



REST  
PART TWO

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In the first part of this message we spoke about the twelve spies who went ahead of the people of Israel into the Promised Land. Of the twelve, only Joshua and Caleb brought back a good report of the land. Only those two wanted to believe God, encouraging the people to go up and take the land.

*The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. 18For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. 19When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance--all of which took about four hundred and fifty years. (Acts 13:17-19 NASB)* The events of the Old Testament serve as examples for us. God rescued His people from the slavery in which they lived in Egypt; similarly He rescued us from the slavery to sin in which we lived before coming to Christ. God brought His people to the Promised Land. In the same way He has brought us to the Promised Land. What is our Promised Land?

**Jesus Christ is our Promised Land.** When God told Israel, "I am giving you the Promised Land," the first thing they did was to send twelve spies into the land to thoroughly explore it. In the same way, we ought to explore our Promised Land, Jesus Christ, who God has given us.

Today, like a spy, I am going to give you a report on what is in our Promised Land. But I'll do it in the spirit of Joshua and Caleb, not like the ten unbelieving spies.

The Promised Land is **Jesus Christ**. In Him we have an **inheritance**. In Him we have **fellowship** with the Heavenly Father and with our other believers. In Him we have **abundant life**. In Him we have great **promises**. Let's take a brief look at these things.

*But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31That, according as it is written, He that glorifieth, let him glory in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:30-31 KJV)* **Jesus Christ** is the Promised Land. He is our wisdom. He is our justification. He is our sanctification. And He is our redemption. We depend on Him for all these things, not on ourselves. When Satan says to me, "You've failed so much," I respond, "I'm a saint, because Jesus Christ is my sanctification." When I'm burdened by decisions I need to make, I stop and remind myself, "Jesus is my wisdom. If I walk with Him, I'll have the wisdom I need." He is everything. He is all-sufficient. He is the Promised Land.

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)* In the Promised Land, which is Jesus Christ, we have **fellowship** with the Father. And with each other; because if I have fellowship with the Father, and you have fellowship with the Father and we're walking in that fellowship, we'll have fellowship with each other.

*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)* In Christ we have an inheritance of eternal, abundant life!

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that*

**JESUS  
IS ALL-  
SUFFICIENT**

by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:3-4) Through our knowing Christ, God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. The Promised land flowed with milk and honey. It was a fruitful land. In Christ there is milk, there is honey, there is fruit. God has given us everything we need to be able to live in this world having escaped from the corruption of Egypt. And He's given us His great and precious **promises**. The Bible is full of these promises; and by trusting in them, we take possession of the Promised Land.

**BUT LOOK AT  
ALL THE  
GIANTS IN MY  
SOUL!**

So, we have an inheritance in the Promised Land. **The Land is a good land.**

**W**hy didn't the Israelites want to go in? Due to their unbelief. Why didn't they want to believe? Because they saw giants, enemies, in the land. "Oh God, I want to go into the Promised Land, but there's giants in there. And they seem more powerful than me."

What are the giants for us? Problems. Persecutions. Satan with his attacks and temptations. He seems like a giant. He seems stronger than us at times. Fears. They can be very daunting. Opposition from relatives. Struggles and difficulties in our hearts or our circumstances. Seeming obstacles in the path to the fulfillment of God's promises in our life. All these things seem like giants in our way. And at times many of us are discouraged by that other huge giant: our failures and weaknesses.

We want to grow in Christ. We want to mature in Him. We want to walk in His entire good plan for our life. **But at times, faced with the giants, we find ourselves fearful and we don't want to believe.** We'd rather wait in the desert or go back to Egypt. Amen?

*Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.* (Jude 1:5) God destroyed the ones who didn't believe. At times we don't take possession of the Promised Land. We don't make it our own, because we don't believe. We don't believe because we don't want to face the giants. Faced with them, we prefer not to believe. "Oh God, You've promised me that You, who began this good work in me, will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. But look at all the giants in my soul! They make it almost impossible! Why even bother?" We've all felt like that at times. But like Joshua and Caleb we should say to ourselves, "Yes, I have weaknesses. And doubts. And difficult circumstances. And there's other giants that want to hinder God's work in my heart. But He's promised to complete the good work. So, trusting in Him I'm going to take the steps that He shows me. I'm going up and I'm going to continue taking the Promised Land. **I'm going to possess Christ.** I'm going to follow hard after Him so I can know Him. So I can experience His death and resurrection in my life. And so His purpose can be fulfilled in my life, because it's a good purpose. The Promised Land is a good land, and in spite of all the giants, God has promised to give it to us."

*Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.* (Hebrews 3:5-6 KJV) In your heart, are you confident, trusting in God? **You must hold fast your confidence until the end, whatever happens, whatever it costs.** And we must also rejoice in our hope. Moses was faithful as a servant, but Christ as a son. We want to serve God. We have to start with that. "I want to serve You, Lord. You've saved me. I'm indebted to You. I want to serve You." But having started there, we must mature until we realize that we're not just servants; we're sons. Just like Christ was a son. Moses was a servant, and he was faithful. Praise God. But Christ was a son who served His Father. And so are we. We're brothers of Jesus, sons of God.

*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)* (Hebrews 3:7-11 KJV) Notice that it says in verse 7, "Wherefore..." "Wherefore" we must listen to God's voice. Why? Because we're sons and for that reason we should listen to our Father's voice and not harden our hearts when He speaks to us. Like it says here, the Israelites hardened their hearts; they didn't want to believe or obey, so

God became angry with them and swore in His anger, "They will not enter into my rest." In other words, they would not enter the Promised Land. There's rest in Christ, isn't there? Christ is all-sufficient for us. If I say He's not enough for me, I am walking in unbelief and need to repent. There's rest in Him. There's rest in the fellowship we have with our Father. At times, when we feel weighed down with many concerns, glory to God that in our hearts we can know that we have a Father and we can cast our cares on Him. There's rest in the Promised Land. But these people didn't enter the Promised Land because they didn't want to believe.

**WE MUST  
BELIEVE AND  
KEEP ON  
BELIEVING**

*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.* (Hebrews 3:12) God's given us the gift of faith. If I believe, it's because He gave me faith. Even faith is a gift from God. But I have to put that faith to use. What's the point of receiving a gift if you don't use it; if you put it on a shelf to gather dust. We've received the gift of faith; and we must therefore walk in faith; **we must believe and keep on believing**. May God not find in any of us an evil heart of unbelief. We must choose to believe.

*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.* (Hebrews 3:13) Can you honestly say, "I'm so strong in Christ that I can't be deceived by sin"? I can't say that. Because it doesn't matter how many years we've walked with Christ, sin is very deceitful and Satan is always looking for ways to get us off track. He tried it with Jesus, the perfect Son of God, and he's going to keep trying it with us. We have a tendency to succumb to temptation at times, and that's why, like it says here, we need to be exhorted daily by other believers. We can't live the Christian life alone. I need my brothers and sisters in Christ to be encouraging me, exhorting me, "Peter, keep on trusting in God. Don't fall into the sin of unbelief. Peter, I know there are giants in our lives, but we're going up to possess the land, because God is with us!" Amen? We have the responsibility to exhort one another.

*For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end* (Hebrews 3:14) We're made partakers of who? Of Christ. Of the Promised Land, which is Christ. **If** we hold fast until the end the confidence that we had at the beginning. We must keep on believing.

**W**hile it is said, *To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. 16For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. 1Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.* (Hebrews 3:15-4:1) The author of Hebrews was not writing this to non-believers. He was writing to believers. And he says he fears because although as believers we have these promises in Christ, it's possible that won't go on to possess them. It's possible that we won't grow in our relationship with Christ in this life. So, he's talking to us. Reminding us that we must keep on believing. If we don't go on to take possession of the Promised Land, we are still saved because Christ is our salvation. But what an absolute pity it would be to get to the end of our life without having gone very far into the Promised Land. Having hung around on the banks of the river, in the entrance to the Promised Land, not having come to know Christ more. What a crying shame. I want to possess the Promised Land. Don't you?

