

*Faith Cometh
By Hearing*

Facing Your Giants

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The Bible – Life’s Manual

I want you to remember this message the next time you are feeling down and out! When you do not know where to turn to, remember you can always turn to God’s Word. From the very first chapter to the very last chapter of the Bible, there are more faith-building concepts and encouragements in God’s Word than in any other material you can read. This is life’s manual.

You may come across times when you feel like giving up. Furthermore, you do not know how you are going to precede forward with your life because of the giants, in this case, your circumstances. Your ‘circumstances’ could be anything: they could be health issues; they could be finances; they could be marital problems; they could be employment problems; they could be problems in your school; or they could even be problems in your church! No matter what you are facing, whatever giants are oppressing you remember this message! Go back to the archives on the Website www.TeachingFaith.com and look up “Facing your giants.” I hope that this message will encourage you as it has encouraged me.

Reminder of Israel’s faithlessness

We are going to be camping out in several different chapters of Deuteronomy, beginning at Chapter 31. Here Moses has come to the twilight of his mission of leading the children of Israel. He reminds the children of Israel, and Joshua, of the way they had come, all 40 years of it! They had an opportunity earlier to enter the Promised Land, but because of their rebellious attitude, they failed and did not enter. Even after witnessing all the miracles and the deliverances – the signs and the wonders, the parting of the Red Sea, God supplying quail to eat, and water from a rock to drink – they did not have faith in Him! Even watching, and experiencing, the plagues before their exodus from Egypt, and watching

firstborn Egyptians die and their own firstborn protected by God was never enough! Therefore, Moses reminds the children of Israel and Joshua all the way they had come.

Israel gets a new leader, Joshua

Deuteronomy 31:1-2

And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel. And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the Lord had said unto me, "Thou shalt not go over this Jordan."

God had told Moses he would not go over Jordan into the Promised Land. This was not because Moses was feeble; the Scripture says his eyes were not dim and there was no problem with his health. There was no problem with Moses at all. He was an amazing 120-year-old whom God had kept throughout his life, especially the last 40 years. He was Israel's leader, and he could still lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. However, because the children of Israel had brought Moses to the breaking point, he had disobeyed God. As a result, both Moses and Aaron would not enter the Promised Land. Aaron had died just a few chapters earlier, and now Moses was gathering the people of Israel together to prepare them for their entrance into the Promised Land under a new leader. However, like I said not because he was old and feeble. He was neither. It was because disobedience. Before we go any further let us look what brought Moses to the breaking point.

The Children of Israel complain against Moses and cause him to sin

Numbers 20:1-2

Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

They formed a mob! Like I said, they went through so many experiences of miracles, so many signs and wonders, yet they would not trust their leader, worse than that, they would not trust God. They treated God as yesterday's news. That was then, but what are you doing to do for me now, God? Are you still there?

Numbers 20:2-4

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, "Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?"

They questioned Moses' leadership capabilities, folks. They questioned his wisdom, and by questioning Moses, they questioned God. They were declaring, whether they realized it or not, that they did not trust Moses, who was God's chosen representative, to lead them through the wilderness.

Numbers 20:5

And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? It is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

Complain, complain, and complain! They never wanted to get under the mercy of the Lord. They never wanted to take their problems to the Lord. They had no problem gathering themselves against Moses and Aaron. However, you never see a record of them gathering themselves to take their petition to the Lord and ask for mercy in their present condition. They never humbly recognized what God had done for them in the past, and had no faith to believe that He would still watch over them if they only kept the path of faith!

No, that was not their mode of operation. Their mode of operation was constant complaining and constant bitterness against their leaders. The Children of Israel

were constantly bitter at Moses for bringing them out of Egypt. All they remembered were the leeks and garlic of Egypt that filled their stomach's. They forgot about their bondage as slaves under hard labor, driven by slave masters.

What a miserable state to live your life in that condition! Most people today would do the same thing. They are not happy unless they are complaining or bitter about something. I've got to admit there are times I have questions about what God is doing in my life, but hopefully, as I mature as a Christian and in my faith in Christ, I snap out of those insane moments quicker than the last time, recognizing that's all they are – insane moments! Opportunities that I am giving the devil to work over me to destroy my faith in Him, to destroy my faith in God's Holy Word.

