

## GOD'S GYM – 7: Living in the Faith-zone



“Unless there is an element of risk in our exploits for God, there is no need for faith.”  
*Hudson Taylor*

You can't play it safe and grow your faith.

*“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever” (Ephesians 3:20,21).*

**The six degrees of strong faith:  
exceeding-abundantly-beyond-all-we-ask-or-think!**

*“When Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he said to them, "Go up there into the Negev; then go up into the hill country. And see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many. And how is the land in which they live, is it good or bad? And how are the cities in which they live, are they like open camps or with fortifications? And how is the land, is it fat or lean? Are there trees in it or not? Make an effort then to get some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes” (Numbers 13:17-20).*

*“They came back . . . and they gave Moses this account: ‘We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan’” (Numbers 13:26-29).*

**It is quite common in Scripture to find the greatest opportunities  
surrounded by the greatest giants.**

**A faith-growth pattern: God shows us a big challenge. Then, He waits to see if we'll move with Him into the faith-zone . . . or, if we'll run for cover in the safe-zone.**

*Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it” (Numbers 13:30).*

*But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them” (13:31-33).*

**Grasshopper faith: If we try this, we'll get stepped on.**

*That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt” (Numbers 14:1-4).*

*Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them” (Numbers 14:5-9).*

*“But the whole assembly talked about stoning them” (Numbers 14:10).*

*Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in Me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they” (Numbers 14:10-12).*

*So the LORD said, “I have pardoned them according to your word; but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it” (Numbers 14:20-24).*

**Their sin of unbelief was forgiven; but they were cut off from the land of Promise.**

*Then the sons of Judah drew near to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know the word which the LORD spoke to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh-barnea. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought word back to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the LORD my God fully. So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.’ And now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out as the LORD has spoken” (Joshua 14:6-12. Also see 14:13-15 and 15:14).*

**God shows up where there’s a giant to fight and big grapes to be won!**

**So . . . what’s your ‘giant?’ What ‘faith-zone’ is God inviting you to move into?**

**Going:** I will step out in faith and go on a missions trip.

**Serving:** I will step out in faith and serve in a new, unknown area.

**Telling:** I will step out in faith and speak to someone about Jesus.

**Healing:** I will step out in faith and seek healing for that wounded part of me.

**Enduring:** I will keep my eyes on God and walk by faith through this trial.

**Leading:** I will step out in faith and lead a new initiative.

**Responding:** I will step out in faith and do something about my 'holy discontent.'

**Giving:** I will step out in faith and start tithing faithfully.

**Joining:** I will step out in faith and join a class or a group.

*“The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).*