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INVINCIBLE

CONQUERING THE MOUNTAINS
THAT SEPARATE YOU
FROM THE BLESSED LIFE

"MOVING FROM FEAR TO COURAGE" NUMBERS 13-14

Introduction: While fear is a natural -- and sometimes helpful -- reaction to challenging situations, it doesn't have to be our final response. Today, we are going to see how fear robbed the Israelites of God's promise and how we can prevent fear from doing the same to us.

I. **The Two Sides Of Fear**

A. **Positive Fear**

B. **Paralyzing Fear**

II. **The Consequences Of Prolonged Fear**

A. **Physical Consequences**

B. **Emotional Consequences**

C. **Spiritual Consequences**

III. **A Case Study In Fear** (Numbers 13-14)

A. **The Requirement of God** (Numbers 13:1-24)

Numbers 13:2 "Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, every one a leader among them."

Two Purposes of The Spies

1. Report the benefits of the land to encourage the people.
2. Identify the obstacles in possessing the land.

Numbers 13:18-19 ¹⁸ “See what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many. ¹⁹ How is the land in which they live, is it good or bad? And how are the cities in which they live, are they like open camps or with fortifications?”

Proverbs 21:5 “The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.”

B. The Report of the Spies (Numbers 13:25-33)

Numbers 13:28 “Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there.”

Numbers 13:30-33 ³⁰ “Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, ‘We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.’ ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, ‘We are not able to go up against the people for they are too strong for us.’ ³² So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out saying, ‘The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. ³³ There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.’”

C. The Reaction of the Israelites (Numbers 14:1-10)

Numbers 14:1-2 ¹ “Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, ‘Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!’”

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Numbers 14:6-10 ⁶“Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; ⁷ and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, ‘The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us — a land which flows with milk and honey. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.’ ¹⁰ But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the LORD appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel.”

D. The Rebuke of God (Numbers 14:11-37)

Numbers 14:20-23 ²⁰“So the LORD said, ‘I have pardoned them according to your word; ²¹ but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. ²² Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, ²³ shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.”

IV. The Problem With Fear**A. Fear Distorts the Size of Our Problems****B. Fear Utilizes the Wrong Standard for Analyzing Our Situation****C. Fear Forgets the Power of Our God****D. Fear Destroys the Promise of Our Future**

V. The Antidote To Fear: **Faith**

Two words define Faith: Assurance and Conviction

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

A. **Realize that Fear Is a Normal Reaction** (Psalm 3:1-4)

Psalm 3:1-4 ¹ "O LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. ² Many are saying of my soul, 'There is no deliverance for him in God.' ³ But You, O LORD, are a shield about me. My glory, and the One who lifts my head. ⁴ I was crying to the LORD with my voice, and He answered me from His holy mountain."

B. **Reflect on the Promises of God** (Psalm 34:4)

Psalm 34:4 "I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears."

C. **Remember and Recount God's Faithfulness to You** (Psalm 34:1)

Psalm 34:1 "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

VI. A Case Study In Courage

Conclusion