

Breaking Through Enemy Lines Part 2 – Breakthrough Series
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Grace Fellowship Church - February 14, 2016

Several years ago I read a book called *The Sinking of the Titanic*. The book tells how over 1,600 people died in this disaster at sea. But here's the thing...it could have been avoided.

The problem was that the Titanic was not well equipped for a disaster. One major problem was a shortage of lifeboats. The problem was that these lifeboats would have had to be stored on the promenade – but the owners didn't like how that looked. They wanted a promenade that was luxurious and comfortable... And it cost them their lives.

The passengers were promised a trip across the ocean, but many did not make it. All because they were not prepared and the ship was not properly equipped.

Some of us are just like the passengers of the Titanic. We are unprepared and ill equipped to face the dangers ahead. 1,635 passengers died on the Titanic. They never reached their destination. But God wants us to reach our destination.

He has given us a destiny and promises for our future, but they are not automatically ours. We must be equipped and prepared for battle if we are to possess God's promises.

In my last sermon we looked at the amazing Promised Land God gave to Israel. It was a land of: Great wealth, houses to live in that they didn't build, vineyards to eat from that they didn't plant, and a lack for nothing.

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. As great as the land was, the Children of Israel still had to possess it, which meant they had to drive out 31 Kings and 7 nations.

Deuteronomy 7:1-2

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.

We are in a series titled "Breakthrough." Each of these seven nations represents the enemies we have to defeat to breakthrough to our promises. Two weeks ago we looked at two of the enemy strongholds and today I'm preaching part 2 of *Breaking through Enemy Lines*.

The First enemy was The Hittite Spirit.

This spirit uses fear to break us down so we can't break through. We overcome this spirit by having courage. Courage doesn't mean the absence of fear it means we do it afraid.

The Second enemy is The Amorite Spirit.

This spirit tries to get us to speak negative words. We overcome this spirit by speaking the word of God. I suggest you get the CD from Jan. 31st so you can really understand these enemies and how to overcome them.

Today we begin with the third enemy which is:

The Girgashite Spirit

In Part 1 of this message we learned that in order to defeat our enemies 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 exposes how each of these spirits operates.

So let's look at the meaning of the name Girgashite. It means Clay Dwellers. Clay refers to the earth. Which refers to "earthliness" or "worldliness." This enemy wants to get our focus on earthly or worldly things. It wants us to focus on things that are temporal instead of things that are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18 says

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

This enemy wants us to focus on what we can see instead of having faith in what we cannot see. That's totally opposite of what the Bible teaches us in Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

The Girgashite spirit wants us to put our faith in what we can see. When we do that... these things can become idols in our lives. We also know that the Girgashites built idols in the land.

An idol is a false god. It is extreme devotion to something or someone other than God. Idolatry is putting people or things before God. Common idols in America are things like:

- Money- No matter how much money we make it's never enough.

- Things – No matter how much stuff we have it's never enough.

Other things like food, sex and entertainment can be idols. None of these things are bad in themselves – only when they take first place in our lives!

So how do we break free of these idols? God told the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 7:5

This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones... burn their idols in the fire.

God wants to give us a break through so we can break free of idolatry. We must put God back in His rightful place in our lives. There is one and only one place for God. First place! That means we must get serious about dealing with our idols.

- We could put away our credit cards and spend less money.
- We could choose to watch less TV and instead read our Bible.
- We could refuse to join a sports team that competes on Sundays.
- We could end relationships that draw us away from God.

Whatever it takes to put God first! Destroying our idols and having faith are the solutions to the Gergashite Spirit.

The Fourth enemy is The Canaanite Spirit.

All the people dwelling in the Promised Land of Canaan were Canaanites. You see, a Canaanite spirit affects us all.

The word Canaan has a double meaning. The first meaning is to humiliate, to bring down low, to subdue. This enemy wants to subdue us and bring us down so low that we never break through to our Promised Land.

The second meaning of the word Canaan is merchant or trafficker. Canaanites made their living as merchants. Hosea 12:7 says:

The merchant uses dishonest scales; he loves to defraud.

The word here for “merchant” is the word “Canaan.” So we see that the Canaanites were dishonest merchants and traffickers.

Webster's Dictionary defines a trafficker as a person who trades in illegal goods. A trafficker trades one thing for another.

Ezekiel 28:18 tells us that Satan was a trafficker.

By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries.

If we put it all together we conclude that the Canaanite Spirit brings us down by convincing us to trade one thing for another. It wants us to trade our privileges in God for Satan's counterfeits.

Remember the story of Jacob and Esau. Esau traded his birthright for a pot of stew. He gave up his promised land for a bowl of meat and potatoes. He forfeited a life time of blessing for a moment's gratification.

What trades have you made with the enemy?

- What privileges have you traded for Satan's counterfeits?
- What promises have you traded for Satan's lies?
- What birthright have you traded for a pot of stew?

Here are some of the things we trade:

- Prayer and Bible Study for our favorite TV shows.
- Good Stewardship for self indulgence.
- A clear conscience for the pleasures of sin.

So how do we get free of this spirit? In the book of Joshua the Children of Israel were defeated by their enemy. As a result, Joshua cried out to the Lord. Here's God's reply in Joshua 7:10-13

Israel has sinned... That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies...I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction... You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it.

The items devoted to destruction are referring to the plunder that the Children of Israel hid in their tents after the battle of Jericho. God told them to destroy every thing that belonged to the enemy and they disobeyed.

