

Power: Be Strong and Courageous

(Numbers 13:26-33, 14:6-9)

3rd in a 4 part series entitled:

Joshua: Strong and Courageous

November 15th, 2015

Something to think about:

When we neglect the power we've been given by God, we live life stalled out. This is what happened to the Israelites after the 12 spies came back to give a report of the Promised Land. 10 of the spies looked only at their lack of power and personal resources to inhabit the land that God had promised them, but two men, Joshua and Caleb, knew that God would see them through.

You see, the problem was, there were "giants" in the land that God had promised them, and the people became so afraid of losing the battle to inhabit the land that they preferred to live life wandering around in the wilderness.

Let's pick up Joshua's story here today...

Read along: Numbers 13:26-33, 14:6-9 (NLT)

Joshua and Caleb put their hope in something, in Someone, greater than themselves. The other ten spies put all their worth in themselves. When faced with a challenge too great to overcome through personal might and strength the ten faltered, but Joshua and Caleb knew the source of their strength was in God and God alone!

Today we're going to be looking at "POWER"...

Putting

Our

Worth in the

Everlasting

Rock

God is the only true source of everlasting strength and courage, and all that we need for life's struggles and challenges. In order to have this POWER that only comes from God there are two things we need to do...

1. Give up control

In order to move forward with God's plans, we have to learn to give up control. God can't do anything with us until we learn this lesson. Giving up control means relinquishing our wills, desires, and lives to God; it means submitting ourselves completely and totally to Him. And until we do this... we wander in the wilderness of our own short-comings, insecurities, and self-doubts.

2. Take up the challenge

As He did with the Israelites, He still does with you and me today; He calls us into the Promised Land of hope and salvation expecting us to rise to the challenge. And He always provides the power!

Something to take home:

Always remember...

Luke 18:27 (NIV), "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

NOTES:



North Main Exists to...

“Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:

- Know** Christ intimately,*
- Grow** in Christ continually, and,*
- Go** for Christ daily;*

Through:
Core Families,
Community Partnerships, and
Global Connections.

JOSHUA

STRONG AND COURAGEOUS



LESSON 3:
“POWER: BEING STRONG AND COURAGEOUS”

Power: *Being Strong and Courageous*

(Numbers 13-14)

3rd in a 4 part series entitled: *Joshua: Strong and Courageous*

KICK STARTERS:

- What is your definition of “power”?
- Name some sources of power that come to mind?
- What happens when there is no power source for something that needs power?

SCRIPTURE:

Numbers 13:26-33, 14:6-9 (NIV)

²⁶ They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 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. ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

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."

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." ...

... ^{14:6} 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."

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. After reading the passages for today's discussion, what is your initial reaction to what's going on in the text?

2. What do you think was the defining difference between the 10 spies who dissented and the 2 that did not?

3. For the believer in Christ, God is *the* "Source" of power. What happens to the believer in Christ whose source of power and strength is *not* God?

4. Brandon mentioned in the message this week that in order to receive God's power and strength that we must learn to "give up control." Would you agree or disagree with this statement? Why, or why not?

5. Why is it so difficult for us to give up control and allow God to have ultimate in and through our lives?

6. Brandon also mentioned in the message this week that in order to have the power of God within us we must be willing to take up the challenge He calls us to? What are some common challenges people face? How does God call us to rise to the challenges we face?

7. As we consider the challenges that *seemed* to face the Israelites in coming into the Promised Land, what are some lessons we can learn from the way that the 10 spies handled those challenges?

8. As we consider the challenges that *seemed* to face the Israelites in coming into the Promised Land, what are some lessons we can learn from the way that the Joshua and Caleb handled those challenges?

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ What are some areas of your life that you haven't given God complete control of yet? Why are you holding back in allowing God to have control of those areas?
- ⇒ What are some challenges you're facing right now, and how is God calling you to deal with them? Have you fully surrendered yourself to rising to the challenges that you're facing? If not, why not?