
FEAR *or* FAITH



Faith and fear are total opposites. Faith will propel you forward and cause you to go but fear will paralyze you and force you to stay. There are many examples of this in the Bible where there were those who were in faith that walked in victory with God but those who were in fear that were hindered from receiving God's provision. Let us look at the difference in the 12 spies who were sent out in the book of Numbers (Num 13- 14:10).

Fear

The children of Israel were given the land of Canaan by God and all they had to do was go in and possess it. 10 out of the 12 spies came back with an evil report. They said that those in the land were strong, with fortified cities, and that they were like grasshoppers **in their own sight** (Num 13:28, 33).

Faith

2 out of the 12 spies had a different response than the 10 who came back with the evil report. Caleb said "let us go up at once and take possession for we are well able to overcome (Numbers 13:30). Joshua and Caleb told the people in the land that "they are our bread, their protection has departed from them, and **the Lord is with us** (Numbers 14:9).

This is a situation where twelve people were spying (or looking) at the same thing but had two opposing responses. Ten of the spies reported what they saw and the apparent obstacle in front of them. However, two of the spies came back with confidence and going in and possessing the land.

Ten were in fear and two were in faith. What was the difference? The difference was their focus and how they viewed the obstacle. Joshua and Caleb's response was focused back on the Lord and who was with them (Num 14:9). The 10 that had an evil report were focused on their surroundings and their own abilities; they never mentioned the Lord. Two were in faith and ten were in fear; their focus was the factor.

Our focus in any situation is the factor. Joshua and Caleb were the only adult Israelites to enter into what God had already promised them and it was because their attention was on the Lord and not the problem or themselves. Two people can be in the same situation but because of where one's focus is it will determine if they will walk in victory or defeat.

When we are faced with a financial problem, we can put our attention on Jehovah Jireh and the blessing of the Lord making us rich and supplying ALL our needs (Prv 10:22, Phil 4:19) or we can set our focus on our bank account and what the market is telling us. We have a choice as to where we set our focus. Our attention needs to be on things above and fixing our eyes on Jesus (Col 3:2, Heb 12:2) in any obstacle we face. Joshua and Caleb knew the Lord was with them. One of the first steps to walking in faith and not fear is to know WHO IS WITH YOU and not only is God with us, He is IN US (Col 1:27, 2 Cor 13:5).