The Canaanites were able to defeat them because of hidden sin. The only way to conquer our enemy is to remove the hidden sin from our lives. I encourage you today that if you have hidden sin in your life you find a trusted person and confess it. We can be sure our sins will find us out because Luke 12:2 tells us...

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

You don't have to trade your inheritance for a pot of stew. You can have all of the Promised Land that you want. Joshua 1:3 says

Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you.

The Fifth enemy is The Perizzite Spirit.

The name Perizzite refers to an inhabitant of an open country or people who dwell in unwalled villages. The word comes from a root word meaning to separate. The Perizzites were nomads. They wanted to be “free to wander” without responsibility or accountability to a community.

The Perizzite spirit is alive a well in the church today. You will recognize this spirit in people who go from church to church never committing to one body. They are hesitant to commit to a church and they feed on messages they hear from one conference to another. They are more connected outside the church than inside the church. They “separate” themselves from the local body and as a result they are un-walled, unprotected and immature.

Ephesians 4:14-16

Then we will no longer be infants... we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love...

Growth comes by being joined to the body. You won't breakthrough by wandering from church to church. You must find where God wants you to be planted and stay there. You see, Church is not just a place you go to. Church is a family you belong to. As part of God's family, you have a place to belong.

Choosing to get planted where you belong overcomes the wandering Perizzite spirit.

The Sixth enemy is The Hivite Spirit.

The Hivites were an enemy that seemed peace loving. As a matter of fact, their name means “life-giver”. They were a family oriented people that avoided war. They seemed so “good” that it was hard to see them as an enemy.

For fear of being destroyed by Israel the Hivites pretended they were from a far-away land. They even had worn out sacks and old wine skins to make it look like they had traveled a long way. They let Joshua sample their provisions and told him they were his servants.

They must have been really convincing because Joshua had no clue that this tribe was an enemy. So Joshua made an alliance with them that violated the command of God not to make a covenant with the enemies in the land.

One of the most popular TV shows for over a decade is Survivor. For one month a group of people live on an island and compete for a million dollars. These individuals form separate tribes that want to OUT WIT, OUT LAST AND OUT PLAY each other.

One of the main strategies of the game is to make alliances with each other. The problem is no one ever knows who they can trust. Everyone lies and deceives and will say or do anything to win the game. They never know who their friend is and who their enemy is.

The very ones that promised allegiance are the ones that turn on them. Yet, almost everyone makes alliances and in the end these alliances usually cost them a million dollars.

In our walk with God there will be enemies that want to deceive us into an unholy alliance. Many times these enemies seem like friends. But in the end they will turn on you.

Sometimes it's hard to discern who we can trust. Obviously Joshua wasn't able to discern wisely. But Joshua 9:14-15 helps explain why Joshua could be deceived.

The men of Israel sampled their provisions (this is referring to the Hivites) but did not inquire of the LORD. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live...

Joshua was deceived into an unholy alliance because he didn't seek the Lord. Prayer and discernment are our protection from the Hivite spirit.

The Seventh enemy is The Jebusite Spirit.

The word Jebusite comes from the root word meaning "to trample" or treading down under foot. This spirit wants to trample on your hopes and dreams. It wants to bring you down and discourage you.

To be discouraged means to deprive of courage, hope or confidence. When this happens we can lose heart. To lose heart means to stop believing you can succeed. In 2 Cor. 4:16 Paul said,

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing our inward man is being renewed day by day.

The phrase "lose heart" means to unstring a bow for lack of seeing any game. Many times on the path of life we get discouraged and lose heart because:

We aren't seeing any fruit.

We aren't seeing answers to prayer.

We aren't seeing our dreams come true.

So we unstring our bow.

We lose heart.

We shrink back.

Our hope is gone.

And that is exactly what the Jebusite spirit wants. It wants us to unstring our bow...to lose sight of our breakthrough, our promised land of blessing, and our destiny. It wants to wear us out so we unstring our bow and stop fighting. Because as long as this enemy occupies our land we won't receive our blessings.

Do you know that the Children of Israel could not drive out the Jebusites from the land? You know why? Because of their endurance and tenacity. This enemy is the most tenacious enemy we will face. It drains our strength by appearing impossible to breakthrough.

Joseph had a vision from God that one day he would be a ruler. But first he was thrown in a pit, then he became a slave, and then he was put in prison.

But he stayed faithful to God even when circumstances seemingly contradicted everything. And in due time, because he didn't lose heart God took him from the prison to the palace where he ruled and reigned and fulfilled God's promises

I'm here today to tell you that you can breakthrough. The enemy wants you to unstring your bow. He wants you to be discouraged and hopeless. He wants you to shrink back - but listen to what God says about that in Hebrews 10:35-39

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

What discouraging situation are you facing today?
It could be an addiction to drugs or alcohol or sex.
It could be a weight problem.
It could be a chronic health problem.
It could be jealousy, rejection, fear or anger.

Regardless of what you're facing, don't give up!
Don't unstring your bow!
You can breakthrough:
The fear based Hittite Spirit
The evil speaking Amorite Spirit
The worldly and idolatrous Girgashite Spirit
The low-living Canaanite Spirit
The wandering Perizzite Spirit (Pear uh zight)
The deceptive Hivite Spirit (Hiv ight)
The discouraging Jebusite Spirit – IN JESUS' NAME!!