

GRASSHOPPER FAITH

By Keith Greer

“Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, ‘Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.’ But the men who had gone up with him said, ‘We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.’ And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, ‘The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.’” {Numbers 13:30-33} The Jews had forgotten that God was leading them and had already promised to give them the land of Canaan! The folly of unbelief is seen when:

We measure according to human strength. “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’” {Hebrews 13:5,6} Paul made it even plainer in Romans 8:31, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” God’s people then and now must remember that our strength lies with God – not men. Who can defeat God?

It makes God’s word void. “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.” {Hebrews 4:1,2} God promised to lead Israel, and if they would obey and believe Him, not one enemy could stand against them. A lack of true faith makes void God’s promises to those who remain faithful! His promises are iron-clad; they are broken only when His people waver and do not accept Him at His word.

We despise what God provides. “But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’” {Luke 14:18,19} Unfortunately, many of God’s people forfeit His provisions and help because they lack commitment to, and trust in, Him. God was ready to make good on His second promise to Abraham – a land for his descendants. Israel had but to trust that God would give them this land – Canaan – as their inheritance. Sadly, they threw away what He was willing to provide for them; many of us are making the same fatal mistake.

We lack faith and reap sin and sorrow. “The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.” {Numbers 14:29,30} God

heard their murmuring and crying, but He allowed them to suffer the consequences of their awful choice. During Israel's wilderness wandering, 603,550 of them died. Their lack of faith cost them their lives.

We dishonor God. "Then the LORD said to Moses: 'How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?'" {Numbers 14:11} God had kept His promises to Israel; He had cared for them and brought them out of captivity. Their behavior dishonored God and exhibited contempt for Him.

Do you possess true obedient faith, or grasshopper faith? ***