




2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-9
"To keep me from being conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it from me. But he said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."




"The typical profile [of a wet blanket] is a person who thinks the past was a failure, the present is miserable and the future looks bleak."
JOHN KILDAHL



"Watch what people are cynical about, and one can often discover what they lack."

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK



"[Pessimists] seem to have a generally negative view of themselves, their own group, other groups and perhaps the world."

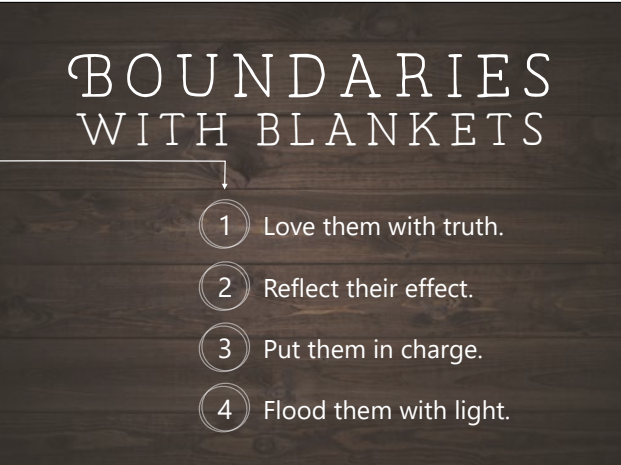
CROCKER AND SCHWARTZ



UNDERSTANDING THE WET BLANKET

- They are dark and despairing
- They are deflating and dismissive
- They are fearful and infectious

BOUNDARIES WITH BLANKETS

- 
- 1 Love them with truth.
 - 2 Reflect their effect.
 - 3 Put them in charge.
 - 4 Flood them with light.

OUTSPOKEN FEAR vs OPTIMISTIC FAITH

NUMBERS 14:1-3

"Then the whole community began to weep aloud, and they cried all night. Their voice rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. 'If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness! Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle?'"

OUTSPOKEN FEAR vs OPTIMISTIC FAITH

The underlying spirit in pessimism is a failure of faith in the sovereign plan of God that has allowed us to be in the undesirable state we are complaining about.

OUTSPOKEN FEAR vs OPTIMISTIC FAITH

The spirit of pessimism reveals that we do not trust that God's power will see us through an undesirable circumstance and accomplish his purposes by it.

OUTSPOKEN FEAR vs OPTIMISTIC FAITH

NUMBERS 14:11, 23, 27, 35

All complaint, even if it's directed at another person or a situation, is really a complaint — and a sin — against God.

vs. 11

"How long will these people treat me with contempt and refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I've performed among them?"

OUTSPOKEN FEAR vs OPTIMISTIC FAITH

The *pessimism of one*
can infect the whole.

OUTSPOKEN FEAR vs OPTIMISTIC FAITH

NUMBERS 13:32-14:2

"The ten spies spread a bad report about the land among the Israelites: 'The land we explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there...Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!' That night the Israelites wept aloud and grumbled."

OUTSPOKEN FEAR vs OPTIMISTIC FAITH

Nothing disappoints God more than his children grumbling, since it reveals their distrust in his care and competence.

THE ANTIDOTE TO THE
INFECTIOUS DOUBT OF
A WET BLANKET

NUMBERS 14:8-9

"If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into the land. Don't be afraid of those people, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us!"



THE CHOICE:
FEAR OR **FAITH**

"There we saw giants."

NUMBERS 13:33



THE ANTIDOTE TO THE
INFECTIOUS DOUBT OF
A WET BLANKET

If I walk the walk of faith,
I *will* see giants—early and often.

I must choose between inspiring
fear or instigating faith.





WHAT ARE
YOUR GIANTS?

- A horrible medical diagnosis
- Turmoil that threatens to destroy your marriage
- Family crisis
- Financial challenges
- Open hostility to faith and ministry

THE ANTIDOTE TO THE
INFECTIOUS DOUBT OF
A WET BLANKET

Everywhere there are giants!

Refuse to let the wet blanket of fear
cause you to back down from faith.

Step out in trust; give God a chance
—and get a testimony to boot!

When Israel moved
forward, they faced giants.



When they retreated, they
faced no giants.

INSTIGATE
FAITH

AND GIANTS
WILL **FALL**

INSTIGATE
FAITH

Assignment: Practice viewing your fear
through God's eyes. In light of that,
speak a faith declaration to your "giant."



PART 10 The Wet Blanket