We cannot forget that God is constantly listening to us. God sees your heart. He definitely sees your attitude; not only towards Him, but also towards those you follow. Instead of living a life of faith, they led a life that is the opposite of faith – no faith at all! They only had faith in pomegranates; they only had faith in what they could see and what they could fill their bellies. They only thought about their stomachs instead of acknowledging God as their provider. They only saw the provisions never saw who provided them.

Numbers 20:6

And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

What did Moses and Aaron do? They went to the source, the source that could help them. They fell on their faces and the Glory appeared unto them.

Numbers 20:7-8

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and

their beasts drink.

Circle the word 'speak.' The Hebrew makes it very clear – “Speak with a commanding voice unto the rock before their eyes.” In a previous incident when they were complaining about not having any water, Moses was to strike the rock, and the water would flow. This time he was only to speak to it, to speak to the rock in a commanding voice, and the water would flow. God, even through their complaining, had compassion on the children of Israel.

Numbers 20:9

And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

So far, so good! He is doing it God's way! However, something happens at that point, in verse 10 (we do not necessarily have a record of it and this is an opinion.) I believe between the moment God spoke to Moses and commanded him to speak to the rock so water could flow forth to the time he presented himself in front of the congregation and before the rock, there was a lot more complaining, a lot more bitterness coming from the congregation. And it got to Moses it broke him down.

I am sure if Moses could look back, he would never have done what he did. I do not believe Moses broke down because they were complaining about him. I think he broke because they were constantly complaining about God, the God he served, and the God he was communicating with.

Numbers 20:10

And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

I am sure Moses was quite eloquent in his description of this evil congregation, and The King James cleaned it up a bit. Moses hit the rock twice! We can just

imagine his frustration, slamming his rod twice against the rock. In verse 8, God had told him to 'speak' to the rock. This time around he was supposed to 'speak to it in a commanding voice' for water to gush forth from the rock. However, he lifted up his hand with the rod and smote the rock twice, not just once but twice, and the water came out abundantly. God was still faithful, even though Moses now was the one being disobedient to God's commands. Nevertheless, the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Numbers 20:12

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, "Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."

I want to focus on Moses' disobedience to God's command in verse 8. He was supposed to speak to the rock, yet he struck it twice. By striking it twice, he failed to sanctify God and failed to revere God. This is the background of why Moses could not go over into Jordan, into the Promised Land. It was not because he was not able to physically but because he was disobedient. He could not go any further; he could not bring them over Jordan into the Promised Land.

Moses symbolizes the 'Law' and Joshua symbolizes 'Christ'

Moses represents the Law. No matter how much you try; no matter how much the Pharisees tried; no matter how much you try to abide in the Ten Commandments, and the rest of the Law, you cannot cross Jordan with it. Moses, the Lawgiver, could not cross Jordan. However, Joshua, a type of Christ, was able to cross Jordan and obtain the Promised Land.

Jesus Christ obtained salvation for us through the cross and reconciled us back to the Father. His Jordan was the cross! We can never cross Jordan living the

Law. No one can. Only Christ did. He broke the bondage that we were under by fulfilling the Law. Now, the only law we have to fulfill is faith in Him. Faith in Him, along with the other commandment Jesus gave us to follow – ‘Love one another.’ His greatest passion, as seen in the gospel of John, is to ‘feed the sheep.’ If you love me, then love feeding the sheep with your whole heart, whether you preach it, or whether you support it. That is all Christ demands from us now – to live a life of faith so we become imputed with righteousness; to love with ‘Agape-type’ love having no restrictions; and willing to die, if necessary, to get the Good News out to the world. Only Christ could cross our Jordan because he fulfilled the Law. Moses could not.