*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.* (Hebrews 4:2) When God ministers something to us, we have to mix what we hear with faith. We have to believe and obey. When someone's preaching, giving a message from the Word of God, it does absolutely no good to hear it and not mix it with faith. We must believe. We must take possession of that word and make it our own.

*For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. 5And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. 6Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: 7Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. 8For if Joshua had given them*

rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. *9* There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. (Hebrews 4:3-9) In other words, Joshua brought God's people into the Promised Land. And in a sense that land was God's rest for them. But there's a better rest for us. David indicated this when centuries later he wrote in the Psalms, "Today if you hear His voice, don't harden your hearts." He was speaking of another rest. There's a rest for us which is wider and deeper than the rest into which Joshua led the people of Israel. Jesus brings us into God's rest for us. And God's rest for us IS Jesus! We have better promises than the ones which those who lived in the Old Testament had, because Jesus IS the promise! Glory to God! So, there remains a rest for us, the people of God. We must enter into that rest.

**HIS PRESENCE  
IS NOT AN  
EMOTIONAL  
EXPERIENCE.  
IT'S A  
SPIRITUAL  
REALITY.**

*F*or he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. (Hebrews 4:10) God rested on the seventh day. He blessed that day and set it apart because on that day He rested. God does not get tired, so why rest? This seventh day was a symbol, a shadow designed to point to the rest into which we can enter as we trust in the finished work of Christ. If the shadow was blessed, how much more the reality! We must always begin from a position of rest and fulfillment in Christ. Christ has already done the work. We are already saved and we are saints, in Him. He is already ours. We already have fellowship with Him and with the body of Christ. We're already in the Promised Land. We are complete in Him. The work is done!

*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief* (Hebrews 4:11) Speaking to believers, it says, "Let us labour to enter into that rest." The word, "labor" means to make an effort to achieve something. Here it means to strive to enter. The work is done, but there's something we have to do! We have to labor to possess and walk in what He has already given us. We have to labor so that our lives express what He has placed within us. We have to work out what He has worked in. Daily, we have to take up our cross and walk, in trust, obedience, and fellowship with Him!

Hence the rest of God is not a rest of inactivity. It's a rest of action, based on faith and trust in God. There's a lot to do, to conquer the Promised Land. This rest means that while we live and labor, in our hearts we are in a place of rest, peace and trust. By faith, we live in the presence of God. Amen?

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. *13* Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.* (Hebrews 4:12-13) Why does Hebrews talk about the Word of God at this point, right after speaking about laboring to enter the rest of God? I need God to speak to me through His word, to show me in which areas of my life I'm not walking in His rest. To show me what's lacking in my walk with Him. To show me what's getting in the way. What's hindering me from entering and taking possession of the Promised Land. I need the Word of God to speak to me in a very personal way so I can line my heart up with Him and walk in faith. And enter more and more into His rest. We all need that. Thank God that through His word, and through His Spirit, He speaks to us in a very personal way, "Son or daughter, you need to correct this thing in your heart, because in this area you're not walking with Me right. In this area you're not totally walking in My rest, depending on Me."

*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession *15* For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. *16* Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need* (Hebrews 4:14-16) Once again, this has to do with the rest of God. One aspect of this rest is the fellowship we have with the Father through the all-sufficient Jesus Christ.

Why don't we enter the presence of God every moment, dwelling at His throne of grace? Well, the Israelites didn't enter because of their unbelief. And we're guilty of the same thing at times. We don't believe. "Oh Lord, the giants. My failures. My weaknesses. My problems. My circumstances. My emotions. I can't enter the presence of God, because of

all that.” No. We must correct that attitude. We must believe. According to these verses, every moment we can approach the throne of grace. **We can live continually, every moment, in the presence of God.** We sin at times. We feel ashamed before God due to our weaknesses and failures. So, **even though the doors of the throne room of God are always open in Christ, we stay outside with our head hanging down.** We hesitate to enter because the giants of our weaknesses and failures and circumstances seem too strong. The accuser is there to accuse us before God. But we have an Advocate, a great High Priest; and He is greater than the one who is in the world.

