

Faith Over Fear: Learning from Israel's Spy Mission

Numbers 13 tells the story of the Israelites standing at the edge of their destiny. After two years in the wilderness, they finally arrived at Kadesh Barnea, on the border of the Promised Land. This was the land God had promised to give them—a land flowing with milk and honey. But before entering, Moses decided to send twelve men, one from each tribe, to scout out the land. Their mission? To assess the land, its people, cities, and resources, and to bring back a report.

Among the twelve spies, two names stand out: **Caleb** from the tribe of Judah and **Joshua** (formerly Oshea) from the tribe of Ephraim. Joshua's name carries deep meaning—it means **“The Lord is salvation,”** the same name given to Jesus in the New Testament. His name alone was a reminder that salvation comes from God, not human strength.

After forty days of exploring, the spies returned with their report. They brought back massive clusters of grapes from the Valley of Eshcol, proof of the land's abundance. They told the people, **“It truly flows with milk and honey.”** However, ten of the spies focused on the obstacles: “The people are strong, the cities are fortified, and giants live there.” Their conclusion? **“We can't do this. The enemy is too powerful.”**

But Caleb had a different attitude. He silenced the fearful voices and declared, **“Let's go up at once and take possession of the land, for we are well able to overcome it!”** He saw the same challenges, but through the lens of faith, not fear. The other spies, however, spread a negative report, saying, **“We felt like grasshoppers next to them, and that's how they saw us too.”**

Where Do You See Yourself?

This passage presents a challenge for us: **Do we see ourselves as grasshoppers, or do we see ourselves as conquerors in Jesus Christ?**

How often do we, like the ten spies, allow fear to cloud our vision? God may have opened a door for us—a new opportunity, a step of faith, or a calling—but instead of trusting Him, we focus on the obstacles. We say, **“I'm not strong enough. I'm not talented enough. The opposition is too great.”**

But Caleb reminds us that if God is with us, **we are well able** to step into His promises. Faith doesn't ignore the challenges—it sees them but believes that God is greater.

Faith in Action

- **Are you standing on the border of a promise God has given you?** Maybe He's calling you to start a new ministry, share your faith confidently, or step into a new season.
- **Are you seeing the giants more than you're seeing God?** Fear exaggerates our problems and shrinks our confidence in God.
- **Are you listening to the voices of doubt or the voice of faith?** The crowd often chooses fear, but God calls us to trust Him.

Today, ask yourself: **Am I a grasshopper in my own eyes, or am I a conqueror in God's?** Like Caleb and Joshua, may we choose faith over fear and step boldly into all that God has for us!