



Empowering People to Change the World

## **The Spirit of Breakthrough**

Steve Holt

## **“A Breakthrough Spirit” Deuteronomy 1 and Number 13**

Most of us are familiar with the story of the Israelites, coming out of bondage in Egypt, promised to be given the land of Canaan. That is why it is called the Promised Land.

Moses is recounting what happened as they came through a terrible wilderness. God gives the people an invitation to go in and take the land.

### **Deuteronomy 1:19-21**

***19 "So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the Lord our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea. 20 And I said to you, 'You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the Lord our God is giving us. 21 Look, the Lord your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.'***

- God is giving them the beautiful, abundant land of Israel.
- He is giving it but they must “possess” it.
- It is a Promised Land but they must possess it.

### **2 Corinthians 9:8**

***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.***

### **John 10:10**

***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***

- Jesus promises us an abundant life but there is a fight involved.
- As God’s children, like a parent, God gives us an invitation but we must fight for it, battle for it.
- Paul talked about “working out our salvation with fear and trembling.”

- **Philippians 3:12-14** Pressing for the prize

***12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***

### **Deuteronomy 1:22-25**

***22 And everyone of you came near to me and said, 'Let us send men before us, and let them search out the land for us, and bring back word to us of the way by which we should go up, and of the cities into which we shall come.' 23 The plan pleased me well; so I took twelve of your men, one man from each tribe. 24 And they departed and went up into the mountains, and came to the Valley of Eshcol, and spied it out. 25 They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us; and they brought back word to us, saying, 'It is a good land which the Lord our God is giving us.'***

- Moses sends out 12 men, leaders of each tribe, to spy out the land, and they return with news that the land is fertile and good.
- From this point, we observe two responses, two reactions, two “spirits” to God’s invitation.

#### **1. Breakthrough Spirit**

#### **2. Nevertheless Spirit**

- It is the exact same spirit all of us struggle with when God brings us to the invitation of a new supernatural life.
- A potential breakthrough in our life: we have decided to go after the supernatural miracle-filled life.
- Two responses—two spirits.

## The Nevertheless Spirit

### Deuteronomy 1:26

***<sup>26</sup> "Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God;***

### Numbers 13:26-29

***<sup>26</sup> Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."***

- Ten of the spies.
- Their focus becomes the obstacles, the giants.
- Giants kill faith!

### Numbers 13:31-33

***<sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." <sup>32</sup> And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. <sup>33</sup> There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."***

- The descendants of Anak were massive people, the relatives of Goliath.
- Possibly 7-8 feet tall—Nephilim.
- The “long necked people, giants of the land.”
- They were once known as the giants of renown before the flood.

- Many scholars believe the Anakim descendants were where Goliath would later come from.

### 3 Characteristics of a “Nevertheless Spirit”

#### 1) A Nevertheless Spirit Focuses on the Size of the Giants

- The giants become so huge that our potential and ability to change anything is diminished.
- The focus are the obstacles and the circumstances.
- What is it for you?
  - Marriage
  - Family
  - Dating relationships
  - Health issues
  - Fear of failure

#### Numbers 14:1-2

***<sup>1</sup> So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. <sup>2</sup> And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!"***

#### 2) A Nevertheless Spirit has no Vision

- There is no strategy for getting out of the hole, out of the predicament.
- Hopelessness kills creativity.
- Without vision the people perish.
- No vision, no hope.
- Theirs is a life of complaining...

#### Numbers 14:3

***<sup>3</sup> Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"***

### **3) A Nevertheless Spirit lives in a Victim Mentality**

- This Spirit is always blaming others for their problems: their terrible childhood, parents, bad marriage, healthy etc.
- It would only be better if...
- It could always be better if they were someone else, somewhere else, employed by another company, etc.

**But there are two men in Israel with a different outlook, two men who do not go with the crowd.**

**Two men who are not trying to fit in to the current thinking but have a vision that believes in a God of the supernatural, a God of breakthrough!**

**Numbers 14:6-10**

***<sup>6</sup> But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; <sup>7</sup> and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup> If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them." <sup>10</sup> And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.***

**This is The Breakthrough Spirit!**

**3 Characteristics**

#### **1) A Breakthrough Spirit Focuses on the Potential (not the Problem)**

- Isn't it interesting that Joshua and Caleb are looking at exactly the same circumstances.

- Joshua and Caleb want the Promise more than the status quo.
- A breakthrough spirit hates the status quo. Now that may seem strong but I tell you this is the spirit you have to have!
- Until the passion for a greater return overwhelms you, you just will not have what it takes to overcome inertia.

## **2) A Breakthrough Spirit Focuses on the Power of God to Overcome**

- Joshua and Caleb know they do not have what it takes. They do not have the power themselves but they believe in the power of God.
- They know that they are “more than conquerors”, Romans 8.

## **3) A Breakthrough Spirit Focuses on the Being a Person God Can Be For**

- Now this is the most important part! We must BE the person God wants us to BE, before we can DO what God has called us to DO.