BELIEVING GOD FOR BLESSINGS

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.

1. BLESSINGS ARE USUALLY BEHIND OBSTACLES

Obstacles come in the form of seeing things in the moment and losing sight of the bigger vision. Are we willing to trust God and proceed or only see our current circumstances.

2. WE MUST CHOOSE WHICH REPORT TO BELIEVE

Choosing what information to believe also requires us to discern between the vision of God and our own limited insight. What comes from God and what comes from the devil. **If God is for it, so am I. If God is against it, so am I.** God wants to inject in us the truth and reject false teaching.

1 Kings 18:21 KJV

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD REPORT

- 1. God's blessings await his children
- 2. If God is for us, nothing can stop us
- 3. Always rooted in God's power

CHARACTERISTICS OF A **<u>BAD</u>** REPORT

- 1. Disregards God's Will
- 2. Emphasizes now more than later
- 3. Focuses on logical more than supernatural
- 4. Caters more to the emotions instead of the soul

This can target both negative emotions, fear, anger, bitterness, etc. or positive emotions like happiness, pleasure, success, etc.

1. GOD'S PLAN DOES NOT REQUIRE MY APPROVAL

God just wants our obedience.

2. OBSTACLES ARE THE CATALYSTS OF OUR PROVISIONS

Sometimes our enemies are our greatest blessing because they turn us towards God.

3. SUCCESS OR FAILURE LIES IN GOD'S PROTECTION

God controls who will win, regardless of the size of our enemy, or even the size of us. If protection lies in the hand of God, it's up to God who will be successful.

4. UNGODLY VOICES ARE VOICES OF DEFEAT

What, or who, are we listening to

5. SEEK OUT PEOPLE WHO WILL RENEW OUR FAITH

People who will be honest with us, but also inspirational and motivational to move us forward.

6. BRING GOOD REPORTS TO BUILD PEOPLE'S FAITH

This doesn't mean <u>only</u> see the world through a rose-colored filter, it means <u>also</u> include reports that show optimism based on faith. Bad reports can often be a starting point to begin a new journey.

7. FAITH DETERMINES CONCLUSIONS

The same set of facts can bring different conclusions because there are different levels of faith.

8. GOD'S WILL IS NOT DETERMINED BY THE MAJORITY

A majority against may seem overwhelming, but God has never once squirmed in his throne.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS OF DOUBT IN YOUR LIFE

- 1. Comfort replaces obedience.
- 2. Pessimism replaces optimism.
- 3. Wavering replaces worship.

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A LACK OF FAITH IS INSULTING TO GOD BECAUSE IT DENIES HIS MAJESTY AND POWER