Deuteronomy 31:3

The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

“He will destroy these nations from before thee.” The Hebrew makes it very clear, “He will ‘exterminate’ those nations” – the nations they were going to face. God chose his successor, Joshua. Moses does pray for a successor that could lead the children of Israel, but he does not even suggest who it could be. God chose a successor that would lead them to the Promised Land, to the land flowing with milk and honey. In addition, He promises to exterminate all who get in their way and impede their progress. Moses reminds them that God would go before them. All they had to do was be obedient to the Lord and the leadership the Lord chose to lead them.

Moses reminds the Israelites of God’s deliverance from king Sihon

Deuteronomy 31:4

And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.

Moses reminds the Israelites here of what happened about 30 chapters earlier. If

it was important for Moses to remind them of it, maybe we can learn something from it to help us when we face our enemies, when we face our circumstances, or when we face what we think is going to annihilate us or exterminate us.

Deuteronomy 2:24

Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle. This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

God is doing all this. All they had to do was be obedient. God is still saying the same things today. Either you are going to have a rebellious heart, as the children of Israel did, and not trust Him or you are going to trust in His Word, knowing that He is not a man to lie, and that what He says will come true.

Deuteronomy 2:26-30

And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, "Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left. Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet; (as the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us. But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit.

The Lord knew king Sihon would not let them pass through. Yes, they had to go through the motions of presenting a peaceful solution if they passed through the land. So let's see what happens.

Deuteronomy 2:30-35

But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land. Then Sihon came out against

us, him and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: only the cattle we took for prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took.

Everything of Sihon was destroyed! That sounds like a tough God. Yes, it does but I rather be on God's side than 'not on His side.' When God hardens your heart there is no hope for you. Christ came to die for all humanity and to choose whom He wants out of that group. It is not our decision. Yes, you could pray for the salvation of someone. Only Christ and the Father make that final decision – whom He chooses and whom He does not choose. My job, and your job, is to keep getting the Word out and let Christ do the sorting; to choose whom He wants to choose.

Moses reminds the Israelites of God's deliverance from King Og

In Deuteronomy 31:4 Moses reminds the children of Israel not only of this particular battle with Sihon, the Amorite king; he also reminds them of Og, king of the Amorites. We now turn our focus to that particular king, Og, that Moses is reminding them about, and of that great battle when the Lord went before them and they got the victory over the evil inhabitants of the land at that time.

Deuteronomy 3:1-3

Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, him and all his people, to battle at Edrei. And the LORD said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining.

By the way, Og, king of Bashan, was a giant! Remember, 40 years earlier Israel had failed, turned on Moses, and turned on God because they were afraid of the

giants. Ten spies came back and described the giants as being a mighty people, people they could not defeat.

All the spies, except for Caleb and Joshua, reported that they were just grasshoppers in comparison to those giants in that day. These were the giants that they were talking about here in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 3:3-8, 11

So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining. And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwallied towns a great many. And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city. But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves. And we took at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that was on this side Jordan, from the river of Arnon unto Mount Hermon,

For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? Nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.

Sixty cities, folks, sixty! And the bedstead of Og was about 13 ½ feet tall by 6 feet wide. Some think this is his coffin that's described here. Whether it is a bed or a coffin, it was for a giant.

In Deuteronomy 31, Moses reminds the children of Israel of how God led them, went before them, and gave them the victory over evil people, evil nations, and the giants that they were so afraid of 38 years prior, and before whom they had thought they were just grasshoppers in comparison. Moses reminds them in Deuteronomy 31:4 that God had brought them through this and had exterminated them. Moses reminds them that God did it; they were just the vessels that He used to accomplish what He wanted to accomplish.

Deuteronomy 31:5

And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.

A lot of you are facing giants tonight. Whatever your giant is: it could be finances; it could be employment; it could be relationship problems, whatever, you put your own face on it. You could sit back, complain, and be bitter about it, or you can do what God tells you to do, what God is expecting you to do, and what God wants you to do. God's wants us to trust, obey, and faith in His word then He will fulfill His promises, and give you the victory over whatever giants you are facing. I guarantee that throughout your whole life, at one time or another, you are going to be facing giants. I face them all the time, but I remind myself of the five principles, which I am going to lay out to you this evening. These principles that applied in the Old Testament still apply in the New Testament when it comes to this specific subject. What are those principles?

