

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

James M. Duncan, Pastor  
October 27, 2019

### When Challenging Giants, We Must Overcoming The Grasshopper Syndrome

Numbers 13:25-33; Numbers 13-14



We all from time to time will face difficult giants in our lives. And as you know, there are in life optimists and pessimists. **OPTIMISTS** focus on what can be; possibilities, opportunities, and potential. **PESSIMISTS** on the

other hand tend to focus on problems, obstacles and potential doom.

In 1858 a scientific expedition passed through what we now call the Grand Canyon. A young lieutenant by the name of Ives made this entry in his report:

Note that twelve of the men were each from a different tribe, thus each was from a different background. Each man reported not only what was, but also his opinion of what was. **Here is a summary of the attitudes of the followers**, and when we are facing giants in our lives, we often have the same attitude as these men did:

- The *"I'm scared, let's not try it"* attitude – 13:27-28
- The *"I already know I can't do it"* viewpoint – 13:31
- The *grasshopper syndrome* - 13:33

But here is what the **Optimist** leaders had to say:

- The heart of vision* -13:30
- The heart of faith* -14:8

Which attitude do you suppose they adopted? The negative or the positive? You guessed it! The negative is just so much easier to accept.

First, they cried - 14:1

Next, they complained - 14:2

This led to imagining the worst possible scenario - 14:3a

Finally, they just gave up - 14:3b

Now here is what I would call the path to defeat when we are challenging giants. There is a path to defeat and there is a path to victory. **Here is how the path to defeat works.**

- (1) **Decide to stand still**
- (2) **Exaggerate the difficulty of your situation**
- (3) **Forget how big God is and focus on how big the enemy is.**
- (4) **Expect the worst**
- (5) **Act small**
- (6) **Tell yourself that other people feel the same way as you do.**

The terms **FOCUSED**, **FAITHFUL**, and **FINISHERS** describe the leadership traits of Joshua and Caleb as they were challenged by the giants. These three important attributes will also empower your life if you adopt them with enthusiasm.

What are we going to do when facing and challenging our own giants? Are we going to be paralyzed by fear or are we going to believe God that we are *"... more than conquerors through Him who loved us."* (**Rom.8:37**) Are we going to stand on the **Word and God** and the **Promise of God** who said; *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (**Phil. 4:13**) Let's not be guilty of getting the **"Grasshopper Syndrome"** when facing and challenging giants in our lives.