



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Walking by Trusting God (2)... By Billy

READ: NUMBERS 14: 11-24

- **W**e learned last week that a fear of the unknown melted the hearts of 10 of the spies which were sent to investigate the land of Canaan.
- In the sequel to the story there are 3 observations that will serve to keep us on the right path.
 - THE REALITY OF UNBELIEF
 - THE RESULT OF INTERCESSION
 - THE RECOGNITION OF TRUE DEVOTION.
- **The Reality of unbelief**
- *"The Lord said to Moses, how long will this people spurn me? And how long will they not believe in Me?, despite all the signs I have performed in their midst." (Num.14:11) What is it about human nature that chooses doubt over against faith?*
- One answer must be that there is so much evidence of broken promises which causes a cynicism in the heart. (relationships, politics)
- But for the one who has experienced God's wonders there is no such excuse. Such were the people of Israel.
- It is written of them in *Heb.3:19* that *"they were not able to enter (Canaan) because of unbelief."*
- There is a Canaan land of rest for all who will believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ. We cease from our own strivings and efforts to merit God's favour and we believe in the One that He has sent to make a way for us. (*Heb.4:2-3*)
- We have tasted of His mercy; we have experienced the miracle of new birth so we will refuse a spirit of unbelief.
- ^a Unbelief robs the Christian of his resting place in Christ and that is something to be afraid of. (*Heb.4:1*)
- **2. The result of intercession**
- *"I have pardoned them according to your word." (Num.14:20).* The basis of Moses intercession was the glory of God and that is why God was pleased to hear and answer.

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Week 36

- Moses was concerned with the report that would filter back to the surrounding nations. (see v.16) He was completely identified with the cause of God.
- Every prayer/intercession made on such a basis will be answered by God. (*John 14:13-14*)
- To pray in Christ's name is to identify with the purpose of Christ to the extent that our will has become identified with the will of God. (*1 John 5:14*) "according to His will."
- 'Those who do not obtain what they specifically request are often surprised by a different but better answer- and NO is sometimes the best answer.' (R.C. Sproul)
- God performs miracles to glorify the Name of Jesus Christ. (*John 11:4*) He also grants the gift of faith (to those who seek His glory) that such things are possible. (*1 Cor.12:9-10*)
- **The recognition of true devotion.**
- "But My servant Caleb because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered and his descendants shall take possession of it." (*Num.14:24*)
- God looks upon the heart and He delights in those who follow Him without reservation.
- The scripture provides us with a glimpse into the outcome of a life lived for God. In *Josh.14:6-15* we read about Caleb's legacy.
- "I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. Now then give me this mountain..." (v.11-12a)
- Caleb enjoyed that constant supply of strength from God even at the grand old age of 85. He never lost his hold of God's promise.
- In closing let us once again be stirred to imitate the lives of such men.
- In *Heb.12:1* we are reminded of this great cloud of witnesses. Witnesses to the reality that God is faithful to those who fully follow.
- "Let us lay aside every encumbrance (weight) and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..." (*Heb.12:1-2a*) ■