

Numbers, Chapters 14 Fear Versus Faith

Read Numbers 14:1-10

What argument do Joshua and Caleb make?

Do not _____ against the Lord, and do not _____ the people of the land.

Read Numbers 14:11-12

In verse 11, what two sins does God identify in the people's rebellion?

They are showing that they _____ God, or have contempt for Him.

And they do not _____ Him despite all the signs and wonders He has shown them.

Read Numbers 14:26-33

God's judgment was fitting to the sin. Although God maintained His covenant with the nation of Israel, there were consequences for the individual sinners.

What does it mean to have faith in God?

Read Luke 17:5-10

The disciples had asked Jesus to "increase" their faith. Jesus answers that "faith small as a mustard seed" is enough. What does that mean?

Many people read the parable that follows as an unconnected thought. Do you see a connection? Is Jesus still answering the disciples request to "increase" their faith?

Faith is found in obedience. God does not see faith the way we do, that all our comforts will be attended to; rather, it makes us servants of God. Saving faith has one distinguishing quality: it produces obedience.

Read James 1:6-8

Faith is a settled trust and confidence in God, based on His character and promises as revealed in Scripture. Doubt is vacillating (going back and forth) between trusting God and fearing the world while relying one's own natural abilities. This makes a person like a wave of the sea, a picture of instability and uncertainty.

A person who doubts God dishonors Him. Such a person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, since he is unsure whether God is good or will do good. He is a double-minded man, that is, in "two minds," torn between God and the world, and is therefore unstable in all his ways.

Read 1 John 5:13-15 *Prayer is essential to a living faith.*

vs. 14. To ask God according to his will does not mean that, before Christians can pray effectively, they need somehow to discover God's secret plans for the future. Rather, it means they should ask according to what the Bible teaches about God's will for his people (sometimes called God's "revealed will"). If Christians are praying in accordance with what pleases God as found in the teaching of Scripture, then they are praying according to His will.

vs. 15. Human experience shows that Christians do not always receive all the things they ask from God, even things that seemingly accord with his revealed will. This verse must be understood in light of other passages of Scripture which show that praying according to God's will includes the need to pray in faith (James 1:6), with patience (Luke 18:1-8), in obedience (Ps. 66:18; 1 Pet. 3:12), and in submission to God's greater wisdom (Luke 22:42; Rom. 8:28; 1 Pet. 4:19).

"Thy will be done" does not mean giving up on what we're asking. It means that God understands our prayer better than we do. God knows what we need more, food or hunger, and what He gives will bring us fulfillment.

To know that "He hears us in whatever we ask" is enough, because communion with God is the goal of prayer.

Psalm 27:1-3

The reward for faith in God's salvation and belief in His strength is the confidence that we have nothing to fear.