

CAN YOU STAND TO BE BLESSED?

By

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Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20, 25-33

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.” So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the children of Israel.

Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, “Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains, and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds; whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land.” Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. **It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.** The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.” Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” **But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”**”

God is by His sovereign power is positioning His people to walk in positions of wealth and influence like never before. That is why the teaching this month has been so uncomfortably corrective in nature. God has been surgically adjusting our hearts and minds concerning prosperity so when He releases it, the blessings will not destroy us! Proverbs 10:22 - The blessings of the Lord makes one rich and He adds no sorrow with it.

Review of This Month's Teaching

Obedience brings the favor of God, and is the key to walking into what God has for you – Me

Generosity is God's Design – Pastor David Osbourne

When we realign our priorities to meet Kingdom needs, God will realign Kingdom resources to bless us and meet our needs! – Bishop Courtney McBath

Three Things We Can Glean From the Text

- I. There is **Promise of Prosperity** from the Lord – **Verse 1**
And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel"
 - i. We have a people with a promise
 - ii. Not the first time God has spoken about His promise for His people
 - iii. Promise to the Seed of Abraham
 1. Genesis 17 - "I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. **Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**

2. Because of the blood covenant with Jesus, we are now the seed of Abraham and thus the beneficiaries of the promise
 - a. Galatians 3:28,29 – For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise
 - b. Because of the blood of Christ, there has been a spiritual transfusion that has change your lineage and your destiny
 - i. Your past doesn't disqualify you
 - ii. Your works can't qualify you
 1. Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you were saved through faith and not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast
 - c. The promise is part of the benefits packet that's a byproduct of your relationship with God through Christ

The Promise of Prosperity is for you and your household!

- II. There is a **Process for Prosperity** (God is prepared to release the promise) – **Verse 27**
 - a. The process is the preparation period between the promise and the purpose for the prosperity

Then they told him, and said, we went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

*******What happens when you have a people with a promise who runs into a problem*******

- i. Problems are no stranger to promises during the process period
- ii. It is in the process that we many times lose focus of the promise and get distracted by the problem

iii. It is in the process that we are tempted to forget everything God did for us in the past that got us to the place where we are positioned for the promise

1. We forget Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
2. We forget Number 23:19 God is not a man that He should lie. Neither is He a son of man that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
 - a. The Israelites forgot that the God that gave them the promise was the same God that brought them out of bondage with His mighty hand
3. Sometimes in your Christian journey, you need to just take a moment from your today and just look back at your yesterday

b. It is in the process, that we discover that prosperity comes with a price
*****There is a story behind all this glory*****

- i. Romans 8:15 – For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear but you spirit of adoption by whom we cry out “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
- ii. Oh it’s going to cost you something to live this blessed life
 1. Your will for His Will
 2. Your plans for His plans
 3. Your realignment of priorities for His priorities (BCM)

c. Although painful at times, it’s in the process that we become intimately aware that God is for us and that He is yet faithful

- i. Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a hope and a future
- ii. Lamentations 3 - My soul still remembers And sinks within me. This I recall to my mind, Therefore, I have hope. Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,

“Therefore I hope in Him!” The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.”

III. There is a **Purpose of Prosperity**

- a. The purpose of God’s prosperity is to further His Kingdom and bring Him glory
- b. Romans 8:18,19 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
 - i. Someone is waiting on your submission to the purpose God has for your life
 - ii. Someone is waiting on your yes!
- c. The level of your prosperity is tied directly to your submission to the purpose God has for your life
 1. Luke 12:48 – Jesus said, For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more
 2. That’s why generosity is so intricately intertwined with prospering in the Kingdom of God
 - a. Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.
 - b. Malachi 3:10 – Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the Lord of hosts; and all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, says the Lord of hosts.

c. God is raising up people to finance His Kingdom! You can sit on the sideline and be a spectator in what God is doing in the house or you can be a participant in the promise!

d. Examples

- i. Joseph – hated by brothers and sold into slavery but went from pit to palace because God had a purpose for him to save the nations from famine destruction
- ii. David – forgotten by his father, ridiculed by his brothers, and relegated to watching over sheep; but because he was a Man after God’s own heart, he went from being a worship leader in the shepherd’s field to being the only King and Prophet in Israel’s history – Acts 2:30
- iii. Esther – orphan raised by her uncle Mordecai was placed in the palace “for such a time as this” to save her people from annihilation from the enemy

Obstacles to Walking in Godly Prosperity (Three Headed Monster) **Verses 31-33**

But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and *we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.*

1. Doubt

- a. Hebrews 3:19 – Because of the sin of unbelief, the children of Israel could not enter His place of rest – the promise
- b. We doubt God’s ability or motives towards us when we second guess His promises for our lives`

2. Fear

- a. II Timothy 1:7 – For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind
 - i. I John 4:18 – in part states fear involves torment

- b. Fear will cause you to be stuck because fear paralyzes you to move into what God has for you
3. Pride
- a. I Peter 5:5-7 – God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you
 - b. Pride is seeing yourself different than how God sees you
 - c. Most think of pride as seeing yourself more than how God sees you
 - d. False Humility (which is a form of pride) is seeing yourself less than how God has created you and views you

Oftentimes, fear and pride are twin brothers. They operate together to trick the believer out of the blessings of God

Because of the three headed monster (Doubt, Fear, Pride), the children of Israel delayed the promise God had for His people - and for those 20 years and above (with the exception of Joshua and Caleb), they never received the promise. Don't forfeit your promise!