

Giants Do Die!

I. Introduction:

- Numbers 13:23-33 There are giants (Nephilim) in the land, but we need to be "Calebs."
- Here we see that these men had an attitude of "Let's wait a little longer while the enemy runs over us." The Israelites made a decision to retreat. They came to the edge, saw the giants, and then drew back.
- 1 Samuel 17:34-41 There is a giant (Goliath) who challenges the Israelites.
- David was more prepared for the battle than the soldiers were.
- He had a will to fight; they didn't.
- The man with the will is better off than the men with the weapons, but without the will.
- If you fight you may lose and eventually die. If you don't fight you will lose and die too.
- The issue is not whether or not you are going to die, but what you are going to die for.

II. Our Legacy

- Job shows us there are bigger cosmic issues in life than our personal health and prosperity.
- Job presents us with the astounding truth that our choices of faith matter not just to us and our own destiny, but amazingly to God Himself. -Romans 8:19
- **"There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter claimed by Satan."** -C.S. Lewis
- We were given dominion over the earth. That was God's plan then and that's God's plan now. Read Genesis 1, Psalm 8, and Hebrews 2.

III. Spiritual Warfare

- The Son of God came to destroy the work of the devil.
(1 John 3:8)
- Jesus overcomes the work of the devil by means of the cross.

- A lot of battle warfare is really waiting!
- On a war front there are a lot of soldiers who are not part of the battle; they may be just holding their ground.

IV. The Basics

1. Warfare is meant to be hard. There is a difference between war and vacation. There is a charismatic problem that causes some of us to be over-optimistic.
2. Temptation is part of the Christian life, but you want to avoid it as much as possible. Spiritual warfare is for a term. We don't fight all of the time. We pick our battles. Sometimes we "head for the hills."
3. Be in the light. We want to be seen and we want others to see us. Be together with others.

V. Christian Maturity

- We need to adjust as we get older.
- Maintain the respect for the life we've been given without the unenlightened zeal of the past.
- We start out with great expectations, but they are almost always partly unmet.
- We almost never get to rev up for the big battle.
- We must have a willingness to keep on slogging.
- Don't be terrorized. The enemy can't terrorize people who won't be terrorized. Scripture says, "...for they loved not their lives even unto death." -Revelation 12:11
- There comes a time in our lives when we realize there is nothing more God can do. It is time for us to stand!
- The Lord wants us to live in Romans 8 and not just visit it.

VI. Ongoing Strategy to Defeat Giants

- Cut off the past. Put a period at the end of this sentence.
- Avoid those things which may lead you to sin. There are certain hooks which snag us and lead us to evil.
- Make purity our goal. Seek after it at all cost.
- Commit ourselves to a regimen of regular spiritual reading and meditation.
- We absolutely need a daily prayer life. At every turn there are new challenges, but there should be new grace available to us also.

- We need to have a will to war. The promise is worth the fight.
(2 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Chronicles 28:20; Psalm 23: 4)

VII. Summary

- We didn't start the war; we were born into it.
- Satan from the beginning of time wanted to be as God.
- The enemy militates against the truth. He has many people believing there is no war.
- The Gospel is a battle cry. We must know why we fight.
(Matthew 28:19-20)
- Distractions and passivity lead to defeat.
- Sometimes just to endure is victory. Too often we act as if being a faithful Christian requires a string of answered prayers or an unbroken series of spiritual successes.
- We need to keep in mind that instantaneous transformations by his grace are more the exception than the rule.
- "God is a bit sparing with his miracles, if there weren't any, we'd all be goners, but if there were too many, we'd all become lazy."
- Look at these scriptures:
 1. Matthew 24:13 ("But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.")
 2. 1 Corinthians 13:7 ("Love endures all things.")
 3. 2 Timothy 4:5 ("We must endure hardship.")
 4. James 5:11 ("We count those blessed who endured.")
- So while there are those spectacular victories that reflect the miraculous intervention of God, far more often it is by faithful endurance that we obtain eventual victory.

One Final Thought: Today we may find ourselves up against some giants, in a tight place, hemmed in by walls too high to leap over. But finding ourselves in such a place is no reason to grieve, nor does being there signify failure or defeat. God is still present with grace to endure. After all some walls are meant for leaning on rather than leaping over, and some mountains are meant for climbing rather than "casting." Some of life's experiences are destined to be endured rather than enjoyed. So during those long and unyielding days when quick answers and happy solutions are nowhere to be found, why not lean into the Lord and accept his comforting reminder: "Sometimes, just to endure is victory." It may prove just the right word to see us through.