

Life in the Spirit - The Promised Land is Here!

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God has been gracious, unfolding five lessons on the Holy Spirit, our helper and guide, and how to do life in the Spirit. Let's review. In Exodus, the **Israelites** left Egypt - a place of bondage - and embarked upon a wilderness journey. God intended to take these freed slaves and make them a nation with a covenant. Their lives were to be radically changed as they learned to trust God and His power. As they did, they would be blessed in order to bless all other nations. Consider that all of this relates to us today.

In **our** wilderness journey, God declares to us: *"You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (1 Peter 2:9). Believers in Christ are **people of the Spirit**. We are learning who we really are and how to walk by faith, which is a spiritual way of living. In life's wilderness, we learn how much of the world's way, or our own way, is still in us. The more we learn to live by the Word and faith (trust in God), the more we see and live out the promises of God. Marvel at this: Our promised land *has come to us* in the person of Jesus Christ, the Word of God. What can we learn from the Israelites about **successfully obtaining God's promises?**

#1 - Turn from a Taste for Worldly Satisfaction and a Life of Fear

<i>Failure</i>	[Numbers 14:1-4] Most of the Israelites refused to trust God and held onto their fear throughout the wilderness. They even longed to return to the days of their captivity.
<i>Success</i>	[Numbers 14:6-9] Joshua and Caleb stood firm that the Promised Land could be attained because God was with them. They trusted God - they had no fear!
<i>Reflective Questions</i>	<i>Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him</i> (Ps. 34:8). Have you tasted of God's goodness? If yes, is your trust then shifting more to God than the world? What is the wilderness experience accomplishing in <i>your</i> life?

#2 - Believe God and Speak

<i>Failure</i>	[Exodus 16:2, 8; Numbers 13:27-29,31-33] Most of the Israelites refused to trust God; instead, they murmured and complained. Some spies who checked out the land declared their fear: "We were like grasshoppers in our own sight."
<i>Success</i>	[Numbers 13:30] Caleb's faith, forged in the wilderness, declared: "We are well able to overcome."
<i>Reflective Questions</i>	Rev. 12:11 says <i>we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the Word of our testimony</i> . What do you speak into your life circumstances - the problem itself or the truth of God's Word? Remember this: Your speaking will reveal your true beliefs (2 Cor. 4:13).

No Giant Can Stand! As the Israelites learned in the Promised Land, giants arise to block blessings and promises. The same goes for us: The blessing is there - we must, though, pass the test of faith in God in the face of those giants. Through our trust and speaking God's Word of promise, no giant can stand (Mark 11:22-24). Don't let your wilderness journey be in vain. 2 Cor. 4:13 says, *"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak."* Through unshakeable faith, we obtain our inheritance - God's promises through Jesus Christ!

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