

For the Joy Set Before Us

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September 5-6, 2015

An entire generation forfeits God's promise to enter the Holy Land.

Numbers 13:30-33 (NLT)

³⁰ But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!" ³¹ But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" ³² So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. ³³ We even saw giants[a] there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

Caleb waited for the moment of God's promise by staying active, prepared for whenever God might give the signal.

Joshua 14:8-12 (NLT)

⁸ but my brothers who went with me frightened the people from entering the Promised Land. For my part, I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God. ⁹ So that day Moses solemnly promised me, 'The land of Canaan on which you were just walking will be your grant of land and that of your descendants forever, because you wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God.'¹⁰ "Now, as you can see, the Lord has kept me alive and well as he promised for all these forty-five years since Moses made this promise—even while Israel wandered in the wilderness. Today I am eighty-five years old. ¹¹ I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. ¹² So give me the hill country that the Lord promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the Lord is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the Lord said."

Shame is not the same thing as sorrow or sadness due to the Holy Spirit's conviction over sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

As our Savior, Jesus models how we are to respond to both suffering and shame.

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

What habits or personal struggles keep you from experiencing freedom and abundant life?

In relationships – do you strive to be “right” or to seek forgiveness?

When offended, do you cling to the offense and your pain, or do you offer forgiveness, even when the other person doesn't “deserve” it?