</sup> but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. <sup>9</sup> So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. <sup>14</sup> So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. "* (Joshua 14:7-9,14) *"24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it."* (Numbers 14:24) *"36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly."* (Deuteronomy 1:36) Continue to be willing to serve God wholeheartedly and offer all what you have to Him then you will continue to receive what had promised to you. Half hearted Christians who serve God with grumbling and murmuring will be in fear and doubt and will not be able to receive what God had promised.

**4- The giant of time:** The other spies and the people had been buried by the giant of time because of half-hearted faith. Caleb's fully persuaded heart conquered the wear and tear of 45 years and equipped him: <sup>10</sup> *"Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old!"* (Joshua 14:10) Do not be worry about your age, it will not be a hindrance for you to receive what God had promised as you continue to trust Him and follow Him wholeheartedly.

**5- The giant of loss of strength:** Caleb's persuaded faithfulness meant that he had not lost his ability to serve and even do war for God. This giant of inability will always try to convince you that there is not a way for God to use you to possess His promises. <sup>11</sup> *I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. <sup>12</sup> Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day."* (Joshua 14:11-12a) God will give you the good health and the needed strength and vigor to conquer what He had promised you. Never think about sicknesses or health disability but set your mind and heart to follow God wholeheartedly.

**6- The giant of loss because of threatenings:** The heart of God's promise was in the stronghold of the three sons of Anak. The threats of these *three men* of large stature controlled the entrance to the Promised Land from the south and all the surrounding lands. But, Caleb and Joshua were not deterred by their threats.

**A-** Joshua defeated them. Joshua is the Hebrew word for "Jesus." It means, Jehovah is Saviour. Jesus is our Joshua today, defeating what others perceive as impossible "Giants."

*"21 And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities. 22 There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained. 23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses ... ."* (Joshua 11:21-23a)

**B-** Caleb asked and waited for 45 years, despite the continual threats of the Sons of Anak, the so called, "Giants," for their very strong hold on the mountain. Despite their threats, Caleb was eventually able to possess what God had promised because of Joshua, Jesus for us today. <sup>12</sup> *Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."* <sup>13</sup> *Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance."* (Joshua 14:12-13)

Devil will try to threaten you to stop from pursuing your goal to receive and enjoy God's promise. You need to stand firm resist the Devil and he will flee away from you.

**My Dear and Beloved:** (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.) *Then the land had rest from war."* (Joshua 14:15) God changed the name of the place of His promise from the land of the giants (Kiriatharba-the fortress of Arba [forefather of Anak]) to the place of God's "friends" or "Hebron" Your faith in God will change you to an obedient person who will be able and willing to go along with God and overcome obstacles and defeat giants as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord from this time on I commit my body, soul and spirit in your hand to go on and serve you and walk in your ways wholeheartedly believing that you will preserve me to conquer and to enjoy what you had promised me. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

# Jesus christ



## The Bread Of Life

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