

**Breaking Through Enemy Lines - Part 1 - Breakthrough Series
Grace Fellowship - January 31, 2016 - Pastor Deborah Oakley**

I want to begin today by asking you two questions.
What are the promises of God for your life?
And what is hindering you from possessing them?

You see unless you know God's promises for your life you won't be motivated to possess them. And in order to possess God's promises you need to breakthrough whatever is hindering you.

We are in a series called Breakthrough and today I am preaching on - Breaking Through Enemy Lines.

Last week Pastor Joe talked about the Children of Israel coming to the Promised Land. He talked about how the first thing they experienced was Jericho. Jericho was the enemy's fortress.

So no sooner did the Children of Israel come into their promised land than they had to fight their enemy. Yes, God had given them the land but now they had to go in and take it.

It's the same way with us today. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

Yes, God gives promises – but they are not automatically received. We must possess them. You see the giving is God's part. The taking is our part.

In 1 Timothy 1:18 Paul reminded Timothy of the prophetic promises he had received that *by them you may wage the good warfare.*

- We want the blessing with out the battle.
But without the battle there will be no blessing!
- We want the promise without having to possess it.
- We want the future without having to fight for it.
- We want to win without a war.

But in Deuteronomy 1:8 God said:

See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land.

That doesn't mean you waltz right it without a fight. The Hebrew word for possess used here means "to occupy by driving out previous tenants and seizing their place."

We forget that the entire Promised Land was occupied by enemies. Remember how the Children of Israel sent spies into the land before they occupied it. Listen to what the spies said in Numbers 13:32-33 when they returned:

The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.

Numbers 13:28 says

But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large.

Numbers 13:31 says

We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.

During the conquest of The Promised Land the Children of Israel had to defeat 31 Kings and 7 nations. BUT GOD had a plan to defeat them.

Deuteronomy 7:21-24 says

Do not be terrified... for the LORD your God... is a great and awesome God. The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. He will give their kings into your hand...

God's plan promises God's participation. We have a part but we also have a partner. He is our mighty warrior, our strong tower, our ever present help. He is the Lord of the breakthrough.

But we must realize that we have an enemy and he doesn't want us to come to our promised land of blessing. But God is bigger than our enemy.

1 John 4:4 says

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

God is greater than Satan. And God wants to bless us. God wants to give us good things. Our Promised Land is full of blessings! In the Promised Land your family is restored, everyone is getting along, your problems are solved, your job is great, your dreams come true.

Listen to what the Bible says about the Promised Land:

It was a fruitful and wealthy land.

Deut. 11:9 says it was *a land flowing with milk and honey.*

It had vineyards abundant in grapes, pomegranates, and figs. One cluster of grapes could weigh 10 to 12 pounds. When the spies returned from surveying the land they brought back grapes so big and heavy that they hung them on a bar that took two people to carry.

It is also a land where bread was not scarce and no one lacked anything. Scripture says God cares for this land and His eyes are continually on it.

Joshua 24:13 says

I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.

Joshua 22:6-8 says

When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them, saying, "Return to your homes with your great wealth-with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron, and a great quantity of clothing..."

The Promised Land was a land of: great wealth, silver and gold, houses to live in without having to build them, vineyards to eat from without having to plant them, and a lack for nothing.

Now all Israel had to do was cross over the Jordan and *everything was theirs*. Well not exactly.... *Everything was theirs*, but they had to fight to get it. The Promised Land was everything they could hope for EXCEPT for the enemies who wanted to keep them out, and utterly destroy them.

So with that in mind - let's take a look at the enemies in the land. Deuteronomy 7:1-2 says

When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations--the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you-- and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally.

Each of these nations represents an enemy in the Land of Promise that we must defeat. The Children of Israel had to defeat them and we must overcome the same enemies today. To defeat them we must understand them. To understand them we will examine the meaning of their names.

Names in the Bible were indicative of character so a study of these names will give us insight into how each of these spirits operates.

The first enemy is.... The Hittite Spirit

The word Hittite means “to prostrate” or to break down by violence and fear. The Hittites were a powerful, warlike nation.

Have you noticed that our society grows more violent every day? All you have to do is turn on Fox news or CNN and you’ll notice...kidnappings, high school shootings, self mutilation, and terrorism. These manifestations of the Hittite spirit are obvious. But there is a more subtle attack that isn’t so obvious.

Think about how terrorists operate today. They don’t have to blow something up – they can just threaten to and entire cities are immobilized with fear. That’s how the Hittite spirit attacks us today. It plants fear in our minds. And it might sound like this:

“I’ll never receive God’s promises.”
 “God isn’t going to heal me.”
 “I just don’t have enough faith.”
 “God won’t bless me.”

This spirit is a nagging, accusing spirit that wars within us.

One of the biggest fears I’ve struggled with is fear of failure. Especially when it comes to preaching. I was so afraid I would never be a good preacher. Studying was really hard for me and I was so afraid my messages wouldn’t be good. So I would study really hard only to end up feeling like I didn’t do a good job. I began to doubt myself and God’s call on my life. I would think things like... “I just don’t have what it takes.” I had a terrible fear of failure. I had days where I just wanted to give up.