Five principles to facing your giants victoriously

Deuteronomy 31:6.

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

- 1 Be strong.
- 2 Just have courage.
- 3 Fear not.
- 4 Nor be afraid.
- 5 Neither be dismayed.

God's Word puts it beautifully together. You just have to remember these five principles the next time you are facing your giants.

Principle 1: Be strong

Yes, be strong! I could reflect back to the teachings I did in the Spiritual Warfare series. How did I start that series? Be strong in the Lord. Eph 6:10. Be strong in the Lord! That is what it is saying here to do, to be strong. We're told in Eph 6 to be strong *in the Lord* and in the power of *His might*. You mean it is not in my own strength. No, it is not! We are to be strong in the Lord and in His power, and the dynamic explosive nature of God will be released if we just trust in him. In addition, by His power the victory is just around the corner. Sometimes it takes longer to see it or even obtain it, but nevertheless, the command is still there to be strong. We have the luxury of looking back to the New Testament, which at this time in Deut 31 was not available to them because Christ had not yet come, where it says we are to be strong in the power of His might. How are you going to be part of the dynamic explosiveness of God's nature? By faithing that the Holy Spirit the comforter knows what you need in whatever circumstances you are facing at that time. So, 'Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His dynamic explosive nature to handle your situation.'

Principle 2: And of good courage.

Be courageous folks! You need courage to face your giants! You need to have courage, and you need to have the good type of courage. What is the good type of courage? Trusting in God and His word even though the giants are still in front of you. It is one thing to be strong. It takes courage to face your giants and have faith God is there with you. I can't make it any simpler than that. It takes guts to keep hanging in there and *faithing*, I want to say believing but *faithing* is better, that God's Word is true.

I have seen so many Christians throughout my lifetime, especially in my early

years. Oh, they are converted and they love the experience! However, as soon as hard times come upon them they are gone and fall by the wayside. The devil plants the thought, “No way, God loves me; God would not want anything bad to happen to me.” How else is He going to train and refine you? How else is He going to complete you unless you have some tribulation? Trials and tribulations will do one of two things - you will be distancing yourselves away from God, or you will be drawing closer to Him and His Word. There is no middle ground. You run either as far as you can away from God’s Word or you are pressing closer, faithing that He is not a man to lie, and that He will take care of you because that is His promise. That is His promise that He will never leave you nor forsake you. It takes guts to have courage.

Principle 3: Fear not.

Don’t be fearful. Fear not, I will help thee. That is the cornerstone message of this ministry. If you don’t have a copy of that message request it and we will send it to you. Then once you get it apply it here. Don’t be afraid. Be strong, be of good courage, and fear not. Don’t be fearful.

Principle 4: Nor be afraid of them.

The Hebrew makes it very clear – ‘Don’t tremble. Don’t become terrified.’ Whatever you are experiencing, whatever giant faces you, don’t let it make you tremble, don’t let it bring you to a point where you are terrified and you just give up. Be strong, be courageous, fear not, nor be afraid of them. Write it down if you have to. You might be a giant the way I observe you, but to God you are nothing more than a pissant. He will exterminate you because He has my benefit constantly on His mind.

If I keep faithing, if I keep being strong, and if I have the courage to believe

God's Word is true, then I will not fear any giant that is facing me, tremble, or be terrified in their presence. Like I said, you put the name of the giant that is facing you tonight and apply these principles to that circumstance.

Principle 5: Neither be dismayed.

Don't let your heart be shattered or broken. I wrote that down in my Bible because that is closer to what the Hebrew words means there. Don't let your heart be shattered or broken! There might be a time where the giants seem like they have you on the run and they have the upper hand, but don't let your heart become shattered or broken because the tide's going to turn.

Two promises for facing your giants victoriously:

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Promise 1: He will not fail thee

We have in verse 6, "Be strong, of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid, for the Lord thy God he it is that doth go with thee, he will not fail thee nor forsake thee." Does that sound familiar? Jesus said He would never leave us nor forsake us. Let's take a closer look at "He will not fail thee nor forsake thee." Circle that word 'fail.' The best translation you are going to find in the Hebrew is "He will not let you sink." He will not let you sink!

