



Pastor Scott Archer 09.18.2016\*  
Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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### The Failure of Fear

Deuteronomy 1:19-46

Series: Possessing the Promises of God - Learning from the Past,  
Leaning into the Future

#### Central Passage

**Deuteronomy 1:21, 26-28 (ESV)** — **21** See, the LORD your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has told you. **Do not fear or be dismayed.** '...**26** "Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. **27** And you murmured in your tents and said, 'Because the LORD hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. **28** Where are we going up? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there." ' "

**Central Thought:** We will never possess the promises of God – his good plan and purpose for us in Christ Jesus – if we allow ourselves to be ruled by fear.

#### Four Facts About Fear and Faith

- ❖ Fearful disobedience is an act of rebellion. (Deut. 1:26)

**Revelation 21:6–8 (ESV)** — **6** And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. **8** **But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.** "

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- ❖ Fearful speech is contagious and corrosive. (Deut. 1:27,28)

**James 3:5–8 (ESV)** — **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

- ❖ A fearful perspective magnifies the obstacles and minimizes the promises and power of God.

**Deuteronomy 1:28 (ESV)** — **28** Where are we going up? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, "**The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.** " ' "

- ❖ A fearful response makes us reactive and stupid. (Deut. 1:41-46)

**2 Timothy 1:6–7 (ESV)** — **6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**Question:** What fear threatens to undermine your faith and keep you from possessing the promises of God for you?

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