I don’t have any holiness in myself. I just don’t have it. But Christ IS my sanctification. In Him, I’m a saint. In Christ I can come before God boldly. The giants of my failures and my problems have to move because by faith in Christ I enter the presence of God, not just from time to time, but I live in His presence by faith.

God doesn’t want us only to enter His presence in meetings. **He wants us to live in His presence.** “But,” you say to me, “That’s not possible for me. You don’t know me. I have so many problems and failures and wrongful thoughts and I just can’t.” Be quiet. Be quiet! **Jesus is sufficient.** He is your salvation, your sanctification, your redemption, your wisdom. He IS your entrance into the throne room of God and the presence of God! It’s He who lifts your head, say the Psalms. There we are, outside the presence of God with our head hanging down, but He comes and lifts our head and says, **“Enter. Live in My Presence.”** One thing have I required of the Lord, that I may dwell in His presence, in the house of the Lord for ever. I’m already living there. **I’m not waiting to get to heaven to be in His house; I already live in His house because He lives in me and I in Him,** and He lives in you also if you have accepted Christ. In Him we can live in the presence of God despite the giants. We must enter. We must live there by faith.

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.* (Hebrews 4:16)  
The Israelites didn’t enter the Promised Land because they didn’t believe. We are going to enter the Promised Land of Christ. We’re going to enter boldly and draw near to the throne of grace, our Father, and live in fellowship with Him by faith. It is there that we will find help. **His presence is not an emotional experience. It is a spiritual reality that is ours as we simply believe.**

**O** LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; nor do I involve myself in great matters, or in things too difficult for me. *2 Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child rests against his mother, my soul is like a weaned child within me. 3 O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forever.* (Psalm 131 NASB)

This child has eaten and is content. He’s a picture of the rest of God. How does God want us to respond in the face of the giants that we find in the Promised Land? The trials. The problems. Our weaknesses. Our failures. Persecutions. Difficulties in our soul or in our circumstances. How does He want us to respond? He wants us to walk in rest in our heart. Trusting in Jesus. And from there, taking the steps He gives us to take. He wants us to live by faith in His presence.

Verse 2 says, *I have composed and quieted my soul.* Our soul is part of our being. We are body, soul and spirit. God lives in our spirit, and our soul is our mind, our emotions and our will. It says here, “I have quieted my soul...” Not my spirit, but my soul. Our thoughts and emotions that scream out for us to pay attention to them. Our will, which vies with the will of God for our obedience. We’ve quieted and composed them in the presence of God. We’re trusting in Him. We’ve stopped listening to the twelve unbelieving spies and we’re listening to Joshua, to Caleb, to God who lives in our spirit. We’re listening to Him, quieting our soul and from there taking the steps of obedience that He asks of us. Like a child weaned from his mother, my soul is like a weaned child. My mind, my emotions and my will are like a weaned child.

A weaned child no longer depends totally on drinking milk directly from its mother. He can chew solid food. He has matured to the point of being able to eat at the appropriate time instead of crying out to his mother whenever he feels hungry. He’s still a child, and still needs the presence, protection and provision of his parents, but now a slightly more mature child. That’s how we should discipline and train our soul to be. The weaned child doesn’t need its parents to constantly speak calming words to him, because his growing

**GOD WANTS  
US TO LIVE IN  
HIS PRESENCE**

maturity has brought him to a new level of trust. When someone has recently accepted Christ, many times God will give him emotional experiences, rapid responses to prayer, signs and confirmations of His presence. But as he gets a little more mature, God doesn't give him so many confirming signs any more. He learns to trust that God is with him, even though he doesn't feel special emotions; even though he has to face giants. He learns to put his soul in order by lining it up with the Word of God. That is what trust means.

**W**hen the people of God heard the ten spies' bad news, they should have said, "Well, we've already seen that our God is able to bring about His plans. He's promised us the land of Canaan. Let's go up, trusting in Him." Like weaned children. If they'd acted like weaned children they would have taken the land.

*O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forever.* Trust in God. From time to time? No. From now and for ever. Like Joshua and Caleb. Despite the giants, let's trust. Living by faith in His presence, let's press on to conquer the Promised Land of knowing Christ. He is all sufficient!



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"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK"- JESUS  
(JOHN 7:37)