



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

THE FINE LINE BETWEEN FAITH AND FEAR NUMBERS 13-14

There are always obstacles on the road to opportunity and the options we employ to embrace faith or fear will determine the outcome

Numbers 13-14 Summary

Numbers 13:1-16: Choosing of one member of each of the twelve tribes to go and spy out the Promised Land.

Numbers 13:17-20: A commissioning of the twelve.

Numbers 13:21-25: 40 days of spying.

Numbers 13:26-33: Debriefing. A report as to what they saw.

Numbers 14:1-4: Woe is me. We're going to die. We should have stayed in Egypt!

Numbers 14:5-9: Wait! We can do this because God said we could!

Numbers 14:10-12: God is ready to destroy His people.

Numbers 14:13-19: Moses pleads for God's mercy for His people.

Numbers 14:20-35: God spares the lives of the people, but vows to keep their generation from possessing the Promised Land.

Numbers 14:36-38: God removes the obstacles -the 10 who opposed

Numbers 14:39-end: Too little too late. God says, "forget about it."

1. THE OPPORTUNITY

- **Numbers 13:2 2** "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."
- **Numbers 13:27 27** They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.
- **Exodus 3:17 17** And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites-- a land flowing with milk and honey.'

God always provides the opportunity for us to follow His lead to a better place.

2. THE OBSTACLES

There are always obstacles on the path of opportunity.

EXTERNAL: Numbers 13:28 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

INTERNAL: Numbers 13:32-33 32 *And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.*

3. THE OPTIONS

Any opportunity God provides will always allow for the option of Faith although it may not be the obvious option.

FEAR:

Numbers 13:31 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are."

Numbers 14:3-4 3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

FAITH:

Numbers 13:30 30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

Numbers 14:6 6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.

4. THE OUTCOME

REJECTION:

- **Numbers 14:30 30** Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.
- **Numbers 14:34 34** For forty years-- one year for each of the forty days you explored the land-- you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.'
- **Numbers 14:36-37 36** So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it-- 37 these men responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the LORD.

REWARD:

- **Numbers 14:30 30** Not one of you will enter the land...except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.
- **Numbers 14:24 24** But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

CHALLENGE

God's eternal purpose is to bless His people and provide them opportunity for greatness. Man's ability to achieve it is always dependent upon his willingness to trust God in faith or to reject Him in fear which sometimes may appear to be the more rational and obvious choice. God's ways are not our ways and we like Caleb are to follow God wholeheartedly in faith and not falter in the face of fear!

- Hebrews 11:1 NIV Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
- Hebrews 11:6 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God,