This is how the Hittite Spirit works. It uses fear to break us down so we give up. It wants us to breakdown in fear instead of breaking through in faith.

But I didn’t give up. Instead, I turned to the word of God. 1 John 4:18 says

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

I claimed 1 Corinthians 9:16

When I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

It has taken a lot of courage for me to overcome this spirit of fear.

Joshua 1:8-9 says:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

What does it mean to be courageous? Some people think it's the absence of fear. But it's not.

I have a sister who was afraid of flying. She flew one time and swore she would never fly again. Anywhere she traveled she would take a bus. When she came to Dallas it would take her 31 hours on a Greyhound bus to get here. Then it took her 31 hours to get home. She hated it but she was terrified of flying.

Many years ago Cathy became a believer in Jesus Christ. Since that time she conquered her fear of flying. When I asked her what changed she told me that now if the plane crashed she knows where she was going.

I told her I was so proud of her for being so courageous. But she didn't think she was courageous. So I asked her why she thought that. Her reply was "Because I'm still afraid."

Then I told her – "Cathy – being courageous doesn't mean you're not afraid. It means you do the thing that you are afraid of doing."

You see courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is choosing to break through your fear in the face of pain, danger, or uncertainty. Joyce Meyer says "Do it afraid." Courage is the ability to face scary things without giving in to fear.

Several years ago my sister became a grandmother for the first time. Every few months she flies to Michigan to see her grandson. If she hadn't faced her fears she would have missed out on this blessing.

What blessings are you missing because of fear? I encourage you today to face your fears and defeat the Hittite Spirit.

The next enemy in the Promised Land is: The Amorite Spirit.

The Amorites were the largest enemy Israel had to conquer. However this had nothing to do with their size. The word Amorite means "boasting of self, challenging, demanding and speaking against." The root word means "to say."

The Amorite spirit doesn't dominate by numbers, it dominates by speech. It knows that if it has our tongue - it has us. James 3:5-6 says

Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person.

Proverbs 10:19 says *When words are many, sin is not absent.*

Backbiting, gossip, and speaking against authority, are all tactics of this spirit. It knows that prideful, lying, boastful tongues cannot break through.

Although the Amorites were the largest enemy Israel had to conquer, Israel didn't realize it. As a matter of fact after spying out the land, Israel didn't think they needed all their forces to defeat the Amorites. So they only sent a portion of their troops to battle. But they were wrong. The Amorites chased them and struck them down.

A primary tactic of the Amorite spirit is to get us to underestimate it. It doesn't want us to realize the power of our words. It will convince us that it's not that *big of a deal* what we say. But....

Words have the power to hurt. Words have the power to heal.
Words have the power to destroy. Words have the power to build.
Words can kill. Words can give life.

Proverbs 18:21 says *Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*

God spoke the universe into existence with words. Jesus overcame the enemy by speaking the word of God. Over and over He said, "It is written."

There is power in speaking the word of God. Romans 10:8 says

The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming.

What are you proclaiming?
Are your words words of faith? Or words of doubt?
Are they words that build up? Or words that tear down?

What you say is important! Yet the Amorite spirit wants to convince you otherwise. It wants you to hurt and slander others by spreading false reports or gossip.

Every weapon our enemy uses against us involves words: words of temptation or condemnation or accusation. In fact, one of the names of Satan is accuser. Do you know what this means? When we accuse another person falsely, we are being used by the devil. James 3:9-11 says

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Not only do our words impact others, our words determine our destiny. Did you know that you can know God's will for your life and never accomplish it because of the words of your mouth?

Some people believe God for good things but never receive them. Our tongues can further God's purpose or hinder it.

Everything that Almighty God is trying to accomplish in and through us can be established or destroyed by what comes out of our mouths!

Prov. 12:14 says *From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things.*

I mentioned earlier my fear of failure concerning preaching. One of the things that caused a lot of my fear was the things I would say. I would say things like... "I'm never going to be a good preacher." Or "This is just too hard." But my fear of failure began to change when I started speaking the word of God.

Many of you are facing situations you need to break through. I challenge you today to make a list of Bible based confessions and begin speaking them every day. I also challenge you to stop speaking negative words.

If you want to breakthrough into the Promised Land you must defeat the fear-based Hittite Spirit and the evil-speaking Amorite Spirit.

Deuteronomy 1:8 says

See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land.

So don't give up on the promises of God in your life.
Don't let fear or speaking evil steal your breakthrough.

You can and you will breakthrough!
You can defeat the enemy with the word of God!
You can overcome fear with faith!
You can win the battle in the name of Jesus!
You can live in the Land of milk and honey!
You can enjoy the wealth of God's blessings!
You can feast on the goodness of the Lord!

So right now I'm giving the enemy an eviction notice:
Devil, you are defeated and it's time for you to leave.

You have no right to our Promised Land so take your fear and your schemes and your lies and loose the promises of God over our lives.

Right now you will loose:
Our church, our families, our finances, our health,
and our Promised Land of break through and blessings in Jesus name!