Promise 2: He will not forsake thee

The best translation from the Hebrew for the word 'forsake' is He will not let you

go. He will not forsake you!

Fast forward to the New Testament; you already know the story of Peter walking on water. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he was not going to sink. However, as soon as he put his eye on the circumstances around him – the roaring seas, the high winds, the realization of, “How in the world am I going to do this?” – It broke faith in Jesus! It broke the trust that he had in his Lord that the Lord would make sure he would not sink if he just kept focusing on him. What happened when he started placing his eyes on the circumstances and took his eyes off Jesus? He sank, and he sank quickly! And what did Jesus do after Peter cried out? The Lord stretched out His arm to grab hold of him so he would not sink, and He would not let go of Peter until he was safe. Peter is now back to relying on Christ, and Christ only, to see him through the circumstances that he allowed himself to be in. He was fine while he was walking on the water, but as soon as he put his eyes on the circumstances around him, he sunk. It says that in the Old Testament, and it says that it in the New Testament too – He will not let you sink or he will not leave thee. A better translation in the Hebrew is, ‘He will not let you go.’ And He did not let Peter go until he was safe back on that boat. He will not let us go!

We have to remind ourselves of these 5 principles that I have presented to you this evening from the book of Deuteronomy chapter 31. I gave you the history that Moses was trying to lay down to the children of Israel so they could remember, as they were heading now toward the Promised Land and their battles were far from over. They would have to continue conquering the land and overturning the nations established there, and claim back, what God had promised to Abraham and beyond.

Moses reminded them – Be strong, be of good courage, fear not, or be afraid (or tremble, or be terrified), and don’t be dismayed (don’t let your heart be shattered or broken). It is going to take faith to apply all five of those principles that God is

expecting from us. When we apply those principles with faith in His Word (we have a lot more than the children of Israel had then) He will make sure that we won't sink, and He will not let us go because His promise is that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Please go to Hebrews 13 and remind yourself, once again, that He will never leave us nor forsake us! Paul also says in Hebrews, "Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever."

I am claiming these promises – He will not allow me to sink; He will not let go of me; and He will not leave me! Put your own name in it tonight, whoever you are. Be strong, be courageous, and fear not. Don't be afraid, or as it is said in the Hebrew, don't be terrified or tremble. And don't be dismayed. Don't let your heart be shattered or broken. Whatever giants you face in your life, whether you have a giant you are facing now or one in the future, apply these five principles and I guarantee you will stay in the faith.

When we focus our faith in Christ, and in God's Word, and doing what He has commanded us to do when we face those giants, our promise is He will never let us sink; He will not let us fail; He will never forsake us; He will never let go of us; and He will never leave us. That's what I am claiming – not only this evening but in the future as I face the giants, as this ministry faces the giants! Let us face the giants together knowing that God's Word is true and Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

You just have to be faithful and stay focused in the faith. However, if you do drift, reach out to God, and start all over again. I guarantee you it is going to happen to you folks, but start all over again and remind yourself that you have to be strong, not in *my* might but in *His* might. I am going to have the courage to live out my life of faith trusting in His Word, and I will not fear the giants. Those giants will shrink, as depicted in a movie from yesteryears, "Honey, I shrunk the kids." Here normal human beings are shrunk to the size of ants when rays from the shrinking machine hit them. When shrunk, everything of normal size seemed

giant-like to them. I feel that way sometimes. Everything around me seems so large, so overwhelming, things that can make me fearful, things that could make one tremble and be terrified. Well, that's not what God wants. He wants us to be strong; be of good courage; fear not; nor be afraid; and not be dismayed. Don't let your heart be shattered. Once you put your eyes back on Christ, you will realize that He will not let you sink, and He will not let you go until you are back on safe terrain.

As you go through life facing your giants, face your giants with the five principles I taught you tonight, and claim the 2 promises that God has given us in His Word – not just in the Old Testament but also in the New Testament. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. That's why I am hanging on to His Word, and that's what I am claiming this evening. I hope that you will do the same.

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