

“Influencers: People of a Different Spirit”
November 27, 2016

Numbers 13:18-20,26-33; 14:18-24

CORE: We are created & called to be people of a “different spirit.”

NOTE: To live in the same lifestyle that distinguished Caleb from the 10 spies.

1. We will not GIVE UP OUR FAITH (by giving in to a spirit of fear).

- Hebrews 10:35- “Do not throw away your confidence (*the strength that results from confiding in*).”
- Proverbs 24:10- “If you falter in adversity, how small is your strength!”
 - “Falter”- to slacken
 - “Adversity”- a troubled time requiring full attention & decisive action
 - “Strength”- Power, might; Lit.- “the capacity to produce (fruit)”
 - “Small”- Lit.- “a pebble”

NOTE: Faith is not a “leap”—it’s a “walk” (2 Cor. 5:7). It’s a journey of increasing trust & revelation—not a “blind” jump.

2. We will STAY FOCUSED ON THE VISION (not defeated or depleted by distractions).

- To be a person of VISION does not mean you live in OBLIVION.
 - “Peculiar people” (1 Pet. 2:9 KJV)- “to investigate in order to get the whole picture”
 - “Be wise” (Eph. 5:15)- “to walk circumspectly”
- The 10 spies and Joshua & Caleb reported the same facts in a different spirit. (Same INSPECTION—different PERSPECTIVES)
 - 10 spies were “GIANT-FOCUSED”—allowed the giants’ threats to eclipse God’s promises. In seeking to be “realistic”—they became “fatalistic.”
 - Joshua & Caleb were “GOD-FOCUSED”—like David & Goliath, the 3 men in the fire, Jesus heading to Jerusalem—they saw the bigger picture in light of better promises!
 - TRUTH and the FACTS are not synonymous. TRUTH places FACTS in PERSPECTIVE. (SEE Romans 4:18-21 NIV)

3. We will “TEST THE SPIRITS to see whether they are from God” (1 John 4:1).

- Whether we get a “report” (from others) or have a personal impression, the most important question: “Is this ‘from God’?”

- The “voice of Reason” can keep us from hearing the “Voice of the Risen One”!
- “Test” (1 John 4:1)- *“to determine worth or value; as in testing metals”*
 - Ask the question: “Is this thought worth my time, energy, investment, or adjustment?”

4. We will NOT FORGET WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

- TESTIMONIES affect our COURAGE (NOTE: Good reports are encouraging)
 - *The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle...They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them. (Psalm 78:9,11)*
- TESTIMONIES also impact our CLARITY.
 - Negative reports—DISTORT—make Egypt look good (*Numbers 14:3- “Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?”*) when this is what Egypt was like: *“The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.” (Exodus 3:7)*
 - Good reports are “FORWARD-FOCUSED”—cause the future to be hope-filled.

OUR VISION is greater than the Promised Land.

We have a “PROMISED WORLD” that will be filled with the knowledge of His glory!