

# Experiencing a Faith Failure

*Losing Sight of the Promises*



**I**srael left their bondage and persecution in Egypt and rejoiced in their deliverance by God but as soon as the daily struggles set in, they began to focus on their issues and use their own understanding to see a way out. This began to instill doubt in their minds and they lost their faith in the promises of God.

## **Numbers 14:1-11 KJV**

[1] And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. [2] And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! [3] And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? [4] And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. [5] Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. [6] And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: [7] And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. [8] If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. [9] Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not. [10] But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel. [11] And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

**E**ven though they saw the bounty of the promised land with their own eyes, fear crept into their minds and blinded them. Soon the very idea of moving forward became so terrifying they wanted to overthrow Moses and return to Egypt, forgetting that Pharaoh's heart changed from not wanting them to leave, to wanting to destroy them completely.

### Numbers 13:25-33 KJV

[25] And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. [26] And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. [27] And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. [28] Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. [29] The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. [30] And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. [31] But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. [32] And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. [33] And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

## Causes of Faith Failure

**Failure:** nonperformance of something required, or expected:  
*to not do what one has promised.*

### 1. FEAR OF FAILURE

Our fear of failing can be further examined as a fear of what others will think of our failure. And while we all want to be successful at the thing we attempt, we also know we fail all the time at things, especially things we are new at. Understand that we all fail, but God gave us everything we need to accomplish his purpose for our lives, and failure isn't ultimate failure, but rather, it shows us we are continuing to learn our craft. We forget that the people we see at the top of their game were not always on top, they went through a learning phase, too. We can be an inspiration and an encouragement to others when we share our journey of success and failure.

### 2. FALSE INFORMATION

**Be very careful who you listen to in life.** Failure can cause us to become desperate or confused and we start to listen to others who may have the best of intentions for us but advise us on their own understanding. God has a purpose that he created specifically for us. It's ok to seek advice, but always seek the will of God for your life first so that you won't be accidentally or intentionally led astray.

### 3. FAILURE TO RECALL THE POWER OF GOD IN THE PAST

Sometimes we forget the things God has done for us in the past and “start the clock over with each new challenge” or become confused by the things God has delayed from answering or said no to in our life. Remembering how God has helped us in the past is like walking up stairs; each memory is like a step that gets us ever closer to fulfilling his will for our life.

### 4. FAILURE TO SEE THINGS FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE

Our limited minds can only produce limited ideas, so it’s important to understand that God has no limits and his ways are higher than our ways. As such, even if we wanted to, we could not fit God’s infinite knowledge into our small brains. But through God, we have access to everything there is to know about every thing, so it’s wiser to let God sort the information for us and feed us just the right knowledge we need to fulfill his will for us.

### 5. FOCUS ON GOD INSTEAD OF THE OBSTACLES

We may not understand the purpose for the obstacles placed in our life but God does and he knows what lessons we will learn by overcoming the obstacles. By focusing on the obstacles only, we lose sight of the big picture. Hikers often get lost in the woods because they only pay attention to the obstacles in front of them and more often than not, end up going in large circles. God is like a GPS that tells you where you are and which direction to go even though you cannot see the destination at the time.

*Am I willing to believe God because he said it, or do I need constant proof he will do what he says?*

*None of us are adequate in ourselves, we need God in our life and God promises us he will never leave us or forsake us. Do we believe this?*



# Consequences of a Faith Failure

God's best is not always the easiest to obtain and not always recognizable during the moment when you reach a crossroad. It's the time when we are most vulnerable to the lies of the devil who seeks to knock us off the path.

## 1. A BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT

We have to make a decision whether we're going to have faith in God's promises or whether we're going to lean on our own understanding. Do we recognize what God is promising us? Do we know what God wants us to do? Do we know where we're supposed to be going?

### **Numbers 14:1-2 KJV**

[1] And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. [2] And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

## 2. DEVELOPED A DISTORTED VIEW OF THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES

The uncertainty of our destiny can create apathy and frustration. This begins to fertilize the seeds of doubt in our mind. What do we do when this thinking begins to creep into our mind? We recognize our thoughts are drifting off course, away from God, but we justify it because of God's perceived silence towards our dilemma. Recalibrate. If you don't know what to do or where to go, do nothing. It's better to wait on God than to move without him. To go it alone is to think you can handle all things placed before you. You will begin to view your circumstances wrong and act on that wrong information causing a further drift off course. Ultimately missing out on what God's plan was for us in the first place.

## 3. CAUSE OTHERS TO SUFFER

Acting on our own understanding will affect others involved in our circumstance. The wrong information will lead to wrong decisions, causing everyone involved to run off the tracks and miss the plan of God.

## 4. MAKE THINGS WORSE BY TRYING TO CORRECT OUR DISOBEDIENCE WITHOUT THE HELP OF GOD

In the midst of your wrong decisions, stop and recalibrate. Do not keep moving forward on your own, you will only make it worse, and sometimes the consequences will be irreversible.

## 5. MEDITATION ON GODS WORD

Go back to God's word even if you can't make the immediate connection to your current circumstance. God lays bricks one by one in our lives that form the solid foundation of our faith. Each brick may not seem to have importance at the time, and so we tend to want to hurry through the building process to get to the bigger picture of our life, but God knows the importance of each one and the necessary purpose of it to our ultimate understanding of his will in our life.

### **Joshua 1:1-8 KJV**

[1] Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, [2] Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. [3] Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. [4] From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. [5] There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. [6] Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. [7] Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. [8] This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.