

## THROUGH EYES OF FAITH

*God makes the grand offer to deliver us from all the pressures that enslave us. This is an almost unbelievable opportunity for us to enjoy comforts and assurances that would normally be impossible to contemplate. The first issue that God deals with is our mortality... he empowers our life through the anointing of the Spirit... our bodies remain mortal, but our Spirit is transformed into immortality. God confirms this miracle with signs and wonders which are already detailed in the bible. Everyone who receives God's Spirit speaks in tongues... after that, we are motivated to live by faith.*

*There are three ways that faith is built... the first is through prayer... the second is through reading and hearing God's word... the third is through doing the things which God has recommended. We overcome our mortality as we apply all three.*

***This Old Testament story highlights the powerful and relevant results of exercising true faith.***

**NUM 13:1** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

**2** Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. *God made promises to his people and wanted to show them what was available. People who live by faith see what others cannot.*

**&21** So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. *They covered the full realm of the promised land.*

**&23** And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and *they brought* of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

**24** The place was called the brook Eshcol (*cluster*), because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. *The land was full of agricultural wonders... the fruit and vegetables were beyond anything they had seen before.... the land was unbelievably fertile and productive.*

**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. *Everyone confirmed how glorious and productive the land was.*

**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. *Those who didn't exercise faith saw nothing but problems and defeat... the promise was excellent, but they perceived it was impossible to acquire. Many make the same error when they weigh up their walk in the Lord, or their marriage, or their job, or their financial situation, or their mental health, etc. All they see is obstacles... that is why this story is recorded... to give us a firm understanding of the power of faith.*

**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. *One man understood what God was offering them... he wanted to act immediately, but was hindered by those who lacked faith.*

**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. *Despite the faithful vision of Caleb, the people rejected God's promises... their faith had abandoned them. All their prayers and knowledge failed them for one simple reason... they wouldn't put their faith into action.*

***God reveals the judgement that is coming upon those that refuse to act upon their faith.***

**NUM 14:22** Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

**23** Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: *Faith needs to be acted upon... not just agreed upon... we need to be doers, not hearers.*

**24** But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it. *This is our example... faith works.*

*The offer remains before us every day of our lives... which way are we going to choose? Do you see through eyes of faith?*