

Word and Spirit!

Part 4: "Defeating the Giant of Unbelief!"

What we already know... Everyone is a target, everyone gets hurt, everyone gets knocked down...

"The world isn't all sunshine and rainbows, it's a mean and nasty place, and somewhere along the way, when things get hard, we are all tempted to "change..." It comes over us like a big shadow and we start looking for something to blame. No matter how tough we are, life can beat us to our knees and we can get stuck there. No one is going to hit as hard as life. But it isn't about how hard we're hit. It's about "how hard we get hit and keep moving forward. How much we can take and keep moving forward. We have to be willing to take the hits and not point fingers saying we aren't where we want to be because of someone else! Cowards do that and that's not us! We're better than that! God is always going to love us no matter what. We're His kids. But until we start believing that we're not victims we aren't going to have a life."

"I let him take away the two most important things in my life... I'm not going to let him take any more"

"I'VE BEEN SHOT!" 'We've all been shot bro! Can you still fight?' "I CAN FIGHT. I CAN FIGHT!"

"Fall down seven times. Get up eight!"

"The children of the world are wiser in their generation than the children of light!" Lk 16.8

We have all the right information... "No weapon formed against you will prosper..." **Is54.17** "For Your sake we are killed all day long, we are counted as sheep for slaughter... but in all things we are more than conquerors thru Him that loved us! For I am convinced that (nothing) can separate us from the love (and good plans) of God that we have in Christ Jesus..." **R8.36** "Whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory, even our faith!" **1John 5.4**

We are not victims in this life, and we were never meant to fall into a victim mentality! "The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us!" We are celebrated survivors because God and us is a majority force at work in the world!

Knowing that, we come up against our last enemy: Unbelief! "No matter how formidable the giants, we will not be defeated and carried off!"

Giants in the land! Distractions to defy God! New job, new hobby, new boy/girl, new car, new location, weight loss, "intentional gains..." pull us aside! Loss of job, sickness/disease, break-up, break-down, back-down... cause us to walk away!

It is human nature to get caught up in distractions... one of the greatest weapons ever "formed against us!

Counterfeit's... How do we get tricked into believing the counterfeit is the real thing? "Ill give you a bag of colorful glass chips for your handful of colorless diamonds..." "Wanna trade your Ferrari for my Ford Pinto? They're both cars!" Shack on a track rather than a mansion on a hill because they're both "a roof?" 1,000 fb "likes" instead of being loved by a handful of family and friends? Are we content with "enough" for us instead of having plenty leftover to give?

The issue for us at this point is values!

Values... Is being liked is the same thing as being esteemed? Being praised is the same as being honored? Is money really the replacement for prosperity? Is sex the same thing as love? Are drugs/alcohol the same thing as the peace of God? Is religion equal to faith? Is spirituality the same as Spirit-life? NO!

If it's as simple a matter as "values" then what keeps drawing us away? "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed..."

Lusts...

for "other things" chokes the word in us and it, and we, become unfruitful. **Mk4.19** open us to vanity and foolishness, impurity and immorality to the point of exchanging the truth for lies! **R1.24** are not to be "provided for." **R13.14** are part of an old life which revived will lead us away from God/Word! **2Tim2.22, 4.3 Tit3.3 1Pet1.14, 4.2,3** We are to put them off with the old man and be renewed... **E4.22** Are always at war with our own souls so we are to abstain. **1Pet2.11** Set us at war with others! **Jam4.1,3** Give place to the devil! **Eph4.21-27** Allowing our lusts we will end up as mockers of God, of His coming again and of godly men! **2P3.3 Jude1.16,18** If we are Christ's we are to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts and live in the Spirit. **Gal 5.24** "If we are risen with Christ, *we seek the things which are above* where He is, *setting our affection on things above*, not on the things of earth... for we are dead and our life is hid with Him, who is our life... so *we put to death the connections to earthly lusts* like fornication, impurity, overheated passions, evil desires, covetousness – which is idolatry for which reason the wrath of God falls on the children of disobedience!" **Col 3.1-6** "Though we live in the flesh we *do not battle by mere flesh*, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty for the pulling down of strongholds... *We overthrow vain reasonings and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity every thought* to the obedience of Christ!" **2Cor10.3-5 (We clean house in our fleshly/mental realm!)** "We renew ourselves in the spirit of our minds, **Eph 4.23**; *build up our faith by hearing the word of God*, Rom 10.17; which is the sword of the Spirit, **Eph 6.17**; quick and powerful to pierce between our soul and spirit to *discern between the thoughts and intents of our heart*, **Heb 4.12**; and *build up our most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit*, Jude 20; especially when we don't know how to pray so that He can make intercessions for us according to God's plans for us, bringing it all together for those who love God, **Rom 8.28ff**; Finally, *we stand strong in the Lord and the power of His might, putting on the whole armor of God* so that we can stand against the plots of the devil... above all else *putting up the shield of faith (word, Spirit, us)* to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one, **Eph6.16**; and *we stop operating on our own mind, strengths and values.*" **Pr 3.5**

Profound object lesson for our message!

We must *choose* His ways, thoughts, values, morals, ethics and perspective over ours...

And what if I don't? Then your lusts, when they conceive will birth sin and sin when it is grows to full size will usher in death! **Jam 1.15** You will live a life saved, but confused without the answers to the questions... You will live pained, even tormented, without the promises of relief... You will stand in heaven on a foundation in Christ but empty...

What of earthly value is worth that?

Most of the "giants" we face in this life are conjured up from the dead by our unbelief! All of them together shouldn't be enough to get us to deny our faith! And if they were all gathered together as one host wouldn't it be worth the battle to be crowned with Jesus?