

There are three kinds of people:

- ✓ Natural
- ✓ Spiritual
- ✓ Carnal

This is illustrated in the Old Testament by:

- **Egypt**
- > The Promised Land
- > The Wilderness

The land of Egypt is a picture of the unredeemed

The exodus is a type of redemption through the Passover lamb and the Red Sea

But bringing the Israelites out of Egypt is only half of what God wanted to do for them

He brought them out so that He might bring them in, i.e. to the Promised Land

'Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers' (Deut.6:23)

But for 40 years they wandered in the wilderness as described in the book of Numbers

Because they said, 'We can't'

Joshua and Caleb said, 'We can!'

'Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it"

(Num.13:30)

But the other spies said, 'We can't'

'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"

(Num.13:31)

Why did the 10 say, 'We can't'?

'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. 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" (Num.13:32-33)

They looked at the giants instead of looking to the LORD and had a grasshopper mentality

Why did Joshua and Caleb say, 'We can'?

'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." 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'

(Num.14:8-9)

They looked to the Lord instead of looking at the giants

The Corinthians were living as those in the wilderness

'Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twentythree thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come' (1 Cor.10:1-11)

The Promised Land is a type of the promised life

It is the realm of the Spirit where we live in the power of the resurrection life of Jesus

It is a picture of the grace of God, i.e. God's ability in the place of my inability

It represents the <u>heavenly ministry</u> of Jesus at the right hand of the Father

'Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need'

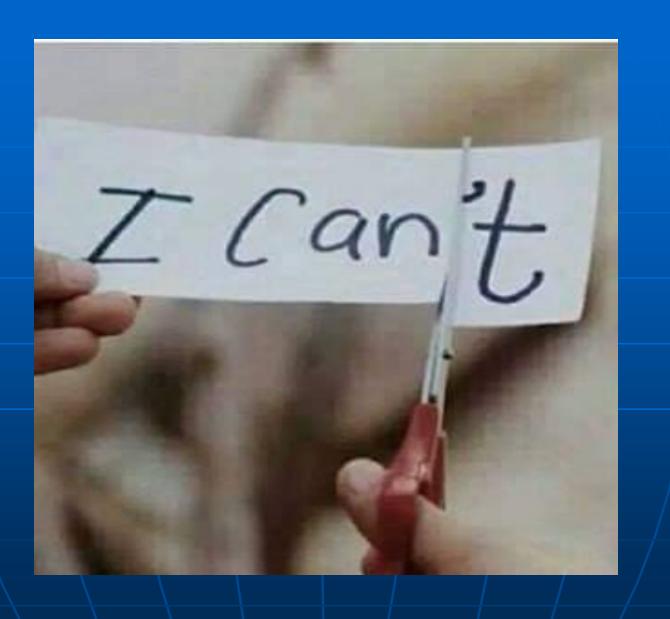
(Heb.4:14-16)

- We are totally dependent on His life as our sufficiency. '<u>I can</u> do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Phil.4:13)
- Fivery need I have reminds me to live by faith in His life. 'For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life' (Rom.5:10)
- Jesus is all we will ever need in any situation. The Christian life is letting Jesus release His life through us. He promised that rivers of living water would flow through us
- Have we reckoned on that? This is what Jesus meant when He said we are to count the cost

- This does not mean that every time we call upon Him we will receive what we want. But we will receive what we need
- The context in which Paul said, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' was prison. This is the preceding verse, '...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need' (Phil.4:11-12)

Some situations where we choose to say 'I can'

- Material needs
- Relationship problems
- Health challenges
- Difficult circumstances
- Lockdown



How do you enter into this land?

The same way we left the old land - by faith

'The just shall live by faith' (Rom.1:17)

Faith takes us out of our weakness and into His strength, out of our poverty and into His riches, out of our fear into His victory

'I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me'

(Gal.2:20)